



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 29, 2026

Directors Present: Chair Mark Parker
Shane Brienen - left at 11:09 a.m., returned at 11:11 a.m.
Leroy Dekens - left at 10:47 a.m., returned at 10:54 a.m.
Martin Elphee
Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Linda McGuire
Shirley Moon
Kevin Moutray
Chris Newell - left at 11:11 a.m., returned at 11:13 a.m.
Michael Riis-Christianson
Stoney Stoltenberg
Sarrah Storey
Henry Wiebe
Alternate Director Frank Wray

Director Absent: Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers

Staff: Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services - arrived at 10:47 a.m., left 11:00 a.m., returned at 12:47 p.m., left at 1:42 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Scott Zayac, Director of Protective Services - left at 11:01 a.m., returned at 11:08 a.m., left at 11:34 a.m., returned at 1:02 p.m., left at 2:12 p.m.
Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services - arrived at 10:47 a.m., left 11:00 a.m., returned at 12:47 p.m., left at 1:42 p.m.
Megan D'Arcy, Regional Agriculture Coordinator - left at 11:00 a.m., returned at 1:15 p.m., left at 1:30 p.m.
Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - left at 10:38 a.m., returned at 10:41 a.m., left

at 11:34 a.m., returned at 12:47 p.m., left at 1:42 p.m.

Other: David Keough, Assessor, Residential & Farms, North Central, BC Assessment. - via Zoom 11:10 a.m.
Bruce Naka, Owner/Operator, Sound Water Advise, - Via Zoom - arrived at 10:34 a.m., left at 11:34 a.m.
Ione Smith, Director, Upland Agricultural Consulting Ltd. - via Zoom arrived at 10:33 a.m., left at 11:34 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

First Nations Acknowledgement

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

January 29, 2026

2026-BM-242

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Agenda for January 29, 2026 be approved and that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole Minutes - January 15, 2026

2026-BM-244

Moved by Director Brien

Seconded by Director Elphee

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2026 be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes - January 15, 2026

2026-BM-245

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2026 be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

BC ASSESSMENT - via Zoom

David Keough, Assessor Residential & Farms, North Central

Re: Update

Chair Parker welcomed David Keough, Assessor, Residential & Farms, North Central, BC Assessment.

Mr. Keough provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

- Service Commitment
- History of BC Assessment
- Commitment to British Columbian's
- Product
- How Value Different Properties
- How Properties are Classified
- Factors Affecting Market Value
- Land Use and Market Value
- How Exemptions are Applied
- 2026 Assessment Roll Provincial Highlights
- What's happening with community values?
- 2026 Completed Roll - Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
 - Distribution of Value
- Impact of changes in assessed value on taxes
- Assessment Cycle Key Dates
- Appeal Process
- Completed Roll Acceptance: 2021 to 2025 Rolls
- Change Completed to Revised Roll: 2021 to 2025
- Collaborating to achieve....
- Taxing Authority information sharing

- Additional Resources.

The following was discussed:

- Challenges in rural areas where there are not many house sales and value increases can be significant
 - Contacting BC Assessment and providing comparables and on the ground information
 - BC Assessment bases its assessment on sales and when sales are low they also look into the previous years to get an understanding of the market
- Village of Granisle meeting with BC Assessment at UBCM
 - Appealing business assessments
 - Municipality can appeal an assessment of a business property within its boundaries
 - BC Assessment encourages local governments to reach out prior to moving forward with an appeal process
- Property tax stability for homeowners
 - BC Assessment's provincial mandate
 - Challenges in rural areas when there are few sales
 - Property owners' best source to provide information
- BC Assessment Appeal Process
- Sawmill closures in the region
 - Adjustment in taxation
 - BC Assessment governed by regulation
 - Section 20 of the *Assessment Act*
 - Permanent closure needs to be submitted by October 21st
 - BC Assessment staff review and receive a decrease to 90% depreciation of improvement values and private business owners do not receive the same consideration
 - Community and third-party stakeholder impacts resulting from the sawmill closure
 - Small businesses are connected to the operations of sawmills
 - BC Assessment considers markets and what takes place when a sawmill closes
- Residential property tax assessments.

