



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 18, 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 - via Zoom
Henry Wiebe

Staff: Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services - arrived at 12:52 p.m.
John Iles, Chief Financial Officer
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services- left at 11:37 a.m.
Anusha Rai, HR Advisor – arrived at 11:28 a.m., left at 11:37 a.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services – left at 11:37 a.m.
Scott Zayac, Director of Protective Services – arrived at 11:22 a.m., left at 11:37 a.m.

Others: Olava Brooke, (BV Pool) Smithers - via Zoom – left at 11:45 a.m.
Tanner Moulton, Community Relations Project Advisor, TC Energy – left at 11:22 a.m.
Parker Nesdoly, Operations Planning Engineer, TC Energy – left at 11:22 a.m.
Chloe Taylor, RDBN Planning Student - left at 11:37 a.m.

Media: Jake Wray, LD News – via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

First Nations Acknowledgement

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

2025-BM-117

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the Agenda for September 18, 2025 be approved; and that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes - August 14, 2025

2025-BM-118

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director McGuire

That the Board Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2025 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes - September 4, 2025

2025-BM-119

Moved by Director Elphee

Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of September 4, 2025 be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING

Bylaw for First, Second and Third Reading

Cameron Kral, Planner - Rezoning Application RZ B-02-25 First, Second and Third Reading for Rezoning Bylaw No. 2082, 2025 Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

2025-BM-120

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Wiebe

1. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2082, 2025 be given first, second, and third reading this 18th day of September, 2025.
2. That staff report to the Board with further information regarding the legal status of the rail crossing at Hope Road prior to the Board's consideration of adoption of Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2082, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner - RDBN Development Procedures Bylaw No. 2076, 2025 First, Second, and Third Readings - All Electoral Areas

2025-BM-121

Moved by Director McGuire

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Development Procedures Bylaw No. 2076, 2025 be given first, second, and third reading this 18th day of September, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw for Third Reading

Cameron Kral, Planner - Rezoning Application RZ F-03-25 Third Reading for Rezoning Bylaw No. 2081, 2025 Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

2025-BM-122

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Greenaway

1. That the Board receive the Report of the Public Hearing Report for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2081, 2025.
2. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2081, 2025 be given third reading this 18th day of September, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw for Third Reading and Adoption

Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner - Rezoning Application RZ F-01-25 Third Reading and Adoption for Rezoning Bylaw No. 2080, 2025 - Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

2025-BM-123

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. 2080, 2025.
2. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2080, 2025 be given third reading and adoption this 18th day of September, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

Jason Llewellyn - Director of Planning and Development Services - Planning and Development Department Bylaw Review

2025-BM-124

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Wiebe

That the Board receive the Director of Planning and Development Services' Planning and Development Department Bylaw Review memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- Pump and Haul Sewage Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 1101, 1999
 - Originally directed by Northern Health
 - No longer required
 - Repeal process
 - Staff will bring forward a report regarding the repeal process
- RDBN Manufactured Home Park Bylaw No. 740, 1993
 - Out of date
 - Planning staff have included the update of the bylaw in their workplan
- Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural) Building Bylaw No. 1634, 2012
- Director Newell will review with staff
- RDBN Board of Variance Bylaw No. 1623, 2012
 - Legal requirements.

Area B Advisory Planning Commission Meeting Minutes - August 28, 2025

2025-BM-125

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Wiebe

That the Board receive the Area B Advisory Planning Commission Meeting Minutes for August 28, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Area F Advisory Planning Commission Meeting Minutes - June 24, 2025

2025-BM-126

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board receive the Area F Advisory Planning Commission Meeting Minutes for June 24, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Land Referral

Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner - Referral - Permit Application to Discharge Ash onto Agricultural Lands (Tracking No. 7410378) Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

2025-BM-127

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Atrill

That the comment sheet be provided to West Fraser Mills Ltd. as the Regional District's comments on the Permit Application to Discharge Ash on Agricultural Lands (Tracking Number 7410378).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

Jason Llewellyn - Director of Planning and Development Services - ALR Application Process Policy

2025-BM-128

Moved by Director Dekens

Seconded by Director Elphee

That the Board approve the Agricultural Land Reserve Application Process Policy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Jason Llewellyn – Director of Planning and Development Services - Heritage Conservation Act Transformation Project

