



**Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Committee of the Whole
AGENDA
Thursday, June 5, 2025**

PAGE NO.**ACTION****AGENDA – June 5, 2025****Approve****Supplementary Agenda****Receive****MINUTES****3-8****Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
- May 8, 2025****Approve****DELEGATIONS****FRASER BASIN COUNCIL**

**Kim Menounos, Senior Manager, Interior Regional Programs and
Nechako Water Roundtable Co-Chair
Patience Rakochy, Northern Interior Lead for Air Quality
Re: FBC Update – Nechako Watershed Roundtable and
Community Wildfire Roundtable**

ADMINISTRATION REPORT**9**

**Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate
Services – Union of BC Municipalities
– Minister Meetings/Ministry Staff Meetings**

Direction**10-11**

**Megan D’Arcy, Regional Agriculture
Coordinator – Agricultural Land Use
Inventory in RDBN 2025**

Receive**12**

**Megan D’Arcy, Regional Agriculture
Coordinator – RDBN Water Feasibility
& Community Irrigation Project Update**

Receive

<u>PAGE NO.</u>	<u>ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
------------------------	---	----------------------

13-14	Ministry of Citizens' Services – Response to RDBN Letter Re: Cellular Services along Highway 16	Receive
--------------	--	----------------

15-16	Union of BC Municipalities – 2025 Meeting Request Form – BC Hydro	Receive
--------------	--	----------------

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING****Thursday, May 8, 2025**

PRESENT:	Chair	Mark Parker
	Directors	Gladys Atrill Shane Brien Leroy Dekens Martin Elphee Judy Greenaway Linda McGuire Shirley Moon Kevin Moutray Chris Newell Michael Riis-Christianson Stoney Stoltenberg Sarrah Storey – via Zoom – left at 10:43 a.m., returned at 10:44 a.m., left at 11:09 a.m., returned at 11:10 a.m., left at 11:11 a.m., returned at 11:13 a.m., left at 11:39 a.m., returned at 11:40 a.m. Henry Wiebe
	Director Absent	Clint Lambert, Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)
	Staff	Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services Cole Bender, FireSmart Coordinator – arrived at 10:27 a.m., left at 10:29 a.m. Krish Chandhok, Finance Summer Student – left at 10:29 a.m. Jordan Illes, Economic Development Summer Student– left at 10:29 a.m. John Illes, Chief Financial Officer – left at 10:41 a.m., returned at 10:46 a.m. Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services – arrived at 10:29 a.m., left at 10:59 a.m., returned at 11:03 a.m., left at 11:20 a.m. Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services Aryana Persson, FireSmart Summer Student– left at 10:29 a.m. Anusha Rai, Human Resources Advisor – left at 10:29 a.m. Chloe Taylor, Planning Summer Student– left at 10:29 a.m. Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Staff (Cont'd)	Grace Zayac, Emergency Management Technician – left at 10:29 a.m. Scott Zayac, Director of Protective Services – left at 11:50 a.m.
Other	Susan Brookes, Coordinator, Bulkley Valley Lakes District Airshed Management Society – via Zoom – left at 10:37 a.m.
Media	Jake Wray, Lakes District News

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

C.W.2025-3-1

"That the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole meeting of May 8, 2025 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole Minutes –April 10, 2025

Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Wiebe

C.W.2025-3-2

"That the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2025 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

The following Staff were introduced:

- Cole Bender, FireSmart Coordinator
- Krish Chandhok, Finance Summer Student
- Jordan Illes, Economic Development and Agriculture Summer Student
- Aryana Persson – FireSmart Summer Student
- Chloe Taylor, Planning Summer Student
- Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services
- Grace Zayac –Emergency Management Technician

DELEGATION

BULKLEY VALLEY LAKES DISTRICT AIRSHED MANAGEMENT SOCIETY – Susan Brookes, Coordinator Re: Update Clean Air Plan

Chair Parker welcomed Susan Brookes, Coordinator, Bulkley Valley Lakes District Airshed Management Society.

Ms. Brookes provided a PowerPoint presentation.

- CLEANAIRPLAN.CA
 - o General Goals of the Plan
 - o PurpleAir Results
 - o The goals met
 - o PurpleAir Website live.

The following was discussed:

- Funding request sent to Granisle
- Monitors in Burns Lake
 - o Public Library
 - o Carrier Sekani Family Services
- Air quality impacts from wildfires
 - o Air scrubbers at Community Halls in the region
 - o Sharing information on BVLD AMS website of the location of air scrubbers in region.

Chair Parker thanked Ms. Brookes for the update.

BYLAW ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement Policy and Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw

CAO Helgesen noted that the Board deferred Enforcement Policy and Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw from the April 24th Board meeting due to the public feedback and concerns. He commented that the policy is a tool for staff to implement and enforce bylaws. The Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw (ticketing) is for existing bylaws.