Chair Parker thanked Mr. Keough for attending the meeting.

UPLAND AGRICULTURAL CONSULTING AND SOUND WATER ADVISE CONSULTING - Via Zoom

Ione Smith, MSc, Pag, Director

Re: RDBN Community Irrigation System Report 2025

Chair Parker welcomed Ione Smith, Upland Agricultural Consulting and Bruce Naka, Sound Water Advise.

Ms. Smith Provided a PowerPoint Presentation

RDBN Community Irrigation System Report 2025

- Project Process and Timeline
- Project Goals
- Geographic Context
- Key Context
- Engagement
- Key Irrigation Design Considerations
- Key Legislation Considerations
- Community Irrigation System Governance Options
- Community Irrigation System Organizational Considerations
- Project Deliverables.

The following was discussed:

- Document name change in relation to the scope of work of the Request for Proposal
 - Regional reservoir out of scope of the project
 - Looked at user guides from farmers
- Director Moon requested a follow-up meeting with Chair Parker, and staff to discuss details further
- Premier's Task Force recommendations reviewed in relation to the document
 - Call for water storage outlined in the appendix of the document
 - In speaking with the province it was indicated that there is no interest in public improvement districts for irrigation
- Comparing projects in Alberta and Saskatchewan
 - Investment from the Province of Saskatchewan for projects in collaboration with farmers, local government and the Province

- Jurisdictional scan out of scope of project
- Development of water storage facilities
 - need for public/private partnerships
- An example of hypothetical approach
 - Utilize information outlined in the document and fact sheet to move forward with individual community irrigation systems
 - Use to develop what may be needed and consideration for future growth
- Water storage was considered and is challenging due to sourcing
 - Benefits of reservoirs if access to water is from freshet
 - Can provide a backup source of water
 - Several variables need to be considered.

Chair Parker thanked Ms. Smith and Mr. Naka for attending the meeting.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Bylaw for First, Second and Third Reading

Cameron Kral, Planner - Rezoning Application RZ C-01-25 First, Second and Third Reading for Rezoning Bylaw No. 2101, 2026

2026-BM-246

Moved by Director Dekens

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2101, 2026 be given first, second and third readings this 29th day of January, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ALR Application

Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner - ALR Non-Farm Use (Removal of Soil) Application No. 1277 – Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

2026-BM-247

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Alternate Director Wray

That Agricultural Land Reserve Non-Farm Use Application No. 1286 be recommended to the Agricultural Land Commission for approval. Further, that the ALC ensure appropriate reclamation of the site post-event.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw Enforcement

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services - Direct Action Enforcement Policy

2026-BM-248

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director McGuire

That the Board defer Direct Action Enforcement Policy to the February 12, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting for consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Municipal Referral

Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services - District of Vanderhoof OCP Update Referral

2026-BM-249

Moved by Alternate Director Wray

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That staff inform the District of Vanderhoof that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako has no concerns with the proposed update to the District of Vanderhoof Official Community Plan (OCP).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Energy Referral

Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner - Coastal GasLink Update on Phase 2 BC Energy Regulator Ancillary Site Permitting – Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake), Electoral Area F(Vanderhoof Rural), and Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

2026-BM-250

Moved by Director Brien

Seconded by Director Lambert

1. That Coastal GasLink be informed that RDBN land use approval is required for a number of the ancillary sites proposed as part of their Phase 2 expansion project,

and that the application process should be initiated as soon as possible.