2025-BM-129

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Dekens

That the Board receive the Director of Planning and Development Services' Heritage Conservation Act Transformation Project.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUILDING INSPECTION

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services- Building Inspection Procedures Policy

2025-BM-130

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

That the Board approve the Building Inspection Procedures Policy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PARKS AND TRAILS

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services - Dominion Telegraph Line Research Report

2025-BM-131

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

That the Board support staff's completion of the Dominion Telegraph Line research project.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

AI (Artificial Intelligence) Governance Policy

2025-BM-132

Moved by Director Moutray

Seconded by Director Elphee

That the Board approve the AI Governance Policy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - RDBN Mail Ballot Authorization and Procedure Bylaw No. 2066, 2025 - Adoption

2025-BM-133

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Mail Ballot Authorization and Procedure Bylaw No. 2066, 2025 be adopted this 18th day of September, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

John Illes, Chief Financial Officer - Sale of Surplus Vehicles

2025-BM-134

Moved by Director Atrill

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the Board authorize the disposal of units P1, P8, and A2.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

John Illes, CFO, Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services, Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services - Fort Fraser Sewer and Water Update

2025-BM-135

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Moutray

1. That Fort Fraser Sewer Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2086, 2025 be given first, second, and third reading this 18th day of September, 2025.
2. That the Board defer the following:
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Water Service Regulatory Amendment Bylaw No. 2087, 2025 and Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Sewer Service Regulatory Amendment Bylaw No. 2088, 2025.

John Illes, Chief Financial Officer - Bulkley Valley Regional Pool and Racquet Courts Update and Review

2025-BM-136

Moved by Director Atrill

Seconded by Director Dekens

That the Board accept the proposed donation of funds from the Bulkley-Valley Aquatic Management Society and direct staff to prepare an RFP for the Engineering and Architectural Design of the new proposed entrance to the pool.

That staff bring back a bylaw to a future meeting increasing the scope of Bylaw No. 1350 (to include the climbing wall and the fitness studio room).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

Minister of Forests - Response to July 23, 2025 letter Re: Dugouts on Crown Land

2025-BM-137

Moved by Director Brien

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board receive the September 4, 2025 letter from Jamie Jeffreys, ADM, Ministry of Forests, regarding the role of dugouts in supporting livestock grazing on Crown land.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - Request to Designate Inland Ferries as Essential Services

2025-BM-138

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board approve the letter to Premier Eby, Minister Farnworth, and Minister Whiteside regarding Inland Ferries as Essential Services.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

Director Moon provided an update:

- Hay crops in the area are sufficient
- Attended the District of Vanderhoof Pump Track Grand Opening and noted that Mayor Moutray enjoyed a ride through the track
- Auction prices for steers and calves
- Approximate dollar value of forage crops in Area F
- Agriculture dollars in the region in 2025
- Groundbreaking of a 34-unit housing project for low to moderate incomes, including families and seniors
- Attended the Economic Forum in Vanderhoof
 - Expressed appreciation to the District of Vanderhoof for hosting the event
 - Housing was identified as the #1 priority.

Community Hall Meeting

Rural Directors in attendance at the Community Hall meeting on September 11th expressed their appreciation to RDBN staff for hosting a very good well attended event. Directors noted discussion and direct connection with constituents was beneficial. Directors are looking forward to continuing work with the Community Hall groups within the region.

District of Vanderhoof

Director Moutray commented:

- District of Vanderhoof Pump Track has been a great addition to the community and has been in consistent use by youth in the community since the Grand Opening
- RBA Projects - new force main and new lift station
 - RBA funding has made a significant impact to small communities to improve infrastructure
- Economic Development Forum
 - Thanked RDBN staff and Director Moon for attending.

Village of Fraser Lake

Director Storey indicated she is looking forward to the upcoming UBCM Conference September 21-26, 2025 in Victoria.

The Village of Fraser Lake arena project will be another month before it is completed, and the water project is ongoing.

Village of Granisle

Director McGuire updated the Board:

- On September 17th the sprinkler system testing in Memorial Park took place
- RBA funding has been critical to utilize for leveraging funds for grant applications for the following projects
 - Waste Water Outfall
 - Mall remediation
- Gas Station and Convenience Store have closed which is disappointing for the community
- Anticipating meetings with BC Ambulance and the RCMP at the 2025 UBCM Convention.

