

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**RURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday, May 8, 2025**

**PRESENT:** Chair Michael Riis-Christianson

Directors Judy Greenaway  
Shirley Moon  
Chris Newell  
Mark Parker  
Stoney Stoltenberg

Director Absent Clint Lambert, Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services – via Zoom – left at 1:55 p.m.  
Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services  
Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services  
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Others Linda McGuire, Granisle  
Shane Brienen, Houston – arrived at 1:36 p.m.

Media Jake Wray, LD News – via Zoom

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair Riis-Christianson called the meeting to order at 1:27 p.m.

**AGENDA** Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Parker

**RSC.2025-5-1** “That the Rural Services Committee Agenda for May 8, 2025 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **MINUTES**

Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes -April 10, 2025

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

RSC.2025-5-2

"That the minutes of the Rural Services Committee meeting of April 10, 2025 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **REPORTS**

Electoral Area D Economic Development Service Grant Village of Fraser Lake Resident Attraction Video Project

Moved by Director Parker  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

RSC.2025-5-3

"That the Committee recommend that the Board approve an Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) Economic Development Services Grant of up to \$8,000 to the Village of Fraser Lake for a resident attraction video project."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rural Community Halls

Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

RSC.2025-5-4

"That the Committee receive the Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services Rural Community Halls memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee discussed:

- Changes to the new Community Works Funds agreement making it no longer possible to support third-party infrastructure
- Grant in Aid funding
- Forming service establishment bylaws for Community Halls
  - o Challenges in assuming ownership
  - o Preserving the character and integrity of Community Halls
  - o Community Halls retaining their autonomy
- Community Halls in each Electoral Area
  - o Condition of Infrastructure and volunteer participation
    - Challenges regarding volunteer capacity
    - Administration burden for volunteers
  - o Impacts of insurance costs
    - Lobbying for group Community Hall Insurance policies

## **REPORTS (CONT'D)**

- Enabling Halls with a strong volunteer base to continue to be successful
- Regional District of Fraser Fort-George establishment of individual services for Halls that directly requested the option
- Past social importance of Halls
  - o Fabric that held communities together is changing
  - o Community Halls are an important asset
- Potential solutions for future uses of Halls such as Pickleball, Emergency Response etc.
- Supporting Community Halls to implement commercial kitchens for community food security and Farmer's Markets
- Evaluating halls based on whether it would be approved if proposed today, how the construction would be funded and how it would be funded in perpetuity.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Ellis Ross, MP Skeena-Bulkley Valley Director Stoltenberg extended an invitation to Elis Ross, MP Skeena-Bulkley Valley to attend a future Board meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Newell

RSC.2025-5-5

"That the meeting be adjourned 1:57 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Michael Riis-Christianson, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services