



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
RURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, October 09, 2025**

Directors Present: Chair Michael Riis-Christianson
Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert - via Zoom
Shirley Moon
Chris Newell
Mark Parker
Stoney Stoltenberg

Staff: Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Megan D'Arcy Regional Agriculture Coordinator
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and
Development Services - left at 12:45 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate
Services

Others: Martin Elphee, District of Fort St. James
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Riis-Christianson called the meeting to order at 12:42 p.m.

AGENDA

2025-RSC-006

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Moon

That the Rural Services Committee Agenda for October 9, 2025 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes - September 4, 2025

2025-RSC-007

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Parker

That the Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes for September 4, 2025 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Mine Referral

Rowan Nagel, Planning/GIS Technician - Notice of Work Referral No. 0200333 - Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

2025-RSC-008

Moved by Director Parker

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments for Notice of Work Referral No. 0200333.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rowan Nagel, Planning/GIS Technician - Notice of Work Referral No. 0200254 - Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

2025-RSC-009

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments for Notice of Work Referral No. 0200254.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Grant in Aid for Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Bulkley Valley Search and Rescue

2025-RSC-010

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Committee recommend that the Board approve allocating \$26,000 in Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Grant in Aid monies to the Bulkley Valley Search and Rescue Society towards the replacement of their primary rescue truck.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services -Grant in Aid for Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Smithers Mountain Bike Association

2025-RSC-011

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Newell

1. That the Committee recommend that the Board approve allocating \$20,000 in Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Grant in Aid monies to the Smithers Mountain Bike Association for a trail building project; and,
2. That the Committee recommend that the Board approve allocating \$20,000 in Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Economic Development Service monies to the Smithers Mountain Bike Association for a trail building project.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Community Hall Meeting Summary

2025-RSC-012

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Newell

That the Committee receive the Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services' Community Hall Meeting Summary memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding steps moving forward:

- Electoral Area Directors individually meeting with community halls in their area and bringing forward the needs of the halls
- Community Hall Meeting Summary - September 11, 2025
 - "Where we think the RDBN can start": 1 through 7
 - Identifying additional priorities and including them
 - Determining priorities for 2026 staff work plans and budgets
 - Staff will discuss and bring forward information.
- Importance of continued communication with the community halls
 - Staff are currently developing a newsletter
- Mapes/Blackwater Community Hall
 - Historical recordings
 - Project to transcribe the recordings to print
 - Lakes District Museum recently completed a project and is willing to share information.

Chair Riis-Christianson noted that the September 11, 2025 Community Hall meeting was an excellent stakeholder engagement session and can be used as a template in the future for rural issues requiring engagement. He noted the importance of continuing to follow up with the halls.

John Illes, Chief Financial Officer and Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Community Hall Appraisal Report

2025-RSC-013

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Parker

That the Committee direct staff to pursue a contract for appraisals of all fifteen community hall locations in the RDBN.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

John Illes, Chief Financial Officer noted the need for an appraisal report for community halls wanting to participate in exploring pooled purchasing options for insurance. Discussion took place regarding the cost of an appraisal report for each hall and the option to utilize Grant in Aid funds or Economic Development funds. Director Greenaway spoke of supporting other associations such as the Snowmobile Club in her area. Staff indicated they can investigate further.

ADJOURNMENT

2025-RSC-014

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the meeting be adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Michael Riis-Christianson, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services