2. And that Coastal GasLink be requested to provide additional information regarding the use and operation of the six temporary ancillary sites for the Board's consideration as soon as possible.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Land Referral

Rowan Nagel, Planning/GIS Technician - Crown Land Application Referral Nos. 7410390 and 7410391 – Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

2026-BM-251

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Moutray

That the comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Application Nos. 7410390 and 7410391.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rowan Nagel, Planning/GIS Technician - Crown Land Application Referral No. 7410387 - Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

2026-BM-252

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Moutray

That the attached comment sheet be provided to the Province as the Regional District's comments on Crown Land Application No. 7410387.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services - Pump and Haul Bylaw Repeal Process

2026-BM-253

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Storey

That staff continue with the process to repeal "Pump and Haul Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1095, 1998" and "Pump and Haul Sewage Disposal Regulation

Bylaw 1101, 1999", and remove the covenants from the titles of the impacted properties.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services- Unsightly Premises Bylaw Amendment

2026-BM-254

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director McGuire

That the Board consider the request from the Director for Electoral Area G to amend Unsightly Premises Bylaw No. 1649, 2012.

Opposed: Director Elphee
Director Moutray
Director Storey
Alternate Director Wray

CARRIED

Discussion took place regarding the pros and cons of amending the Unsightly Premises Bylaw No. 1649, 2012.

2026-BM-255

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the Board direct staff to bring forward a Bylaw amending Unsightly Premises Bylaw No. 1649, 2012 to increase the allowance for automobile wrecks and derelict motor vehicles on parcels 2 ha and larger.

Opposed: Director Elphee
Director Moutray
Director Storey
Alternate Director Wray

CARRIED

Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services - Regional Housing Initiative Update

2026-BM-256

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board receive the Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services' Regional Housing Initiative Update memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services - CGL
SEEMP Final Report and Lessons Learned**

2026-BM-257

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director McGuire

That the Board receive the Director of Planning and Development Services' CGL SEEMP Final Report and Lessons Learned memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2026-BM-258

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Alternate Director Wray

That the Board send a letter to the BC Energy Regulator and Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions outlining concerns identified in the Director of Planning and Development Services' January 29, 2026 CGL SEEMP Final report and Lessons Learned memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services - Lawyers
Ranch Project Environmental Assessment Process**

2026-BM-259

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Board direct staff to participate as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Lawyers Ranch Project Environmental Assessment process as an observer, and report back to the Board as appropriate.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) APC Meeting Minutes - January 5,
2026**

2026-BM-260

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Alternate Director Wray
That the Board receive the Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) APC Meeting Minutes for January 5, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) APC Meeting Minutes - January 13, 2026

2026-BM-261

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Elphee

That the Board receive the Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) APC Meeting Minutes for January 13, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PARKS AND TRAILS

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services - Parks and Trails Work Plan and Recreation Grant Funding for 2026

2026-BM-262

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director McGuire

That the Board receive the Parks and Trails Work Plan for 2026, and approve the following recommendations from the Recreation Contribution Service Advisory Committees:

1. That the Committee (for Electoral Area A and the Town of Smithers) recommend that the tax for their recreation contribution service be at a level to maintain \$50,000 in unallocated recreation funds after all the existing funding commitments have been met.
2. That the Committee (for Electoral Areas B, E and the Village of Burns Lake) recommend that the tax for their recreation contribution service be at a level to maintain \$60,000 in unallocated recreation funds after all the existing funding commitments have been met.
3. That the Committee (for Electoral Area C and the District of Fort St. James) recommend that the tax for their recreation contribution service be at a level to maintain \$50,000 in unallocated recreation funds after all the existing funding commitments have been met.
4. That the Committee (for Electoral Area G, the District of Houston, and the

Village of Granisle) recommend that the tax for their recreation contribution service be at a level to maintain \$30,000 in unallocated recreation funds after all the existing funding commitments have been met.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Maria Sandberg, Planning and Parks Coordinator - Parks and Trails Signage Strategy

2026-BM-263

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Dekens

That the Board approve the RDBN Parks and Trails Signage Strategy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION BYLAW

