



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MINUTES

Thursday, September 04, 2025

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

Staff: Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Scott Zayac, Director of Protective Services
Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services
Anusha Rai, HR Advisor – left at 11:48 a.m.
Megan D'Arcy, Agriculture Coordinator – left at 12:05 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:54 a.m.

First Nations Acknowledgement

AGENDA

2025-COWM-001

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director McGuire

That the Agenda be approved; and that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes - June 5, 2025

2025-COWM-002

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director McGuire

That the Committee of the Whole Minutes of June 5, 2025 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

John Illes, Chief Financial Officer - Chinook Community Forest Update

2025-COWM-003

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Committee receive the Chief Financial Officer's Chinook Community Forest Update memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**John Illes, Chief Financial Officer - Statutory Reserve Update
2025-COWM-004**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Storey

That the Committee receive the Chief Financial Officer's Statutory Reserve Update memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**John Illes, Chief Financial Officer and Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Television Rebroadcasting Survey Data
2025-COWM-005**

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Wiebe

That the Committee receive the Chief Financial Officer's and the Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services' Television Rebroadcasting Survey Data memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- Information has been provided to the Television Rebroadcasting Societies
- Minimal responses to the survey
- Different numbers of channels provided for each society
- Gathering additional information such as radio usage
- History of television rebroadcasting to television viewing to date
- Challenging to determine actual usage of service and viability of the service
- Upgrade from analog to digital services
- Responses from Area E
- If any interruptions to the service, the RDBN receives input.

**Anusha Rai, HR Advisor - Introduction of AI (Artificial Intelligence)
Governance Policy for the RDBN
2025-COWM-006**

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Committee receive the HR Advisor's Introduction of AI (Artificial Intelligence) Governance Policy for the RDBN memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI):

- AI spam received
- Protection and privacy of confidential and sensitive information
- Monitoring AI usage
 - Providing licenses for AI tools utilizing RDBN log in information
 - Importance of monitoring
 - Rigorous monitoring
- Staff considerations
 - Creating efficiencies
 - Responsible use of AI
- Process in place if a negative occurrence takes place
- Implications of the use of AI
- Using 'shall' rather than 'should' in areas of the Policy
- Financial protections with AI
- AI data advancements
- AI usage disclaimer
- Cybersecurity training
- Organization champions to continue into the future

**Megan D'Arcy, Agriculture Coordinator - Growing Opportunities Newsletter
- Issue 29, August 2025**

2025-COWM-007

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Brien

That the Committee receive the Agriculture Coordinator's Growing Opportunities Newsletter Issue 29, August 2025 memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Moon expressed interest in the Young Agrarians program and providing information to the region. Staff will follow-up.

Director Moon brought forward the Premier's Task Force on Agriculture and Food Economy. She noted the recommendations coming forward from the Task Force. Additional information will be brought forward at a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

**Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - Union of B.C.
Municipalities – Meeting Update**

2025-COWM-008

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Storey

That the Committee receive the Director of Corporate Services Union of B.C.
Municipalities Meeting Update memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- Chair and staff will review meeting confirmations and determine speakers
- Staff will be providing meeting information and calendar invitations to all Directors
- Requesting meetings with the Premier and Ministers outside of the UBCM Convention
 - BC Natural Resources Forum in Prince George
- Prioritize advocacy topics to discuss with the Province
- Utilizing the learning opportunity and advocacy while attending the Annual UBCM Convention.

Lunch at 12:13 p.m., reconvened at 12:52 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

**Coastal GasLink Socio-economic Effects Management Plan Engagement,
June to November 2025**

2025-COWM-009

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Dekens

That the Board receive the correspondence from Coastal GasLink regarding the Socio-economic Effects Management Plan Engagement, June to November 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

UBCM - Canada Community-Building Fund BC - First Community Works Fund Payment for 2025/2026

2025-COWM-010

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Moon

That the Committee receive the correspondence from UBCM - Canada Community-Building Fund BC - First Community Works Fund Payment for 2025/2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

CIHR Application 'Community of Practice on Climate Displacement' Letter of Support

2025-COWM-011

Moved by Director Moutray

Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

That the Committee recommend that the Board approve the Letter of Support for the application to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for a Community of Practice on Climate Displacement project.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minister of Forests - Forest Service Road Usage Response

2025-COWM-012

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Dekens

That the Committee receive the correspondence from the Minister of Forests regarding Forest Service Road Usage.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Newell spoke of continued advocacy for the use and maintenance of Forest Service Roads (FSRs) for recreational purposes. Director Lambert brought forward the use of FSRs for evacuation routes outlined in the letter. Discussion took place regarding gathering data of usage for the roads.

NEW BUSINESS

Canadian Federation of Independent Business - An Examination of Regional District Spending Growth

Director Riis-Christianson spoke of report released by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business regarding

IN-CAMERA MOTION

2025-COWM-013

Moved by Director Brien

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That this meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 90(1)(c) of the *Community Charter* for the Board to deal with matters relating to:

- Labour relations

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

2025-COWM-014

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Brien

That the meeting be adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services