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services along with Director Lambert attended two meetings in Electoral Area E. The Southside of Francois Lake meeting had approximately 60-70 attendees that were highly engaged and indicated opposition to visible enforcement. The meeting at Francois Lake Hall had approximately 20 attendees with fewer concerns after clarification was provided regarding the policy. At the Board's direction staff can visit other communities.

Mr. Llewellyn noted that staff provided a binder for each Director with the draft Enforcement Policy and draft Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw with all relevant bylaws included. Staff reviewed each bylaw with the Board highlighting and cross referencing some aspects where misinformation was circulating with the public.

BYLAW ENFORCEMENT (CONT'D)

The Board discussed:

- Ability for Electoral Areas to remove themselves from the function
- Including Section 39 proposed wording allowing Electoral Areas to opt out of policy application on private lands with enforcement still applying to Regional District owned lands
- Exemption from individual bylaws
- Streamlining the process and making it more efficient for staff and the public
- Concerns regarding a ticketing system for some electoral areas
- Service provision to area residents
- Municipalities having Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaws pertaining to properties within municipalities

Director Riis-Christianson spoke of the importance of respecting the will of the Board and respecting those around the table and individuals right to vote however they determine is the best.

Enforcement Policy and
Bylaw Notice Enforcement
Bylaw

Moved by Director Moon
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

C.W.2025-3-3

"That the Board direct staff to bring forward to the May 22nd Board meeting the following wording in relation to Bylaw Enforcement Policy and Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw Electoral Areas:

"In Electoral Area(s) (to be identified) Bylaw Notices may only be issued for contraventions of the Solid Waste Management Bylaw (Bylaw No. 1764, 2016) and the Parks Use Regulatory Bylaw (Bylaw no. 1989, 2023)."

Opposed: Dir. Moutray CARRIED

(All/Directors/Majority)

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Lakes District Arts and Culture Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Funding – Lakes District Fair Seconded by Director Dekens
Association

C.W.2025-3-4

"That the Committee recommend that the Board approve entering into a funding agreement for \$10,500 per year for five years with the Lakes District Fair Association through the Lakes District Arts and Culture Fund."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Grant in Aid – Omineca
Ski Club

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Wiebe

C.W.2025-3-5

"That the Committee recommend that the Board approve a grant of \$20,000 to Omineca Ski Club, split equally between Electoral Areas B (Burns Lake Rural), and E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) from Regional Grant in Aid."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw Review Process

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2025-3-6

"That the Board receive the Director of Corporate Services' Bylaw Review Process memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Red Dress Day – May 5

Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director Wiebe

C.W.2025-3-7

"That the Board receive the First Nations Liaison's Red Dress Day – May 5 memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

Ministry of Agriculture and
Food – BC Agricultural Council
And BC Food & Beverage
Representation – Northern BC

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2025-3-8

"That the Board receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food regarding BC Agricultural Council and BC Food & Beverage Representation – Northern BC."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recess for lunch at 11:54 a.m.

Reconvened at 12:40 p.m.

**SPECIAL IN-CAMERA
BOARD MOTION**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Dekens

C.W.2025-3-9

"That Under Section 220 of the *Local Government Act*, a special meeting has been called at the request of the Chair and that this meeting must be closed pursuant to Section 90(1)(g) of the *Community Charter* for the Board to deal with legal matters."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Dekens
Seconded by Director Newell

C.W.2025-3-10

"That the meeting be adjourned at 12:40 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of
Corporate Services



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole

To: Chair and Committee
From: Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Date: June 5, 2025
Subject: **Union of BC Municipalities – Minister Meetings/Ministry Staff Meetings**

RECOMMENDATION: (all/directors/majority)

Direction

BACKGROUND

Attached is the 2025 Provincial Appointment Book for the upcoming UBCM Convention. The deadline to request minister meetings is July 2, 2025. The deadline for meetings with ministry staff is August 20, 2025.

At this time, staff is requesting that the Board identify which Ministers and Ministry staff they would like to submit meeting requests for, along with the topics.

ATTACHMENTS

2025 Provincial Appointment Book for UBCM Convention

https://www.rdbn.bc.ca/download_file/9139/0



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors

To: Chair and Board
From: Megan D'Arcy, Regional Agriculture Coordinator
Date: June 5, 2025
Subject: **Agricultural Land Use Inventory in RDBN 2025**

RECOMMENDATION: (all/directors/majority)

Receive.

BACKGROUND:

The BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC are completing an Agricultural Land Use Inventory (ALUI) across the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN). Survey crews will be making frequent stops across the region as part of this project between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. from July 7th to August 30th.

