



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 26, 2026

Directors Present: Chair Mark Parker
Shane Brienen
Leroy Dekens
Martin Elphee
Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Linda McGuire
Shirley Moon
Kevin Moutray
Chris Newell - via Zoom
Michael Riis-Christianson
Stoney Stoltenberg
Henry Wiebe
Alternate Director Audrey Fennema
Alternate Director Frank Wray

Director Absent: Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers
Sarra Storey, Village of Fraser Lake

Staff: Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Jason Berlin, Senior Building Inspector - left at 11:09 a.m.
Nellie Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services - left at 1:42 p.m.
Steve Davis, Building Inspector - left at 11:09 a.m.
Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services - arrived at 11:52 a.m., left at 12:04 p.m., returned at 12:50 p.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services - via Zoom - left at 11:52 a.m.
Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services - left at 11:52 a.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Other: Dale Bellavance, Bell Group - Hudson Bay Mountain

Estates - arrived at 11:00 a.m., left at 11:53 a.m..
Corey Goertzen, Burns Lake - left at 11:00 a.m.
Kyle MacDonald, 2nd Vice President, North Central
Local Government Association - via Zoom - left at
10:48 a.m.
Terry Robert, Executive Director, North Central Local
Government Association - via Zoom - left at 10:48 a.m.
Gary Mathiesen,, Quay North Urban Development,
Hudson Bay Mountain Estates - arrived at 11:03 a.m.,
left at 11:53 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:35 am.

First Nations Acknowledgement

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

February 26, 2026

2026-BM-291

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director McGuire

That the Agenda for February 26, 2026 be approved; and that the Supplementary
Agenda be dealt with at this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes - January 29, 2026

2026-BM-292

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Dekens

That the Board Meeting Minutes for January 29, 2026 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee Meeting Minutes - February 12, 2026

2026-BM-293

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the following Minutes be received:

- Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
 - February 12, 2026
- Rural Services Committee Meeting Minutes
 - February 12, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA)

Kyle MacDonald, 2nd Vice President

Terry Robert, Executive Director

Re: NCLGA Activities and Membership Benefits

Chair Parker welcomed Kyle MacDonald, 2nd Vice President and Terry Robert, Executive Director, North Central Local Government Association.

Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Robert provided an overview of the NCLGA.

- Introduction to the NCLGA
- What the NCLGA Does & Why it Matters
- 2026 NCLGA AGM & Conference.

Discussion took place regarding:

- NCLGA Quarterly Newsletter
 - Newsletter is posted on the website
 - Director McGuire's inclusion on the distribution list
- Streamlining the resolution process
 - Reach out to NCLGA staff to refine wording, ensure clarity and in line with guidelines for successful resolutions
 - Supporting resolutions from other local governments reach out to NCLGA

staff

- Best to have a coordinated approach to support other local governments
- Letter of support and or co-sponsors/multiple sponsors

- Decreases overlap and provides an indication of level of support.

Chair Parker thanked Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Robert for attending the meeting.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Building Inspection

Jason Berlin, Senior Building Inspector - Section 57 Notice on Title A-02-26 - 6380 Dawsons Lane - Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Chair called for comments from the gallery.

2026-BM-294

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Dekens

1. That the Board receive the February 25, 2026 letter from Sarah Hagan - Response to Notice of Alleged Contravention - 6380 Dawsons Lane.
2. That the Corporate Officer be directed to file a Notice in the Land Title Office stating that a resolution has been made under Section 57 of the *Community Charter* relating to land legally described as Lot A, Section 14, Township 1A, Range 5, Coast District, Plan EPP78056 (6380 Dawsons Lane).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Steve Davis, Building Inspector - Section 57 Notice on Title, 1820 Peterson Rd, Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural)

Chair called for comments from the gallery.

The Property Owner was in attendance and provided the following comments:

- Business owner for over 20 years
- Installation of two storage buildings at 1820 Peterson Road that were built

- without a building permit
- Been informed that the buildings are being used for purposes that contravene the RDBN's zoning bylaw.

The Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services provided an overview of the two zoning designations and allowable usages for the property.

Discussion took place regarding the history events and receipt of a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) application Staff have requested additional information from the property owner in order to consider the TUP. Staff provided the property owner a timeline in which to submit the additional information. Staff explained the process to remove a Section 57 Notice on Title from a property.

2026-BM-295

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Corporate Officer be directed to file a Notice in the Land Title Office stating that a resolution has been made under Section 57 of the *Community Charter* relating to land legally described as District Lot 4175, Range 5, Coast District, Except Plans 3332 5153 8142 8303 10041 and 4623 (1820 Peterson Road).

