

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Thursday, June 5, 2025

PRESENT:	Chair	Mark Parker
	Directors	Shane Brien Martin Elphie Judy Greenaway Clint Lambert – via Zoom Linda McGuire – via Zoom Shirley Moon Kevin Moutray Chris Newell – left at 12:02 p.m., returned at 12:47 p.m. Michael Riis-Christianson Stoney Stoltenberg Sarrah Storey – via Zoom – left at 11:57 a.m., returned at 12:00 p.m., left at 1:16 p.m., returned at 1:17 p.m. Henry Wiebe
	Directors Absent	Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers Leroy Dekens, Village of Telkwa
	Alternate Director	Frank Wray, Town of Smithers
	Staff	Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services Megan D'Arcy, Regional Agriculture Coordinator – left at 12:07 p.m. John Illes, Chief Financial Officer Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services Christopher Walker, Emergency Services Manager – left at 11:31 a.m. Scott Zayac, Director of Protective Services – left at 11:31 a.m.
	Others	Kim Menounos, Senior Manager, Interior Regional Programs and Nechako Watershed Roundtable Co-Chair, Fraser Basin Council – left at 11:31 a.m. Patience Rakochy, Northern Interior Lead for Air Quality, Fraser Basin Council – left at 11:31 a.m.
	Media	Jake Wray, Lakes District News – via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:58 a.m.

FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

AGENDA

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Brien

C.W.2025-4-1

"That the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole meeting of June 5, 2025 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole
Minutes –May 8, 2025

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2025-4-2

"That the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2025 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

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

Chair Parker welcomed Kim Menounos, Senior Manager, Interior Regional Programs and Nechako Watershed Roundtable Co-Chair and Patience Rakochy, Northern Interior Lead for Air Quality, Fraser Basin Council.

Ms. Menounos and Ms. Rakochy provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Fraser Basin Council Update

- Purpose of Today's Presentation
- About FBC
- Board Composition
- FBC's Strategic Priorities
- FBC's Key Roles
- Organizational Updates
- Regional Watershed Work

DELEGATION (CONT'D)

- Highlights
 - o Nechako Watershed Roundtable
 - Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in the Nechako Watershed
- Collaborative Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation
- Community Wildfire Roundtables
- Caribou Recovery
- Forest Landscape Planning Engagement
- Air Improvement
- Summary & Outlook.

The following was discussed:

- Projects in the area
 - o School District 91, Fort St. James Sr. Secondary, Nak'azdli First Nation and Genesis Environmental Sciences Selective Fisheries Research & Harvest Platform (boat)
 - o Beaver Dam Analogs
- Large scope of Fraser Basin Council (FBC)
 - o Encourage a focus on agriculture
- Living Lakes Monitoring Programs
- Large Lakes Study
- Support from the RDBN
 - o Collaborative discussions
- Coordinating and facilitating with the Ministry of Forests around Forest Landscape Plans
- Hazard risk mitigation.

Chair Parker thanked the delegation for attending the meeting.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Union of BC Municipalities-Minister Meetings/Ministry Staff Meetings

The following Minister Meetings were discussed:

- Minister of Agriculture – Joint with Fraser-Fort George and Cariboo Regional District
 - o Foreign Ownership
- Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills
 - o College of New Caledonia did not receive funding for the Care Aid to Licensed Practical Nurse Program
 - Education where you live – better employee retention
- Minister of Health
 - o College of New Caledonia didn't receive funding for the Care Aid to Licensed Practical Nurse Program
 - Education where you live – better employee retention
 - o Emergency Room Closures
 - Determine if ER closures have occurred in more than one hospital in the region at the same time
 - o Volunteerism – funding for volunteers (Designate a Ministry to oversee)

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Union of BC Municipalities-Minister Meetings/Ministry Staff Meetings (Cont'd)

- Minister of Water, Lands, Resource Stewardship
 - o Withdrawal of funding for the Nechako White Sturgeon Program
- Minister of Education and Child Care
 - o Lowered tax rate and schools facing major cuts in funding and lose of teachers
- Minister of Environment and Parks
 - o Illegal dumping
 - o Invasive weeds
 - Drought conditions create more invasive weed issues
- Minister of Agriculture and Food
 - o Invasive weeds
 - o Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR)
 - o Water Storage
- Minister of State for Local Governments and Rural Communities
 - o Write a letter regarding UBCM meetings being released days prior the start of the Conference
 - o Require meeting dates and times at minimum 2-3 weeks prior to the Conference start
- Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
 - o Library Funding
- Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
 - o Gaming Grants for Community Halls
- Minister of Transportation and Transit
 - o Crosswalk painting (Fort St. James/Area C)
 - o Airport Road (Fraser Lake)
- Minister of Forests
 - o Dugouts for cattle on Range Lands
- Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
 - o Pathways agreements
- Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
 - o Funding for Emergency Support Services Team Leads
- Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals
 - o Mineral Titles Staking and Permitting System
- Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions
 - o Pacific Northern Gas Rate Increase 2025-2027
 - o Advocate for funding for rebate programs for high efficient furnaces
- Premier.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Agricultural Land Use Inventory in RDBN 2025

Moved by Director Moon
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

C.W.2025-4-3

"That the Committee receive the Regional Agriculture Coordinator's Agricultural Land Use Inventory in RDBN 2025 memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding the accuracy of the survey and providing communication to the public regarding the Survey crews that will be making frequent stops across the region. The Committee discussed inviting Corrine Roesler, PAg, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food to an upcoming meeting.

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RDBN Water Feasibility & Community Irrigation Project Update

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Moon

C.W.2025-4-4

"That the Board receive the Regional Agriculture Coordinator's RDBN Water Feasibility & Community Irrigation Project Update memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Break for lunch at 12:07 p.m.

Reconvened at 12:47 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

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

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Moon

C.W.2025-4-5

"That the Board receive the response from the Ministry of Citizens' Services regarding the RDBN Letter Re: Cellular Services along Highway 16."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

Union of BC Municipalities
-2025 Meeting Request
Form – BC Hydro

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Brien

C.W.2025-4-6

"That the Board receive the correspondence from the Union of BC Municipalities regarding the 2025 Meeting Request Form from BC Hydro."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.W.2025-4-7

"That the meeting be adjourned at 12:55 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of
Corporate Services