



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO MEETING

MINUTES

Thursday, June 19, 2025

Directors Present:

Chair Mark Parker
Gladys Atrill
Shane Brien
Martin Elphee
Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Linda McGuire
Shirley Moon
Kevin Moutray
Chris Newell
Michael Riis-Christianson
Stoney Stoltenberg
Sarrah Storey
Henry Wiebe

Director Absent:

Leroy Dekens, Village of Telkwa

Staff:

Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
John Iles, Chief Financial Officer
Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services – arrived at 12:48 p.m., left at 1:14 p.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services
Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Scott Zayac, Director of Protective Services – arrived at 10:44 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

First Nations Acknowledgement

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

2025-10-01

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Board Meeting Agenda of June 19, 2025 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting.

Carried

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes - June 5, 2025

2025-10-02

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Storey

That the Board Meeting Minutes of June 5, 2025 be approved.

Carried

Board Meeting Minutes - May 22, 2025

2025-10-03

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director McGuire

That the Board Meeting Minutes of May 22, 2025 be approved.

Carried

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes - June 5, 2025

2025-10-04

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director McGuire

That the Board receive the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes for June 5, 2025.

Carried

Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes - June 5, 2025

2025-10-05

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Moon

That the Board receive the Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes for June 5, 2025.

Carried

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING

Applications

Cameron Kral, Planner - Rezoning Application F-02-25 - 1st and 2nd Reading, Bylaw No. 2077 - Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

2025-10-06

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

1. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2077, 2025 be given first and second reading this 19th day of June, 2025 and subsequently be taken to Public Hearing.
2. That the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2077, 2025 be delegated to the Director or Alternate Director for Electoral Area F.

Carried

Cameron Kral, Planner - Development Variance Permit F-01-25 - Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

2025-10-07

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Moutray

1. That the Board approve Development Variance Permit F-01-25 for the property located at 6900 and 7000 Teichroeb Road to vary the following section of Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020:
 - Section 24.0.5.2(a) by reducing the minimum setback of a building used for Intensive Agriculture from a Parcel Line from 60 metres to 21.0 m for the existing Abattoir.

2. That the Board direct staff to issue Development Variance Permit F-01-25 subject to adoption of Rezoning Bylaw No. 2077, 2025 by the Board.

Carried

Other

Deneve Vanderwolf, Planning Technician - Advisory Planning Commission Member Appointment - Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

2025-10-08

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the Board remove Carol Gibson and appoint Jennifer Williams to the Advisory Planning Commission for Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural).

Carried

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

ALR Application

Cameron Kral, Planner - ALR Non-Farm Use (Removal of Soil) Application No. 1277 - Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

2025-10-09

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Greenaway

- 1) That Agricultural Land Reserve Non-Adhering Residential Use Application No. 1277 be recommended to the Agricultural Land Commission for approval. Further, that the ALC ensure appropriate remediation throughout the life of the proposed Non-Farm Use.
- 2) That the ALC and the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals be requested to ensure an adequate vegetation buffer is maintained around the perimeter of the site and any sensitive ecosystems along Driftwood Creek are preserved.

Opposed: Director Atrill

Carried

Other

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development - Letter from the Minister of Housing

2025-10-10

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the Board receive the letter from the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs regarding the Implementation of the Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing (SSMUH) requirements.

Carried

Referrals

Cameron Kral, Planner - HBM Mountain Biking Referral - Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

2025-10-11

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Atrill

That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Hudson Bay Mountain Resort's Draft Mountain Bike Development Plan.

Carried

Rowan Nagel, GIS/Planning Technician - Crown Land Application Referral No. 7410371 - Electoral Areas D (Fraser Lake Rural) and E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

2025-10-12

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Application No. 7410371.

Opposed: Directors Greenaway, Lambert, Newell, Stoltenberg

Carried

BYLAW ENFORCEMENT

Jason Lewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services - Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw Adoption Report

2025-10-13

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Storey

That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 2041, 2025 be adopted this 19th day of June, 2025.

Opposed: Director Lambert

Carried

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services - Bylaw Enforcement Policy

2025-10-14

Moved by Director Atrill

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Board approve the Bylaw Enforcement Policy.

