



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 23, 2025

Directors Present:

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

Directors Absent: Shane Brienens, District of Houston
Clint Lambert, Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

Alternate Directors:

Staff: Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
John Iles, Chief Financial Officer
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning - via Zoom
Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services - arrived at 11:04 a.m., left at 11:20 a.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services - via Zoom
Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services - left at 11:08 a.m.

Others:

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair Parker calls the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

First Nations Acknowledgement

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

2025-BM-144

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director McGuire

That the Board Agenda of October 23, 2025 be approved and that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes - September 18, 2025

2025-BM-145

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Wiebe

That the Board Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2025 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee Meeting Minutes - October 9, 2025

2025-BM-146

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Moon

That the following Committee Meeting Minutes be received:

- Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
 - October 9, 2025
- Rural Services Meeting Minutes
 - October 9, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING

Bylaw for First and Second Reading

**Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services-
Rezoning Application RZ A-02-25 - First and Second Reading for Rezoning
Bylaw No. 2091, 2025 - Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)**

2025-BM-147

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Dekens

1. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2091 be given first and second reading this 23rd day of October, 2025.
2. That the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2091 be delegated to the Director or Alternate Director for Electoral Area A, (Smithers/Telkwa Rural).
3. And, that the Board direct staff to hold the public hearing once an acceptable plan for the building code deficient buildings on the property has been established.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw for Third Reading and Adoption

**Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services -
OCP Amendment and Rezoning Application RZ RDBN-01-25 - Third Reading
and Adoption for Bylaw No. 2083 and 2084 - Electoral Area G
(Houston/Granisle Rural)**

2025-BM-148

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director McGuire

1. That the Board receive the Report of the Public Hearing for Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 2083, 2025 and Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2084, 2025.
2. That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 2083, 2025 and Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2084, 2025 be given third reading and adoption this 23rd day of October, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw for Adoption

Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner - RDBN Development Procedures Bylaw No. 2076, 2025 – Adoption – All Electoral Areas

2025-BM-149

Moved by Director Atrill

Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Development Procedures Bylaw No. 2076, 2025 be adopted this 23rd day of October, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

2025-BM-150

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Wiebe

That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2082, 2025 be adopted this 23rd day of October, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

2025-BM-151

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Moutray

That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2081, 2025 be adopted this 23rd day of October, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Temporary Use Permit

Cameron Kral, Planner - Temporary Use Permit Application F-01-25 - Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

2025-BM-152

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Moutray

That the Board receive the public comments on the Supplementary Agenda.

That the Board approve the issuance of Temporary Use Permit F-01-25 to allow the use of a portable crushing unit and portable screening unit on the subject property.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

Advisory Planning Commission Minutes - Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) - October 6, 2025

2025-BM-153

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Atrill

That the Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) Advisory Planning Commission Meeting Minutes for October 6, 2025 be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Advisory Planning Commission Minutes - Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) - October 8, 2025

2025-BM-154

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) Advisory Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2025 be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding;

- Concerns regarding bats and snakes
- Biologist didn't find signs of bats and snakes
- Regional District application applies to the crushing and screening of gravel only
- Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals regulates gravel pits
- Road use for gravel extraction - jurisdiction of Ministry of Transportation and Transit
 - Assumption that the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals works with other agencies

- Provincial legislation excludes local governments from jurisdiction over gravel pits
- Local government jurisdiction is specific to the gravel
- Responsibility of the Board to bring forward concerns that maybe raised/brought forward
- Negative effects need to be recognized and brought forward
- Board to provide direction to staff if the wish is for staff to evaluate gravel pit impacts
- Staff provide Electoral Area Directors information specific to their areas prior to an application coming forward to the Board
- Staff provide applicants with comments and on a case by case basis provide comments to appropriate Ministers
- Inviting Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals to a future meeting
- Advisory Planning Commission (APC) comments.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

BYLAW ENFORCEMENT

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services - Bylaw Notice Adjudication Registry - District of Houston and District of Vanderhoof

2025-BM-155

Moved by Director Elphee

Seconded by Director Moutray

That the Board authorize the addition of the District of Houston, District of Vanderhoof and District of Fort St. James to the Bylaw Notice Dispute Adjudication Registry Agreement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OTHER

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services - Proposed Regulatory Policy for Renewable Energy Projects

2025-BM-156

Moved by Director Dekens

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board receive the Director of Planning and Development Services' Proposed Regulatory Policy for Renewable Energy memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Ensuring that all projects are considered when a new project is proposed and/or approved
- Recognizing the impacts such as flickering, sound, glare from windfarms
 - Location of windfarms in relation to communities
 - Cumulative effects from windfarms
- Transmission lines required in correlation to windfarm projects
- Effects of various energy sources and ensuring a balance is achieved in considering industrial development and effects to a region.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services - Clearview Landfill Leachate Collection - Project Award

2025-BM-157

Moved by Director Moutray

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board approve the award of the Clearview Landfill Leachate Collection construction project to Van-Con Enterprises for \$666,980.06.

