



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
RURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, November 06, 2025**

Directors Present:

Mark Parker
Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert - arrived at 10:15 a.m.
Shirley Moon - via Zoom
Chris Newell
Chair Michael Riis-Christianson
Stoney Stoltenberg

Directors Absent:

Alternate Directors:

Staff: Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and
Development Services - via Zoom - arrived at
10:14 a.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate
Services
Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and
Rural Services
Jason Blackwell - arrived at 10:02 a.m., left at 10:04
a.m.

Others: Shane Brien, District of Houston
Leroy Dekens, Village of Telkwa
Martin Elphee, District of Fort St. James
Kevin Moutray, District of Vanderhoof - via Zoom
Henry Wiebe, Village of Burns Lake

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Riis-Christianson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA

November 6, 2025

2025-RSC-015

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Rural Services Committee Agenda for November 6, 2025 be approved as amended to include Deteriorating Cell Phone Service under New Business.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes - October 9, 2025

2025-RSC-016

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Newell

That the Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes of October 9, 2025 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

Jason Blackwell, Regional Fire Chief - Civic Address Sign Project

2025-RSC-017

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Committee recommend that the Board approve staff to move forward with the 2026 NG 911 grant application from UBCM and provide overall grant management for the project.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Grant in Aid for Area C (Fort St. James Rural) - Fort St. James Public Library

2025-RSC-018

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Committee recommend that the Board approve a grant of \$6,000 to the Fort St. James Public Library from Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural)'s allocation of Regional Grant in Aid for a re-useable inter-library shipping project.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Non-Profit Newsletter Project

2025-RSC-019

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Moon

That the Committee recommend that the Board direct staff to include a quarterly newsletter curated for non-profit organizations in the workplan for the Economic Development department.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Community Pastures

Director Moon brought forward the need for discussion regarding Community Pastures. Staff will bring forward at a future Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Deteriorating Cell Service

Chair Riis-Christianson brought forward concerns regarding deteriorating cell service along the highway corridors.

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Letter from Ministry of Citizens' Services sent to the District of Fort St. James referencing the data from Cellular Drive Study undertaken by the Ministry
 - RDBN sending a letter requesting the information
- Changes from LTE to 5G technology and the potential lack of long-range capabilities
- Deteriorating cellular service along Highway 16
- Increased dropped cellular service along Highway 16
- Activation of 9 cell towers by Rogers Communication potentially impacting service

levels

- RDBN sent a letter to the Minister of Citizens' Services in April 2025
 - Send a follow-up letter.

Moved by Director Parker

Seconded by Director Newell

That the Committee recommend that the Board write a letter to the Ministry of Citizens' Services requesting the Cellular Drive Study data along Highway 16.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Newell

That the meeting be adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Michael Riis-Christianson, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services