



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, July 10, 2025

Directors Present:

Chair Mark Parker
Gladys Atrill
Shane Brien - arrived at 10:23 a.m.
Martin Elphee
Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert - arrived at 10:20 a.m.
Linda McGuire
Shirley Moon
Kevin Moutray
Chris Newell - arrived at 10:06 a.m.
Michael Riis-Christianson
Stoney Stoltenberg
Sarrah Storey - arrived at 10:06 a.m.
Henry Wiebe

Directors Absent: Leroy Dekens, Village of Telkwa

Alternate Directors:

Staff: Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and
Development Services

Others: Jake Wray, Lakes District News - arrived at 10:50 a.m., left at
11:58 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

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

First Nations Acknowledgement

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

July 10, 2025

2025-BM-057

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director McGuire

That the Board Agenda of July 10, 2025 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes - June 19, 2025

2025-BM-058

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Elphee

That the Board Meeting Minutes of June 19, 2025 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

FIRST NATIONS MAJOR PROJECTS COALITION

Scott Caven, VP Member & External Relations - Re: Overview

Mr. Caven provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

First Nations Major Project Coalition (FNMPC)

- Members of FNMPC
- The First Nations Major Projects Coalition
- FNMPC Operating Principles
- Services to Members

- The FNMPC provides a range of services to its First Nations members to support informed decision making on major projects that are of \$100 million in capital cost or more
- What FNMPC does and doesn't do
- Project Development
- Current Project Portfolio
- Environmental Services
- Spirit of the Land Toolkit
- Public Policy & Research
- Roundtable Participation.

Discussion took place regarding the Environmental Assessment Process. Mr. Caven will connect the FNMPC Environmental Assessment team with the Regional District.

Chair Parker thanked Mr. Caven for attending the meeting.

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING

Bylaw for First and Second Reading

Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner - Rezoning Application RZ G-01-25 - First and Second Reading for Rezoning Bylaw No. 2075, 2025 - Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

2025-BM-059

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director McGuire

1. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2075, 2025 be given first and second reading this 10th day of July, 2025.
2. That the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2075, 2025 be delegated to the Director or Alternate Director for Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw for First, Second and Third Reading

Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner - Rezoning Application RZ A-01-25 First, Second, and Third Readings for Rezoning Bylaw No. 2079, 2025 - Electoral

Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

2025-BM-60

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Atrill

1. That the Public Comments on the Supplementary Agenda be received.
2. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2079, 2025 be given first, second, and third reading this 10th day of July, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw for Third Reading

Cameron Kral, Planner - Rezoning Application RZ F-02-25 Third Reading for Rezoning Bylaw No. 2077, 2025 - Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

2025-BM-061

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Moutray

1. That the Board receive the Report of the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2077, 2025.
2. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2077, 2025 be given third reading this 10th day of July, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

APC Meeting Minutes - June 2, 2025 - Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

2025-BM-062

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Atrill

That the Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) APC Meeting Minutes of June 2, 2025 be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

ALR Application

Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner - ALR Subdivision Application No. 1275 - Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Fred Reitsma, the Applicant, provided an overview of their ALR Subdivision Application. They have been living and using the property for agriculture purposes for ~30 years. They are aging and want to transfer the operations to their children, allowing themselves to remain on the property as well. Due to the poor soil type the land has been used for pasture only and not cultivated. Their children have a plan and the capacity to utilize the areas microclimate, opportunities for gardening, and small intensive farming to increase the area's agriculture output. They would like to subdivide the property to allow their children independent ownership of the land. Mr. Reitsma indicated that he has consulted with neighbours and received letters of support. They are proposing to subdivide the 127 acres to gift the land to their family for agricultural opportunities in the region.

The following was discussed:

- Subdividing the property into two ~60-acre properties is not unreasonable
- Ranching and farming succession planning challenging
 - Application provides an opportunity to succession plan
- Agriculture capabilities of the land based on the Canada Land Inventory mapping and poor soil quality
- Keeping housing density to a minimum on subdivided ALR lands
- Staff review the OCPs and RDBN Agriculture Plan when considering ALR Subdivision Applications
- Large agriculture land parcels allow for grazing and cattle use where smaller parcels are less likely to be used for agriculture and more likely to be used for residential density
- Long-term considerations
- Asking the Applicant to consider amending their application to put a covenant on title limiting the number and/or size of dwelling on one or both parcels at the discretion of the applicant
 - RDBN could forward the information to the ALC for consideration
- ALC's historical consideration of similar requests.