DEFEATED

2026-BM-296

Moved by Director Lambert

Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

That the Board direct staff to bring forward the Section 57 Notice on Title for 1820 Peterson Road, Electoral Area B (Burns Lake Rural) to the Board for consideration if the information required to complete the Temporary Use Permit is not received by April 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Steve Davis, Building Inspector - Section 57 Notice on Title, 2280 Meier Road - Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural)

Chair called for comments from the gallery.

Director Moon provided the following information:

- The history of the building and that it had been constructed elsewhere and

brought to the property.

- Read a letter received by the property owner Eugene and Rachelle Unruh dated January 26, 2026 from BC Housing Licensing and Consumer Services regarding CO 25-0031 dated December 19, 2026, issued to Eugene Paul Unruh and Rachelle Anna Unruh.
- Property owner has been addressing BC Housing concerns for 13 months.
- Property owners have indicated their intention to sell in the summer of 2026.

Discussion took place regarding the Building Code requirements for a tiny home and zoning of the property.

2026-BM-297

Moved by Director Moutray

Seconded by Director Greenaway

1. No comments from the gallery.
2. That the Corporate Officer be directed to file a Notice in the Land Title Office stating that a resolution has been made under Section 57 of the *Community Charter* relating to land legally described as Lot 1, District Lot 1423, Cariboo District, Plan BCP34928 (2280 Meier Road).

Opposed: Director Lambert
Director Moon
Director Newell

CARRIED

Steve Davis, Building Inspector - Section 57 Notice on Title A-01-06 - Highway 16 - Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

Chair called for comments from the gallery.

2026-BM-298

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Alternate Director Wray

1. No comments from the gallery.
2. That the Corporate Officer be directed to file a Notice in the Land Title Office stating that a resolution has been made under Section 57 of the Community Charter relating to land legally described as District Lot 752, Range 5, Coast District, Except Plans 6039 7121 and 4758 (24062 Highway 16 East).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw for Adoption

Cameron Kral, Planner - Rezoning Application RZ C-01-25 - Adoption for Rezoning Bylaw No. 2101,2026 - Electoral Area C (Fort St. James Rural) 2026-BM-299

Moved by Director Greenaway

Seconded by Director Elphee

That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 2101, 2026 be adopted. this 26th day of February, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ALR Applications

Cameron Kral, Planner - ALR Subdivision Application No. 1287 - Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

2026-BM-300

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Dekens

1. That the Board receive the February 20, 2025 letter from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.
2. That Agricultural Land Reserve Subdivision Application No. 1287 be sent to the Agricultural Land Commission with a recommendation to deny.

DEFEATED

2026-BM-301

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Dekens

1. That the Board receive the February 20, 2025 letter from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.
2. That Agricultural Land Reserve Subdivision Application No. 1287 be sent to the Agricultural Land Commission with a recommendation to approve.

CARRIED

Other

Amy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services - Rezoning Application RZ A-02-25 - Additional Information - Electoral Area

A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural)

2026-BM-302

Moved by Director Dekens

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board receive the Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services - Rezoning Application RZ A-02-25 - Additional Information - Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) memorandum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

2026-BM-303

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Moutray

That the Direct Action Enforcement Policy be approved.

Opposed: Director Lambert

CARRIED

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services Unsightly Premises Amendment Bylaw – All Electoral Areas (except Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural))

2026-BM-304

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Elphee

That the Board give first and second reading to Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Unsightly Premises Amendment Bylaw No. 2103, 2026 as included on the Supplementary Agenda this 26th day of February, 2026.

Opposed: Director Moutray

CARRIED

The following was discussed:

- Board Motion
- Guidelines regarding setbacks for roadways and adjacent properties for stored and/or derelict vehicles

- Visual quality for properties
- Screening on properties
- Clarity protecting the individual landscape and/or neighbour site lines
- Staff to bring forward amendments for the Board's considerations at third reading of the Bylaw addressing visual quality for properties and setback considerations.