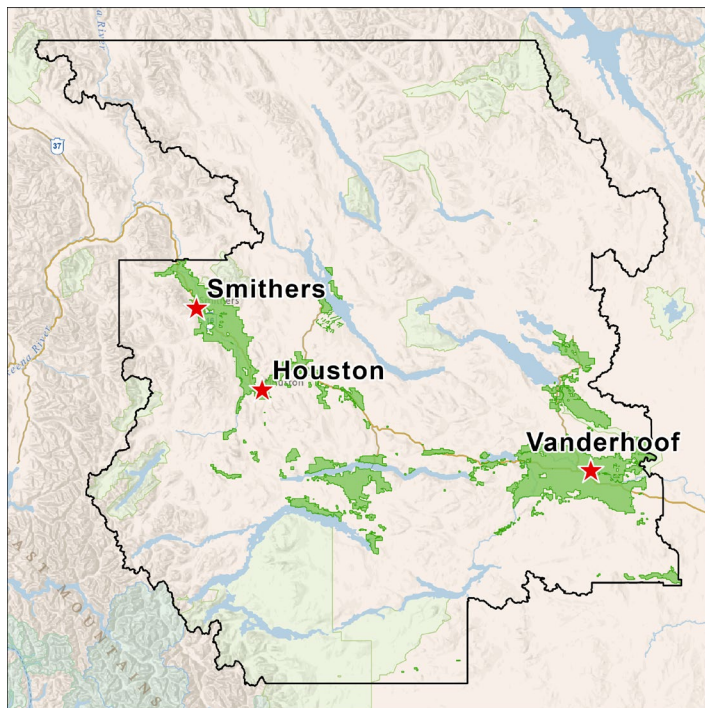
Agricultural Land Use Inventory data has been used to:

- Model potential impacts of climate change and different adaptation strategies;
- Model agricultural water demand for current and future climates;
- Inform the development of municipal Official Community Plans and Agriculture Area Plans;
- Understand the extent of actively farmed land and other major activities on the ALR land base; and
- Understand impacts to agriculture from new developments, bylaws, or regulations.

Additional information is included in the attached Public Notice document.

ATTACHMENTS:

RDBN ALUI Public Notice

*Public Notice***Agricultural Land Use Inventory: Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako 2025**

Survey includes ALR and other parcels with observed farmland.

The BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and the Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC are completing an Agricultural Land Use Inventory (ALUI) across the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN).

The ALUI program started in Pitt Meadows in 1996 to support the Ministry's Strengthening Farming Program. Since then, ALUIs have provided insight into the current state of the farming landscape across the province, including within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

To complete an ALUI, Professional Agrologists and GIS technicians perform visual observations to help confirm mapped crops, irrigation, natural vegetation, buildings, livestock facilities, and farm practices within the ALR and parcels where significant farming is observable.

Visual observations are conducted from public roads using vehicles marked with "Ministry of Agriculture and Food" or "Government of BC" signs.

Agricultural Land Use Inventory data has been used to:

- Model potential impacts of climate change and different adaptation strategies;
- Model agricultural water demand for current and future climates;
- Inform the development of municipal Official Community Plans and Agriculture Area Plans;
- Understand the extent of actively farmed land and other major activities on the ALR land base; and
- Understand impacts to agriculture from new developments, bylaws, or regulations.

Watch for survey crews making frequent stops between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. across the region from **July 7th to August 30th**.

For further information, contact:

Corrine Roesler, PAg
BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Abbotsford
778-666-0569
Corrine.Roesler@gov.bc.ca

Or AgriServiceBC
1-888-221-7141
agriservicebc@gov.bc.ca

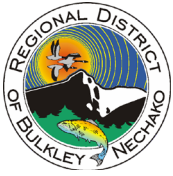
Or Megan D'Arcy
Regional Agriculture Coordinator,
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
250-692-3195
info@rdbn.bc.ca

Or visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/agricultural-land-and-environment/agricultural-land-use-inventories>



**Sustainable Canadian
Agricultural Partnership**
Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

This survey is subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole

To: Chair and Committee
From: Megan D'Arcy, Regional Agriculture Coordinator
Date: June 5, 2025
Subject: **RDBN Water Feasibility & Community Irrigation Project Update**

RECOMMENDATION: (all/directors/majority)

Receive.

BACKGROUND

The RDBN Agriculture Water Feasibility & Community Irrigation Study taking place in and around Vanderhoof is well underway. Ione Smith, [Upland Agricultural Consulting Ltd.](#), and Bruce Naka, Sound Water Advise, are the primary consultants completing this work.

Ione and her team at Upland Agricultural Consulting Ltd. have been working on collecting mapping data for both surface and groundwater sources, and on gathering input through public engagement. Ione and her team have been regularly connecting with RDBN staff to ensure that any questions are addressed in a timely manner. This collaborative effort is intended to ensure that that objectives and deliverables of the project are met successfully.