Bylaw for First, Second and Third Reading

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - Refuse Disposal Service Amendment Bylaw No. 2089, 2026

2026-BM-264

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Alternate Director Wray

That Refuse Disposal Service Amendment Bylaw No. 2089, 2026 be given first, second and third reading this 29th day of January, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw for Adoption

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - Vanderhoof Rural Fire Protection Local Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2099, 2025 - Adoption

2026-BM-265

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Moutray

That Vanderhoof Rural Fire Protection Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2099, 2025 be adopted this 29th day of January 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services - Committee Meeting Recommendations - January 15, 2026

2026-BM-266

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board approve Recommendations 1 and 2 as written.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - Bulkley-Nechako Regional Business Forum - May 26, 2026 - Fraser Lake, BC

2026-BM-267

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Storey

That the Board authorize attendance of Rural Directors wishing to attend the Bulkley-Nechako Regional Business Forum on May 26, 2026 in Fraser Lake, BC.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - Minerals North - May 6-8, 2026 - Smithers, BC

2026-BM-268

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Board authorize attendance of Rural Directors wishing to attend Minerals North from May 6-8, 2026 in Smithers, B.C.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) Resolutions

2026-BM-269

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Dekens

That the Board receive the Director of Corporate Services' North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) Resolutions memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Drafting resolutions regarding the following topics was discussed:

- Property tax consideration for sawmill closures
- Property tax stability for residents and landowners.

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - North Central Local Government Association AGM and Convention - May 20-22, 2026 - Prince George, BC

2026-BM-270

Moved by Director Dekens

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board authorize attendance of Rural Directors wishing to attend the NCLGA AGM and Convention May 20-22, 2026 in Prince George, BC.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) Grant in Aid for Grassy Plains School Parent Advisory Council School Lunch Program

Director Lambert left at 12:58 p.m. due to a familial conflict of interest regarding Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) Grant in Aid for Grassy Plains School Parent Advisory Council School Lunch Program.

2026-BM-271

Moved by Director Newell

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That, based on the RDBN's Grant in Aid policy which lists 'annual operational expenses of an organization' as ineligible, the Board decline the Grassy Plains School Parent Advisory Council's request for Grant in Aid to support the 2025/26 School Lunch Program.

Opposed: Director McGuire

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Lambert returned at 1:02 p.m.

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services -Village of Burns Lake - Scope Change for Tom Forsyth Arena Energy Project

2026-BM-272

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Wiebe

That the Board approve the scope change provided by the Village of Burns Lake for the Community Works Funded Energy System project from a Solar Panel project to a Heat Reclaim project at the Tom Forsyth Arena.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

John Illes, Chief Financial Officer - 2026 Budget Introduction

2026-BM-273

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Lambert

1. That the Board receive the Chief Financial Officer's 2026 Budget Introduction.
2. That the Board authorize the \$113,909 withdrawal from capital reserves for the 911 Tower Projects that happened in 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

John Illes, Chief Financial Officer - Budget Introduction to Minor Services

2026-BM-274

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Wiebe

1. That the capital projects for the Bulkley Valley Pool Service proceed before the approval of the final budget.
2. That the Building Inspection budget be included in the 2026 Financial Plan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

John Illes, Chief Financial Officer - Consumer Price Index 2025

2026-BM-275

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Wiebe

That the Board receive the Chief Financial Officer's Consumer Price Index 2025 memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Megan D'Arcy, Regional Agriculture Coordinator - RDBN Food & Agriculture Plan - Implementation Update

2026-BM-276

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Storey

That the Board receive the Regional Agriculture Coordinator's RDBN Food & Agriculture Plan - Implementation Update memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Megan D'Arcy, Regional Agriculture Coordinator - Premier's Task Force on Agriculture & Food Economy Update

2026-BM-277

Moved by Director Moon

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board receive the Regional Agriculture Coordinator's Premier Task Force on Agriculture & Food Economy Update memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2026-BM-278