CARRIED

Opposed: Director Moon

A conversation took place regarding:

- Hiring of local contractors
- Bid timeline in relation to the construction season
 - Project based on time and material
 - Two phase approach
 - Liner installation work.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services - Committee Meeting Recommendations - October 9, 2025

2025-BM-158

Moved by Director McGuire

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

Recommendation 1 through 9 as written.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cameron Hart, Community Development Coordinator - Grant in Aid for Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)Nechako Valley Historical Society

2025-BM-159

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Moutray

That the Board approve allocating \$8,000 in Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) Grant in Aid monies to the Nechako Valley Historical Society to purchase a replacement cairn.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cameron Hart, Community Development Coordinator - Grant in Aid for Area B (Burns Lake Rural) - Ride Burns Mountain Biking Association

2025-BM-160

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Wiebe

That the Board approve allocating \$10,000 in Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) Grant in Aid monies to the Ride Burns Mountain Biking Association for the construction of a novice downhill trail.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Jason Blackwell, Regional Fire Chief - Purchase and Installation of Luck Bay Water Tank – RFP # RDBN-FIRE-25-02

2025-BM-161

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Elphee

That the Board award the supply and installation of a 10,000-gallon underground water tank to be located at Luck Bay Fire Hall to MX3 Rail and Civil Ltd. for a total cost of \$166,660.63 plus applicable taxes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Jason Blackwell, Regional Fire Chief clarified the bid process and including local contractor preference wording in bid wording. Director Moon requested quote quality weight include 5 points for local contractor and 5 points for quote quality. Staff will discuss options for future project review process.

**John Illes, Chief Financial Officer and Jason Blackwell, Regional Fire Chief -
Topley Rural Fire Maximum Tax Limit Increase**

2025-BM-162

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That Topley Rural Fire Protection Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2092, 2025 be given First, Second, and Third Reading this 23rd day of October 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Anusha Rai, HR Advisor - AI (Artificial Intelligence) Governance Policy

2025-BM-163

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Dekens

That the Board receive the HR Advisor's AI (Artificial Intelligence) Governance Policy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - Q3 Quarterly Report

2025-BM-164

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Wiebe

That the Board receive the Director of Corporate Services Q3 Quarterly Report memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs - Response - Provincial Funding for Public Libraries

2025-BM-165

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs in response to the Provincial Funding for Public Libraries.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Board discussed providing Public Library stats from across the region to staff to provide to the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs.

Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs - Small-Scale Multi-unit Housing

2025-BM-166

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Moon

That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs regarding Small-Scale Multi-unit Housing.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Shari Janzen, Community Development Coordinator, Ride Burns Mountain Biking Association – Letter of Support Request

2025-BM-167

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Wiebe

That the Board provide a letter to the Ride Burns Mountain Biking Association to support its application to the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Invitation - Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals

The Board discussed inviting the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals as a delegation at a future meeting on the following topics:

- Addressing residents concerns that are brought forward outside the jurisdiction of local government
- Collaboration with other Ministries such as Ministry of Transportation and Transit
- Stake system
- Staff will provide Discussion Paper to Board in advance of delegation
- Invite the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals to a future meeting.

Village of Fraser Lake

Director Storey provided the following update:

- Village of Fraser Lake Official Community Plan is complete
- Attended
 - NCLGA co-hosted Mental Health and Addictions symposium
 - Northern BC Tourism Conference
 - Need to focus on tourism for the region
 - Good Conference to attend
- BlueEarth Renewables Open House in conjunction with Stellat'en First Nations Wednesday, October 29, 2025 from 3-8 p.m.

District of Fort St. James

Director Elphee commented:

- Canada's Ambassador to Estonia visited the community on October 22nd
 - 100 years ago Rear Admiral Johan Pitka settled on the Southside of Stewart Lake with members of his family
 - Some namesakes are Pitka Bay and Paaren's Beach
 - In 2009 Fort St. James unveiled a monument of Johan Pitka
- FPX Open House October 22nd and the District of Fort St. James and Director Greenaway will meet with FPX on October 24th

District of Vanderhoof

Director Moutray announced the headliner's for its centennial celebration are Trooper, The Headpins and Tom Cochrane. More details will be provided on the event as well as events

throughout 2026.

Director Moutray also spoke of monitoring Canfor License A18157 and have harvested south of Vanderhoof over 200,000 m³ since January 1, 2025. He mentioned that would be an average logging truck load of approximately 3,300 loads and being scaled at PG Saw. He spoke of the importance of resources remaining local and harvested in local communities.

Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Director Stoltenberg encouraged people to attend the BV Health Foundation Gala Event on Saturday, October 25, 2025.