Village of Burns Lake

Director Wiebe provided the following update:

- Village Heights services are complete
- Held an Employee Appreciation Barbecue on September 16th

Village of Telkwa

Director Dekens commented:

- Village of Telkwa has 11 Minister Meetings at the upcoming UBCM Convention
- Village of Telkwa Volunteer Fire Department was deployed for wildfire support
- Continuation of the Cycle 16 Trail along Highway 16 between Smithers and Telkwa continues to be constructed
- Subdivision continues to move forward with the first basement being constructed.

Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

Director Lambert mentioned the critical need for a helipad on the Southside of Francois Lake.

Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)

Director Greenaway provided the following update:

- Director Elphee invited Director Greenaway to attend a meeting with the BC Nurses Union
 - It was identified that staffing and the inability to access the training required to fulfill their jobs were reasons identified for staff leaving the Nats'oojeh Hospital and Health Centre
- Stuart Lake Shelter and Support Society is preparing for the Extreme Weather Shelter to be open October 15, 2025 to March 31, 2026
- Director Greenaway donated the five passes the Regional District received for the Snotty Nose Res Kids performance to Connexus Community Resources for their clients.

Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

Director Newell mentioned that users of the Morice Owen FSR and Morice Lake FSR are degrading and becoming dangerous. He spoke of determining a way to record the number of recreational users in order to provide the information to the Minister of Forests. He also noted the reduction in limited entry hunting has had an impact to the economy in the region.

Town of Smithers

Director Atrill provided the following update:

- RBA funding is being utilized for projects in the community:
 - Princess Street Upgrade
 - Water Main Project
 - Paving Projects
- Will be attending an RBA meeting while at the 2025 UBCM Convention
- West Fraser Sawmill has announced a curtailment of operations in September
- Town of Smithers created a new public engagement tool called Engaged Smithers
 - It is being utilized for two projects: the new public library and the budget process.
- Encampment
 - Hired two Bylaw Officers and private security
- NCLGA Mental Health Symposium - October 15th in Prince George
- Northern Development Initiative will be hosting a 20th Anniversary Celebration at the UBCM Convention on September 24th.

Chair Update/Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural)

Chair Parker noted the following:

- Working with staff on scheduling for the UBCM Convention in Victoria, September 21-26, 2025
- University of Northern B.C.
 - Chair Parker has been invited to be interviewed about Northern Evaluation regarding better outreach and involvement in communities and how to build on “educate in the north and stay in the north” programs
 - It is exciting to move forward and continue to build relationships between the RDBN and the University.

RECEIPT OF VERBAL REPORTS

2025-BM-139

Moved by Director Atrill

Seconded by Director McGuire

That the Board receive the various Directors' verbal reports.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Lunch

Break for lunch at 12:09 p.m.

Reconvened at 12:52 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

CN Rail - Abandoned Creosote Railway Ties

Director Riis-Christianson brought forward concerns from residents in Electoral Area B regarding the number of abandoned creosote railway ties along the rail lines throughout the area. He identified that a number of the ties have been left for over a year near bodies of water. The ties are deemed hazardous material and can leach into ground water and water bodies. The creosote ties are also a fire hazard.

2025-BM-140

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Newell

That the Board write a letter to CN requesting prompt removal of abandoned railway ties along its north line within the Regional District; and further, that the letter be cc'd to all applicable First Nations communities whose traditional territories boarder the rail line.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2025-BM-141

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Newell

That the Board write a letter to the Ministry of Environment and Parks to request information regarding any monitoring of CN storage areas that house creosote railway ties and any monitoring of ground water and neighbouring water bodies; and further, that the letter be cc'd to First Nations communities whose traditional territories are near the area.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Lambert spoke of the creosote docks and bumpers used in Francois Lake. He has had conversations with the three First Nations on the Southside of Francois Lake regarding the docks and bumpers.

Director Lambert will continue to work with the three First Nations to request to have the creosote docks and bumpers removed from Francois Lake. Staff will provide contact information for appropriate Ministries to contact.

IN-CAMERA MOTION

2025-BM-142

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Wiebe

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

- Labour relations
- Land acquisition

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

2025-BM-143

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the meeting be adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services