Moved by Director McGuire

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the Board write a letter requesting north central representation on the Premier's Task force on Agriculture & Food Economy moving forward; and further, that the letter highlight key issues in the region.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - Q4 Quarterly Reports

2026-BM-279

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Elphee

That the Board receive the Director of Corporate Services' Q4 Quarterly Reports memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services - Items to be brought forward to the public agenda from Special (In-Camera) Meeting

2026-BM-280

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board receive the Deputy Director of Corporate Services' Items to be brought forward to the public agenda from Special (In-Camera) Meeting memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Census Community Supporter Campaign

2026-BM-281

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Elphee

That the Board receive the Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services' Census Community Supporter Campaign memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Scott Zayac, Director of Protective Services- Public Alerting System - Voyent Alert!

2026-BM-282

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board receive the Director of Protective Services' Public Alerting System - Voyent Alert! memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

Office of the Premier - Invitation Virtual Town Hall on Forestry Supports

2026-BM-283

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Wiebe

That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the Office of the Premier regarding an Invitation for Virtual Town Hall on Forestry Supports.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Capstone Infrastructure - BC Hydro 2025 Call for Power – Update on Proposed Wolverine Wind Project

2026-BM-284

Moved by Director Storey

Seconded by Director Moon

That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from Capstone Infrastructure regarding BC Hydro 2025 Call for Power - Update on Proposed Wolverine Wind Project.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

*** PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

- * Danielle Patterson, Senior Planner Referral from Regional District of Fraser-Fort George for the Draft Official Community Plan for Electoral Area A (Salmon River-Lakes)**

2026-BM-285

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Alternate Director Wray

That staff inform the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako has no concerns with the Draft Official Community Plan for Electoral Area A (Salmon River-Lakes).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

*** ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

- * Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - Labour Market Research Plans Project**

2026-BM-286

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

1) That the RDBN provide a letter of support for member municipalities applying to the Labour Market Research Plans program administered by Northern Development Initiative Trust.

2) That the RDBN consider collaborating with communities planning applications to the Labour Market Research Plan program through financial contributions to project budgets where the community plans to include the surrounding rural area in the project scope.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

* **John Illes, Chief Financial Officer - Rural Fire Department Updates - Finance
2026-BM-287**

Moved by Director Wiebe

Seconded by Director Dekens

That the Board receive the Chief Financial Officer's Rural Fire Department Budgets Update memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Village of Granisle - Director McGuire

- New BC Ambulance Unit Chief
- Seniors Housing Open House
- BC Natural Resource Forum January 20-22, 2026 in Prince George
 - Attended virtually
 - Provided feedback regarding
 - Release of registration information while Directors were at UBCM in 2025 and providing elected officials an opportunity to register prior to it being open to industry
 - Including agriculture and food security sectors
- New CAO started January 5, 2026
- Do not consume water advisory still in effect
 - Parts have arrived and technicians will be arriving from Ontario to repair the system
 - Purely H₂O from Burns Lake has been delivering drinking water to the municipality to provide to each home and Houston Home Hardware has provided a pump for each home for the portable water containers

- Utilizing RBA funding.

Village of Burns Lake - Director Wiebe

- Attended BC Natural Resources Forum
 - Discussed with Mayor Yu, City of a Modular Home facility in Prince George

Village of Telkwa - Director Dekens

- Attended BC Natural Resource Forum
 - Discussed the long breaks
- Attended a Town Hall meeting in Smithers
 - Director Dekens sat on the panel along with Sharon Hartwell, Bulkley Valley-Stikine MLA, Director Stoltenberg, Mayor Atrill, Opposition Interim Leader Trevor Halford, and RCMP Staff Sergeant Ryan Law
- First house is being built in the new subdivision Blissful Grove.

District of Fort St. James - Director Greenaway

- Caledonia Classic Sled Dog Races to take place January 30 to February 1, 2026
- Fort St. James Snowmobile Club Poker scheduled for February 7, 2026.