Ione and Bruce travelled up to Vanderhoof at the end of April. They met with several producers at their farms and ranches to discuss their challenges and opportunities with respect to irrigation. In addition to these on-farm site visits, Ione and Bruce hosted an evening workshop in Vanderhoof on April 30. Eight producers attended the meeting, as well as the RDBN Agriculture Coordinator and Karen Tabe from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

In addition to connecting with several producers from the Vanderhoof area, Ione and her team have also had discussions with staff from the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship and Saik'uz First Nation. Ione has also been in contact with Wayne Salewski, Nechako Environmental Watershed Society.

The project is currently on track to be completed within budget and on time.



May 15, 2025

Ref: 123013

Mark Parker, Board Chair
Michael Riis-Christianson, Rural Services Committee Chair
Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
37 3rd Avenue, PO Box 820
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0

Dear Board Chair Mark Parker and Rural Services Committee Chair Michael Riis-Christianson,

Thank you for your letter on April 16, 2025 expressing concerns with cellular services along Highway 16. I was pleased to hear that you had the opportunity to speak with Ministry staff in the Connectivity Division about the changes to cellular services you are experiencing in your region.

While cellular coverage information is reported by service providers to the federal government, we are aware it is not always reflective of the actual services experienced while driving rural highways, especially over time as traffic and other factors change. I understand that Ministry staff have been in contact and continue to follow up with Rogers and TELUS on the status of cellular services.

To better understand cellular coverage on primary and secondary roadways, my Ministry staff are working with Northern Development Initiative Trust to conduct a drive study to obtain an updated measurement of cellular coverage to better determine gaps in coverage along B.C.'s primary and secondary roads.

In addition to the drive study, any additional information the regional district can provide to the team is appreciated including addresses close to the service issue, device information and cellular service provider. This information will assist staff in communicating with providers and help diagnose and resolve issues.

While my staff will share information from service providers as it is available, if you would like further information or to provide cellular location concerns as outlined above, please do not hesitate to contact Assistant Deputy Minister Susan Stanford or Megan Chadwick (Megan.Chadwick@gov.bc.ca), Director of Community Relations. They would both be happy to address any additional questions and share available cellular project information as it becomes available.

.../2

Regional District Bulkley Nechako
Page 2

Thank you again for taking the time to write and share your concerns. I look forward to seeing you at this year's UBCM gathering in Victoria.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George Chow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "George" being more prominent than the last name "Chow".

George Chow
Minister

pc: Susan Stanford, Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Citizens' Services
Susan.Stanford@gov.bc.ca

Connected Communities
ConnectedCommunities@gov.bc.ca

From: [Wendy Wainwright](#)
To: [Wendy Wainwright](#)
Subject: FW: FW: BC Hydro - 2025 UBCM Meeting Request Form
Date: May 27, 2025 10:55:11 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

From: Kellett, Mike <Mike.Kellett@bchydro.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 9:13 AM
Cc: Mosure, David <Dave.Mosure@bchydro.com>
Subject: BC Hydro - 2025 UBCM Meeting Request Form

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Please do not click on links on open attachments from unknown sources.

EXTERNAL EMAIL - This email was sent by a person from outside your organization. Exercise caution when clicking links, opening attachments or taking further action, before validating its authenticity.

[Secured by Check Point](#)

Good morning,

BC Hydro is pleased to invite local government officials to meet with our executives and senior staff during the 2025 UBCM Convention, taking place in Victoria the week of September 22. These meetings offer a valuable opportunity to discuss topics that matter most to your community.

To request a meeting, please complete our [Meeting Request Form](#) by **Friday, June 20**. Meeting times are limited to 20 minutes to accommodate as many local governments as possible. We ask you to focus on a single topic to ensure a productive and meaningful discussion.

While we welcome the chance to connect at UBCM, please know that we're always available to meet throughout the year. Feel free to reach out to me at any time to schedule a meeting.

If you have any questions related to the [Meeting Request Form](#), please contact Matt Lahti, matt.lahti@bchydro.com.

Full meeting details, including date, time, and location, will be shared in early September.

Thanks very much,

Mike Kellett, APR | Manager, Northern Community Relations

BC Hydro

3333 – 22nd Avenue
Prince George, BC V2N 1B4

P 250 561 4929

M 250 613 9087

E mike.kellett@bchydro.com

bchydro.com

Smart about power in all we do

This email and its attachments are intended solely for the personal use of the individual or entity named above. Any use of this communication by an unintended recipient is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, any publication, use, reproduction, disclosure or dissemination of its contents is strictly prohibited. Please immediately delete this message and its attachments from your computer and servers. We would also appreciate if you would contact us by a collect call or return email to notify us of this error. Thank you for your cooperation.