2025-BM-063

Moved by Director McGuire

Seconded by Director Atrill

That the Agricultural Land Commission Subdivision Application No. 1275 be sent to the Agricultural Land Commission with a recommendation to deny.

DEFEATED

2025-BM-064

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Atrill

That the Agricultural Land Commission Subdivision Application No. 1275 be sent to the Agricultural Land Commission with a recommendation to approve; and, that the ALC restrict the number of dwellings per parcel to two.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services - ALR
Exclusion Application No. 1261 - Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)**

2025-BM-065

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Atrill

That the Board receive the Director of Planning and Development Services' ALR Exclusion Application No. 1261 - Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Land Referral

**Chloe Taylor, Planning Summer Student - Crown Land Application Referral
No. 6406510 - Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)**

2025-BM-066

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director Newell

That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Application No. 6406510.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Rowan Nagel, GIS/Planning Technician - Crown Land Application Referral
No. 7410372 - Electoral Areas D (Fraser Lake Rural) & E (Francois/Ootsa
Lake Rural)**

2025-BM-067

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. 7410372.

Opposed: Director Greenaway

Director Lambert

CARRIED

Rowan Nagel, GIS/Planning Technician - Crown Land Application Referrals Nos. 7410368, 7410369, and 7410370 - Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)

2025-BM-068

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Elphee

That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Application Nos. 7410368 (pt.1), 7410369 (pt.2), and 7410370 (pt.3).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cameron Kral, Planner - Crown Land Application Referral No. 7410374 - Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)

2025-BM-069

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Elphee

That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Referral 7410374.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Chloe Taylor, Planning Summer Student - Crown Land Application Referral No. 7410376 - Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

2025-BM-070

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Moutray

That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Application No. 7410376.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Telecommunications Referral

**Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development - BC Hydro
Telecommunications Towers (Palling, Saranovich, and Walcott areas)**

2025-BM-071

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Wiebe

1. That the Board receive the Public Comments on the Supplementary Agenda.
2. That the Board direct staff to send a letter to BC Hydro stating that the RDBN has no objections to the Palling, Saranovich, and Walcott areas proposed telecommunication tower locations, with the receipt and confirmation of the required public consultation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

**Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services - BCER
Renewables Framework: Policy Intentions Document**

2025-BM-072

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Board submit the following comments to the BC Energy Regulator:

“The RDBN Board supports the BCER’s policy intentions, and options to assess and mitigate possible impacts associated with wind power and solar energy projects, as outlined in the “Renewables Framework: Policy Intentions” document. However, there is inadequate reference to local governments (local authorities) in the “possible options” section of the document. The intentions regarding consultation with local governments, and the opportunity for local governments to comment on impact mitigation plans, needs to be confirmed with greater clarity.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

2025-BM-073

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Storey

That the Board receive the correspondence from the Minister of Housing.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

John Illes, Chief Finance Officer - Glacier Gulch Regional Service Bylaw Update

2025-BM-074

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Atrill

That Glacier Gulch Water Diversion Local Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2078, 2025 be given first, second, and third reading this 10th day of July 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

John Illes, Chief Finance Officer - Funding Agreement with Lakes District Fair Association

2025-BM-075

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the Board enter into the Funding Agreement with Lakes District Fair Association.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

John Illes, Chief Finance Officer - Disposal of Surplus Skid Steers

2025-BM-076

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the Board approve the disposal of four surplus skid steers from the Environmental Services skid steer fleet.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

John Illes, Chief Finance Officer - Updates to the Regional District's Procurement Policy

2025-BM-077

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Storey

That the revised Procurement Policy be approved, and that previous versions of the procurement policy be repealed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Jason Blackwell, Regional Fire Chief - Fire Engine Purchase

2025-BM-078

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Moon

That the Board approve the purchase of two stock fire engines from Fort Garry Trucks for delivery to Cluculz Lake and Topley Volunteer Fire Departments at a base purchase price of \$594,900 each (plus additional taxes) plus optional features that will not exceed the total budget of \$650,000 for each unit.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services' - FCM
Report 'The Future of Rural Canada'**

2025-BM-079

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board receive the Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services' FCM Report 'The Future of Rural Canada' memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

**Ministry of Transportation and Transit - Highway 16 and Highway 27
Improvement Project**

2025-BM-080

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Moon

That the Board receive the correspondence from the Ministry of Transportation and Transit regarding Highway 16 and Highway 27 Improvement Project.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Union of BC Municipalities - 2025 NCLGA Resolutions

2025-BM-081

Moved by Director Wiebe

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Board receive the correspondence from the Union of BC Municipalities - 2025 NCLGA Resolutions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

District of Vanderhoof

Director Moutray announced that the Concert in the Park and Street Vendor event will take place on July 26, 2025.