Electoral Area G (Houston Rural) - Director Newell

- Attended the BC Natural Resources Forum
 - Mining/exploration in Electoral Area G (Houston/Topley Rural).

Town of Smithers - Alternate Director Wray

- Director Atrill attended the BC Natural Resources Forum
- Town of Smithers Council authorized a \$3 million Borrowing Bylaw for the future improvements for the interior renovation of the new public library.

Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) - Director Moon

- Update on cattle prices

- Bred heifers \$7000-7100
- Challenges for younger farmers to expand.

Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) - Director Stoltenberg

- Attended BC Natural Resources Forum
- Attended Town Hall in Smithers
- Currently no ice jams on the Bulkley River.

Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) - Director Riis-Christianson

- Attended BC Natural Resources Forum
 - Encouraged by mining projects and the province expediting the process
 - Forestry not the focus this year
 - Minister meetings were good
- Continue to work with the Village of Burns Lake and Electoral Area E on the recruitment of medical professionals
 - Very good work being completed for tangible results in the future.

District of Vanderhoof - Director Moutray

- Attended the BC Natural Resources Forum
 - A number of meetings and good value
 - Suggested local government and the resource sessions
 - January 22nd was the official Centennial Birthday for the District of Vanderhoof
 - Canfor removed 291 000 m³ from Supply Block D in the Stuart Nechako Resource District
 - 4850 logging truck loads
 - When companies leave a community the fibre should be left in that community.

District of Fort St. James - Director Elphee

- New Economic Development Officer started January 5, 2026
- Fort St. James Men's Shed is now operational
 - Sales three afternoons a week
 - Mental health support

- Fort St. James arena remodeling 99% complete
 - Expressed a gratitude for the donation to the community for dry land training equipment.

Village of Fraser Lake - Director Storey

- Attended BC Natural Resources Forum
 - Attended a number of Minister meetings
 - Community Resiliency Investment Fund for Fuel Treatments
 - Have to conduct an archaeological study and geotechnical study at the base of Mouse Mountain for a tree thinning and spacing project
 - Challenges regarding the criteria for the program
 - Minister of Mining and Critical Minerals to discuss future of Endako Mine
 - Discussed RBA with federal and provincial government representatives
 - Minister of Forests Ravi Parmar to discuss forestry issues
 - Minister of Housing Ravi Kahlon to discuss housing strategy regarding camps
 - Met with BC Parks regarding Francois Lake Park and the burnt wood
 - BC Hydro announced its donation of \$10,000 for the 2026 Business Forum
 - Congratulated Chair Parker being elected as Chair of Northern Development Initiative Trust Prince George RAC
 - Family Day Chili Cook Off Event in Fraser Lake for February 16, 2026.

Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) Chair Parker - Update

- Attended BC Natural Resources Forum
 - Recognized CAO Helgesen for coordinating the Minister and BC Hydro meetings and the collaboration of the RDBN, its member municipalities, and First Nations
 - Recognized the unity and strength from a unified voice
- Working on Wind Farms in the region and the call for power
 - Staff have created a map that includes all the industrial projects in the region
- Discussions with local private landowners that are logging their land in the ALR and the impact of the *European Union Deforestation Act* and the work of the provincial and federal government regarding the issue.

RECEIPT OF VERBAL REPORTS

2026-BM-288

Moved by Director McGuire
Seconded by Director Wiebe
That the Board receive the various Directors' verbal reports.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

IN-CAMERA MOTION

2026-BM-289

Moved by Director Storey
Seconded by Alternate Director Wray
That this meeting be closed to the public pursuant to Section 90(1)(c), 90(1)(e) and 90(1)(h) of the *Community Charter* for the Board to deal with matters relating to:

- Labour Relations
- Land Acquisition
- Compliance.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

2026-BM-290

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Stoltenberg
That the meeting be adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services