APC Meeting Minutes - Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) - February 9, 2026

2026-BM-305

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Dekens

That the Board receive the Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) APC Meeting Minutes for February 9, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PARKS AND TRAILS

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Development Services - Parkland Dedication at Alpine Way - Electoral Area A (Smithers Telkwa Rural)

2026-BM-306

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Alternate Director Wray

That the Board waive the requirement for parkland dedication and cash in lieu of parkland dedication for the proposed subdivision of the land legally described as Lot 1, District Lot 8114, Range 5, Coast District, Plan EPP7680 Except Plan EPP24518 (PID 028-259-114).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services - Pre-Approval - Purchase of a Covered Cargo Trailer

2026-BM-307

Moved by Director Brien

Seconded by Director Stoltenberg

That the Board approve the purchase of an 18' 2026 Rainbow Excursion Cargo Trailer.

Opposed: Director Newell

CARRIED

Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services - Pre-Approval - Purchase of a Gooseneck Equipment Trailer

2026-BM-308

Moved by Director McGuire

Seconded by Director Moutray

That the Board approve the purchase of 2025 Trailtech 25' Gooseneck Equipment Trailer.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

* **Lunch**

Break at lunch 12:04 p.m

Reconvened at 12:46 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION BYLAWS

Bylaw for First and Second Reading

John Illes, Chief Financial Officer - Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw for 1st and 2nd Reading

2026-BM-309

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Wiebe

1. That the Board receive the Chief Financial Officer's Additional Budget information memorandum on the Supplementary Agenda.
2. That the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 2102, 2026 be given first and second reading this 26th day of February 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw for First, Second, Third Reading

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - RDBN Solid Waste Management Facility Regulation and User Fee Bylaw No.2090, 2026 - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Reading

2026-BM-310

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Dekens

That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Solid Waste Management Facility Regulation and User Fee Bylaw No. 2090, 2026 be given first, second, and third reading this 26th day of February, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services - Committee Meeting Recommendations - February 12, 2026

2026-BM-313

Moved by Director Dekens

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Board approve Recommendations 1 through 5 as written.
Committee of the Whole – February 12, 2026

Recommendation 1:

Re: Updated Budget for Major Services

That staff bring back the 2026 budget for major services to an increase equal to inflation of 1.7% and explore the possibility of removing the Minister and Deputy Minister line item and other potential areas for reductions.

Recommendation 2:

Re: Northern Capital and Planning Grant (NCPG) Update

That the Board support the final utilization of the Northern Capital and Planning Grant as proposed in the summary, and to include these amounts in the 2026 five-year financial plan as outlined.

And that the Board request permission from the Province to transfer any unused reserve funds as of December 31, 2026 to the Environmental Services reserve to be utilized against 2026 capital purchases.

Recommendation 3:

Re: Growing Community Fund Update

That the Board support the final utilization of the Growing Community Funds as proposed in the summary, and to include these amounts in the 2026 five-year financial plan as outlined.

Rural Services Committee – February 12, 2026

Recommendation 4:

Re: Economic Development Service Grants for Labour Market Research Plan Applications

That the Board approve a grant of \$10,000 for Electoral Areas B (Burns Lake Rural), D (Fraser Lake Rural), F (Vanderhoof Rural), and G (Houston/Topley Rural) from the Northern Capital Planning Grant (NCPG) to the Village of Burns Lake for the Village's application to the Labour Market Research Plan program facilitated by NDIT.

Recommendation 5:

Re: Healthcare Recruitment and Retention Efforts

That the Board invite Errol Winter, Executive Director, Northern Interior Rural Division of Family Practice to attend a future meeting to discuss recruitment and retention in healthcare.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services - North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) Resolutions 2026

Discussion took place regarding:

FireSmart Funding

- Report was brought forward prior to the announcement of the 2026 Provincial Budget
- RDBN funding in place until 2027
- Board consider advocacy
- Potentially consider Rural Fire Departments involvement.

Village of Fraser Lake - Amending the Depreciation of Industrial and Electrical Power Generating Facility Improvements Regulation

- Board support - co-sponsor.

BC Assessment Cap on Residential Assessment increases

- Comparison to rental caps
- Authorities not keeping with trends
- Advocacy - potentially write a letter
 - Sufficient staffing and resources to ensure consistency and keeping with trends
- Reach out to other Regional District's for their feedback
 - CAOs discussion.

Chair Parker noted that the Board can connect with CAO Helgesen if they have additional resolutions.