Opposed: Director Lambert

Carried

PARKS AND TRAILS

Maria Sandberg, Planning and Parks Coordinator - Ridler Trail Authorization - Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

2025-10-15

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Wiebe

That the Board endorse the RDBN's submission of an application for Construction or Maintenance of Trails or Recreation Facilities on Crown Land to Recreation Sites and Trails BC for the Ridler Trail.

Carried

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services - Committee Meeting Recommendations - June 5, 2025

2025-10-16

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Atrill

That the Board approve the June 5, 2025 Committee Recommendation 1 as written.

Rural Services Committee – June 5, 2025

Recommendation 1:

Re: Rural Community Hall Support

That the Board invite the leaders of the region's Community Halls to a brainstorming session to discuss ideas and possible support for the halls.

Carried

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - 2025 UBCM Minister Meeting Requests

2025-10-17

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board request the Minister Meetings outlined in the Director of Corporate Services' Union of BC Municipalities - Minister Meeting Requests memorandum during the 2025 UBCM Convention as amended.

Carried

The following was discussed:

Minister Meetings

1. Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills

- CNC did not receive funding for the Care Aid to Licensed Practical Nurse Program
 - Education where you live – better employee retention

2. Minister of Health

- CNC did not receive funding for the Care Aid to Licensed Practical Nurse Program
 - Education where you live – better employee retention
- Emergency Room Closures
 - Determine if ER closures have occurred in more than one hospital in the region at the same time
 - Volunteerism – funding for volunteers (Designate a Ministry to oversee)
- Retention and Recruitment of Medical Professionals

3. Minister of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship
 - Withdrawal of funding for the Nechako White Sturgeon Program
 - Water storage and artificial beaver dams
 - Dam maintenance and funding on private property
4. Minister of Environment and Parks
 - Illegal Dumping
 - Invasive Weeds
 - Drought Conditions create more invasive weed issues
 - Wind farms and cumulative impacts
5. Minister of Agriculture and Land
 - Veterinarian shortage update
 - Invasive weeds
 - ALR
 - Water Storage
6. Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
 - Nechako River MOU
7. Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions
 - Wind farms and cumulative impacts
 - Pacific Northern Gas Rate Increase 2025-2027
 - Advocate for funding for rebate programs for high efficient furnaces
8. Premier
 - Nechako River MOU
9. Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
 - Emergency and Disaster Management Act working group process
10. Ministry of State for Local Governments and Rural Communities/ Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs
 - Three RDBN top priorities of regional concern.

Advocacy Letters

Ministry of State for Local Governments and Rural Communities

- Write a letter regarding UBCM meetings being released days prior to the start of the Conference
- Require meeting dates and times at minimum 2-3 weeks prior to the Conference start

Minister of Forests

- Dugouts for cattle on Range Lands
- Resource Roads maintenance and values

Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport

- Library Funding

Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

- Gaming grants for Community Halls

Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals

- Mineral Titles staking and permitting system.

Break for Lunch at 12:04 p.m.

Reconvened at 12:48 p.m.

John Illes, Chief Financial Officer - Statement of Financial Information

2025-10-18

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Board of Directors approve the 2024 Statement of Financial Information. That the Chair and Chief Financial Officer be authorized to sign the SOFI report approving the statements and schedule of financial information.

Carried

John Illes, Chief Financial Officer - Investment in MFA's Diversified Multi- Asset Class Fund

2025-10-19

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Storey

That the Board endorse the 'designation' of \$4,000,000 of funds as long-term and suitable for long-term investment.

And that the Board support investment of long-term funds into MFA's Diversified Multi- asset Class Fund.

Opposed: Directors Greenaway, Lambert, Newell, Moon

Carried

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Grant in Aid - Paul Lychak (Evelyn) Community Hall

2025-10-20

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Atrill

That the Board approve a grant of \$10,000 to the Paul Lychak (Evelyn) Community Hall for a door replacement project from Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) allocation of Regional Grant in Aid.

Carried

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services-Grant in Aid – Royal Canadian Legion, Pleasant Valley Branch 249

2025-10-21

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director McGuire

That the Board approve a grant of \$9,345 to the Royal Canadian Legion, Pleasant Valley Branch 249, for a hot water system replacement project from Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural) allocation of Regional Grant in Aid.