Director Stoltenberg noted that Phase 3 of the Smithers/Telkwa - Cycle 16 Trail construction continues by the Ministry of Transportation and Transit.

Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

Director Moon provided the following update:

- Cattle prices at all time high
- Thanked Megan D'Arcy, Regional Agriculture Coordinator for attending the Nechako Watershed Roundtable and provided a presentation regarding the water project, irrigation feasibility study and tying into the watershed and forestry
- Helping with the Centennial celebrations in Vanderhoof and encouraged people to attend.

Town of Smithers

Director Atrill spoke of the following:

- Mental Health and Addictions Symposium facilitated by NCLGA and co-hosted by Lheidli T'enneh and Regional District of Fraser-Fort George and City of Prince George
 - Move from What's the Problem in 2024 to the What now in 2025
 - Need to share stories and successes
 - Reporting out still to come
 - 9 additional partners signed and there are now 39 signatories to the Mental Health and Addictions Accord
- November 12th - NCLGA hosting a webinar advancing local government advocacy through effective resolutions

- Northern BC Tourism Association Conference
 - Thanked RDBN staff for attending
 - Keynote Speaker - Yann Martel
 - Worth considering attending in 2026
- Association for Mineral Exploration in Smithers this week
 - Gathering input from their members regarding the Heritage Conservation Act and permitting challenges
- Homeless Encampment
 - Made improvements to the area
 - Improved area
- RBA Steering Committee Meeting in Smithers - October 21-22
 - Member meeting November 27
- Smithers and District Transit Meeting
 - 2 of 3 new buses have arrived
 - 3rd bus scheduled to arrive in November.
- Local logs for local benefit. - Thanked Director Moutray for bringing it forward.

Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

Director Newell noted that along with Directors Brien and McGuire he met with BC Parks and Trails planning to have a brainstorming session.

Director Newell spoke of issues regarding CANFOR License and challenges in regard to maintenance of Forest Service Roads and challenges with the Heritage Conservation Act. He spoke the need for additional information.

Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)

Director Greenaway noted she had two incidents in Electoral Area C in relation to illegal dumping. She contacted the Conservation Officer and he attended the sites and noted that due to the one site being private property it was outside his jurisdiction. The second site was a dump site of a moose carcass and waste vegetables near a subdivision and indicated that people are able to dump organic waste.

Village of Telkwa

Director Dekens provided an update regarding:

- Met with Telkwa Mining and planning Open Houses in November

- New subdivision has had construction begin on its first house
- Will be entering into 2026 Budget discussions at next Council meeting.

Village of Burns Lake

Director Wiebe noted the following:

- Attended the Grand Opening of The Foundry
 - Asset to the community and its youth.
- Completed all active transportation projects for 2025
 - Premier Eby highlighted the Village of Burns Lake as an example of active transportation in his speech to the delegates at UBCM.
- Received funding for the Gowan Property planning process for recreation area. He thanked Burns Lake Community Forest. Construction will begin Spring/Summer 2026.
- Rod Reid Trail reconstruction work on the trail nearing completion.

Village of Granisle

Director McGuire mentioned the following:

- Attended the Mental Health and Addictions Symposium
 - Key take away was learning about a 3rd space
 - 1st space is ones home
 - 2nd space is ones work
 - 3rd space is a location for ones social environment e.g. have a coffee and visit with others
- WSP completed final draft of Active Transportation Plan and will be sent to the public and will be used for future grant funding opportunities
- RDBN Deputy Director of Planning will be providing the final draft of the Village of Granisle's OCP on October 28th
- Get Set Solutions did a simulation of a disaster in the community - the simulation event was a wildfire
- Seniors Housing facility is 96% complete and the residents are anxious to move in
- By-Election taking place
 - General Voting is scheduled for November 8 and Advance Voting is scheduled for October 29
 - Two Candidates have put their names forward
- Economic Development position attends Tourism Conferences and they are currently in the process of hiring a new Economic Development position and they would

normally attend such events

- Interview process starts October 24th for a new Chief Administrative Officer.

Chair Parker - Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural)

Chair Parker provided an update regarding:

- Follow up from attending the 2025 UBCM Convention
- Meeting with First Nations
 - Along with Director Storey and RDBN staff met with Stelat'en First Nations for an informal discussion
- FPX Nickel Public meetings
 - Discussed cumulative effects from projects
 - Glennan Station a hub with multiple transmission lines
 - Utilizing one corridor for additional projects
- Attended webinar regarding the Infrastructure Regulator Development and had the opportunity for question and answer
- Met with Michelle Koski, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Food October 22nd
 - Discussed three topics
 - Veterinary Shortage update
 - Range permits
 - Fibre for shavings.

RECEIPT OF VERBAL REPORTS

2025-BM-168

Moved by Director Dekens

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Board receive the various Directors' verbal reports.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

2025-BM-169

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the meeting be adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services