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation - Response - Health and Restoration of the Nechako River

2026-BM-314

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Greenaway

That the Board receive the Administration Correspondence from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation response regarding Health and Restoration of the Nechako River.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

*** ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

*** Shari Janzen, Community Development Coordinator - Letter of Support Request - Lakes District Fair Association**

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson

Seconded by Director Lambert

That the Board provide a letter to the Lakes District Fair Association to support its funding application to the Province of BC's Destination Events Program.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Town of Smithers - Alternate Director Wray

- Province named the Town of Smithers recipient of the the Heart and Hearth Project to assist people to move out of the encampments and into a permanent shelter

Electoral Area E (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural) - Director Lambert

- Attended the Skeena Cattlemen's Regional AGM in Smithers February 21, 2026
 - Spoke to the unawareness of the work the RDBN does in regard to Agriculture
 - Kevin Boone, General Manager, BC Cattlemen's Association and spoke highly of the work and advocacy work of the RDBN.

Village of Granisle - Director McGuire

- Final stages of the 2026 budget process
- Water restrictions update and challenges.

Village of Fraser Lake - Alternate Director Fennema

- Thanked surrounding community members and Volunteer Fire Departments for their assistance and support with the fire that took place in Fraser Lake on February 22, 2026
- 2026 Budget Open House
 - Received constructive feedback.

District of Fort St. James - Director Elphee

- Murray Ridge Ski Area & Terrain Park is celebrating 50 years
 - Land blessing took place February 20, 2026
- March 6 is the ribbon cutting for the Arena revitalization project.

District of Vanderhoof - Director Moutray

- Acknowledged the fire that took place in Fraser Lake and recognized the impact to the community
- July 4 & 5, 2026 is the Vanderhoof Centennial Celebration

- BC Housing project on pause due to the Provincial Government 2026 Budget
 - Suggested gathering information from all the communities within the region on the number of projects on pause
 - Potential advocacy
- Attended the Nechako Regional Cattlemen's AGM in Vanderhoof on February 21, 2026.

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

- Attended BC Hockey League Roadshow in Burns Lake
 - Great event, gala and games
 - Thanked the Village of Burns Lake, Lake Babine Nation and sponsors for bringing the event to the community.

Electoral Area F (Vanderhoof Rural) - Director Moon

- Attended Nechako Exhibition Society's AGM
 - Concerns regarding funding moving forward
- Attended the Nechako Cattlemen's AGM
 - Brought forward the need for the expansion of community pastures for young ranchers
- Involved in the Vanderhoof Centennial Celebration Planning Committee.

Chair Parker - Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural)

- Attended the Nechako Cattlemen's AGM
 - Spoke of the recognition of the RDBN and footprint in Agriculture
- Reviewed the Francois Lake Foreshore report
- Fire in Fraser Lake - February 22, 2026
 - Spoke to the impact and value of a facility/building as part of the fabric of the community and it being a significant loss to a community.

NEW BUSINESS

Provincial Budget Impacts to the Region

Director Riis-Christianson spoke of conducting an analysis of the potential impacts to the region from the Province's budget decisions. He noted the recent budget announcement

regarding the scaling back of its housing commitments and reallocating funds from the Province's housing strategy. He also noted the Province's decision to apply PST to many professional services. Director Riis-Christianson spoke of the increased cost to businesses and to the consumer.

Director Riis-Christianson asked staff if an analysis is conducted on the potential impacts from provincial budget decisions, specifically the application of PST on professional services. Staff provided an estimated cost to the Regional District.

Temporary Farm Workers and Reduction on Immigration

Director Moutray commented that the reduction on immigration is having an impact on temporary farm workers in the Vanderhoof area. He mentioned that the Regional District of North Okanagan has a Rural Community Immigration Pilot Project.

Ms. Davis, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Rural Services noted that the Rural Community Immigration Pilot Project is in its second iteration and there is currently no new intake for the program. Ms. Davis noted the following:

- Significant staff time required to oversee the program
- Requirement for housing and confirmation from a housing committee
- Requirement for communities to have settlement services
 - Exist in a limited capacity in Vanderhoof and Smithers only
- 14 pilot projects operating in Canada with 4 of the projects being in francophone communities
- Significant challenges for communities to meet requirements to apply if there is future intake
- Similar streams at the provincial level
 - requires similar requirements as the Rural Community Immigration Pilot Project.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Impacts to communities and families being returned to their home countries
- Barriers to provide settlement services
- Lack of language and education classes in the region
- Continue to monitor and potential advocacy in the future.

BC Agriculture Council: News Release - 2026 Provincial Budget Released

Director Moon brought forward the News Release from the BC Agriculture Council and the

impacts of the 2026 Provincial Budget. She spoke of the impacts of reduced funding on agriculture and food security.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Stoltenberg

Seconded by Director Dekens

That the meeting be adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Parker, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services