Carried

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services – Grant in Aid – Chinook Emergency Response Society

2025-10-22

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

That the Board approve a grant of \$15,000 to the Chinook Emergency Response Society for a volunteer training and PPE project from Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) allocation of Regional Grant in Aid.

Carried

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services – Grant in Aid –Round Lake Community Hall Association

2025-10-23

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Atrill

That the Board approve a grant of \$86,750 to the Round Lake Community Hall Association for an exterior renovation project from Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) allocation of Regional Grant in Aid.

Carried

Director Riis-Christanson removed himself from the meeting at 1:11 p.m. due to a conflict of interest because he is a member on the Lakes District Senior Citizen Housing Association Board of Directors.

Shari Janzen, Community Development Coordinator – Letter of Support Request

2025-10-24

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board provide a letter to the Lakes District Senior Citizen Housing Association to support its application to the BC Housing Community Housing Fund for the planning phase of a new seniors housing development in Burns Lake.

Carried

Director Riis-Christianson returned at 1:12 p.m.

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services – Northern BC Supply Chain Forum Seeking Input

2025-10-25

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the Board receive the Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services' Northern BC Supply Chain Forum Seeking input memorandum.

Carried

Cameron Hart, Community Development Coordinator - 2024 Annual Report

2025-10-26

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Atrill

That the Board approve the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako 2024 Annual Report.

Carried

Jason Blackwell, Regional Fire Chief - Cluculz Lake Fire Services Agreement

2025-10-27

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Moutray

That the Board renew the Fire Services Agreement with the Cluculz Lake Volunteer Fire Department for a five-year term ending on June 30, 2030.

Carried

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - Electronic Meeting Policy Review

2025-10-28

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Storey

That the Board receive the Director of Corporate Services' Electronic Meeting Policy Review.

Carried

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services-Item to be brought forward to the public agenda from In-Camera Meeting – Emergency Operations Centre On Call Policy

2025-10-29

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Board receive the Director of Corporate Services' Item to be brought forward to the public agenda from In-Camera Meeting - Emergency Operations Centre On Call Policy memorandum.

Carried

John Illes, Chief Financial Officer - Financial Procedure – Incidental Expenses

2025-10-30

Moved by Director Atrill

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board receive the Chief Financial Officer's Financial Procedure - Incidental Expenses memorandum.

Carried

John Illes, Chief Financial Officer -Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP)

2025-10-31

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board receive the Chief Financial Officer's Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) memorandum.

Carried

Scott Zayac, Director of Protective Services - Cooperative Community Wildfire Response Organization - Program Update

2025-10-32

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board receive the Director of Protective Services' Cooperative Community Wildfire Response Organization - Program Update memorandum.

Carried

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

Planning Institute of BC (PIBC) - 2025 PIBC Awards for Excellence in Planning

2025-10-33

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board receive the correspondence from the Planning Institute of BC (PIBC) regarding the 2025 PIBC Awards for Excellence in Planning.

Carried

The Board expressed their appreciation to Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services for receiving the 2025 PIBC Award for Excellence in Planning for the Cycle 16 Trail Project.

Plasma for Northern BC - Our Blood Counts - Support of a Blood Plasma Donor Centre in Northern BC

2025-10-34

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

That the Board receive the correspondence from Northern BC - Our Blood Counts regarding Support of a Blood Plasma Donor Centre in Northern BC.

Carried

Plasma for Northern BC - Our Blood Counts - Support of a Blood Plasma Donor Centre in Northern BC

2025-10-35

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Storey

That the Board pass the resolution included in the correspondence from Plasma for Northern BC – Our Blood Counts – Support of a Blood Plasma Donor Centre in Northern BC.

Carried

IN-CAMERA MOTION

2025-10-36

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That this meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Sections 90(1)(c), and 90(2)(b) of the Community Charter for the Board to deal with matters relating to:

- Labour Relations
- First Nations Relations.

Carried

Recessed for In-Camera Meeting at 1:52 p.m.

Reconvened at 2:23 p.m.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

Director Newell attended the Keeping it Rural Conference in Kelowna June 10 -12, 2025.

Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)

Director Greenaway shared the following:

- Attended a two-day seminar hosted by the Nak'azdli Whut'en and RCMP Indigenous Services.
- Attended Regional District Legislative Reform meetings
- Thanked Director Elphee for including her in the District of Fort St. James separate meetings with CityWest and John Rustad, MLA Nechako Lakes.

Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

Director Lambert commented he attended the following events and meetings:

- Lawn mower races on the Southside of Francois Lake on June 14th
- BC Cattlemen's Associations Forest Practices Advisory Council meeting in Victoria with the Honourable Ravi Parmar, Minister of Forests
- BC Cattlemen's Association AGM in Cranbrook.

Village of Burns Lake

Director Wiebe noted the following:

- Two of the newest physicians in Burns Lake have transferred to the Fraser Lake Medical Center
- Installing services in Village Heights in July which will open the area for development.

Village of Granisle

Director McGuire invited the Board to attend the ribbon cutting at the Municipal Campground on June 24th at 2 p.m. to celebrate the improvements that were made to the campground.

Director McGuire also noted the following:

- Father's Day Fishing Derby was successful
- Paving is moving forward with funding from RBA
- Work is moving forward at the north end of the mall that will allow for commercial space for business opportunities in the community
- An update regarding an incident that took place three years ago wherein an Ambulance had been stolen from the community.

Village of Fraser Lake

Director Storey invited everyone to attend Indigenous People's Day in Fraser Lake being hosted jointly with Stelat'en First Nation. She indicated there will be an announcement at approximately 10:20 a.m.

Director Storey mentioned that Fraser Lake had a successful Father's Day Fishing Derby and they are also undergoing a sewer and waterline upgrade project as well as completing phase two of the arena update.

District of Fort St. James

Director Elphee provided an update regarding:

- Meeting with CityWest
- Meeting with John Rustad, MLA Nechako Lakes
- Attended the Nechako Watershed Roundtable, Fraser Basin Council in partnership with Nak'azli Whut'en Spring Technical Meeting.

District of Vanderhoof

Director Moutray announced the following:

- Indigenous People's Day will be held in the community on June 20th
- Pump (Skateboard) Park construction is underway
- Contract has been awarded for the major sewer project that will go under the Nechako River.

Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

Director Riis-Christianson and CFO Illes met with CityWest last week and CityWest is planning to attend a Board meeting in September 2025.

Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Director Stoltenberg commented that he attended the Father's Day Fishing Derby at Tyhee Lake. He also spoke of the work being done at the Round Lake and Evelyn Halls.

Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

Director Moon shared the following:

- attended the Tri-Community meeting with Fraser Lake, Vanderhoof, and Fort St. James.
- Met with the District of Vanderhoof and thanked the District for the invitation.
- Attended the Nechako Round Table Spring Technical meeting in Fort St. James
- Provided Grant in Aid support to the Vanderhoof 4H to conduct a clean up of illegal dump sites in the Cluculz Lake area.

District of Houston

Director Brienien announced that the District of Houston Tourism has completed its rebranding project with a new brochure and new videos on the visithoustonbc.com website. He also met with CityWest and attended a BC Hydro Open house regarding the North Coast Transmission Line Project.

Director Brienien mentioned that Indigenous People's day is taking place today in Houston as well as a Town Hall meeting will be held this evening.

Chair Parker – Update

Chair Parker provided the following update:

- Met with the CAOs and Chairs from the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George and Cariboo Regional District
- Attended the White Sturgeon Freshwater Release on June 13th in Vanderhoof
- Attended the Tri-Community meeting and spoke of the benefit of the meeting
- Will be attending the Indigenous People's Day in Fraser Lake on June 20th.

Chair Parker congratulated CAO Helgesen for receiving the LGMA Distinguished Member Award at the LGMA Conference in Kelowna June 10-12th.

RECEIPT OF VERBAL REPORTS

2025-10-37

Moved By Director Stoltenberg

Seconded By Director Moon

That the Board receive the various Directors' verbal reports.

Carried

ADJOURNMENT

2025-10-38

Moved By Director Newell

Seconded By Director Greenaway

That the meeting be adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Carried

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services