District of Fort St. James

Director Elphee provided an update regarding:

- Public works projects
 - Water system cleanout is complete
 - Cell 1 & 2 of lagoon desludging is complete
- Bulk Water Project in collaboration with the RDBN will be operational by the end of July, 2025.

Village of Fraser Lake

Director Storey mentioned the following update:

- Announcement of the building of a hotel in Fraser Lake in partnership with Stellat'en First Nation
- Waterfront Development Plan is moving forward
- Held a Community Open House and survey
- Water Tower Project to be completed by the end of October, 2025
- Fraser Lake Arena Project is nearing completion
- Received a new chainsaw carving on Canada Day.

Village of Granisle

Director McGurie commented:

- Remediation project in the Granisle strip mall continues
- Community paving projects are ongoing
- Thanked RDBN Planning staff for meeting with the Village of Granisle CAO
- Invitation to the Board to attend Granisle Day, taking place August 9, 2025
 - Ellis Ross, MP Skeena-Bulkley Valley and John Rustad, MLA Nechako Lakes will be joining the Village of Granisle parade float
- Enhanced parking area at the Granisle Marina has been completed with a parking metre and overnight parking lanes to allow truck and trailers to spend the night for a cost of \$10 per night.

Village of Burns Lake

Director Wiebe provided an update:

- The Foundry building is nearing completion and planning for a fall 2025 opening
- On July 9th crews started work to install services to Village Heights
- The 3rd Avenue and Government Street Intersection improvement project is awaiting the curb machine to arrive
- Attended meetings with Northern Health regarding ER closures.

Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)

Director Greenaway noted the following:

- Attended a meeting with Northern Health and discussed the 69 ER closures throughout the Region to date, equaling ~828 hours
 - Northern Health indicated Vanderhoof may have doctors from Prince George to provide coverage, but the initiative has yet to come to fruition
- Attended the NCLGA Executive Meeting June 20-21
 - Four new members on the NCLGA Board
 - President Atrill endorsed a letter to UBCM requesting Legislative Reform for Regional Districts be a workshop topic at the UBCM Convention in September and that the topic also be added to UBCM's work plans
- BC Housing approved an Extreme Weather Shelter for Fort St. James from October 2025 to March 2026.

Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

Director Newell reported that the Ministry of Forests is upgrading the Owen East Forest Service Road.

Town of Smithers

Director Atrill provided an update of events:

- Midsummer Music Festival took place July 4-6
- Bulkley Valley Artisans Tour is July 18-20
- Main Street Market is July 19
- Parks Day Fossil Fest is July 19
 - Collaboration between Smithers Exploration and BC Parks
 - Geologist and Paleontologist on site at Driftwood Canyon Park
- Attended the official opening of Dome Mountain Mine - July 9
 - Lake Babine Nation Hereditary Chiefs, investors and employees were in attendance
 - Received provincial approvals for a water treatment project
 - Starting production July 10
- North Central Local Government Association - update
 - A newsletter will be sent to members to provide a progress report.
 - 2026 NCLGA Conference dates are May 20-22, 2026 in Prince George.

Chair Parker, Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural)

- Working with Fort St. James on the Bulk Water Project
- Connectivity fiber build underway connecting Stellat'en First Nation, Nadleh Whut'en First Nation and residents along the route
- Attended the Fraser Lake Canada Day celebrations.

RECEIPT OF VERBAL REPORTS

2025-BM-082

Moved by Director Brienien

Seconded by Director Moon

That the Board receive the various Directors' verbal reports.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

2025-BM-083

Moved by Director McGuire

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board authorize Director Riis-Christianson's attendance at the Canada Rural & Remote Broadband Community Conference in Kelowna, BC on November 12-14, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

IN-CAMERA MOTION

2025-BM-084

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:

- Environmental Assessment
- Labour Relations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

2025-BM-085

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director Newell

That the meeting be adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services