



## PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

### REGIONAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2021

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**LOCATION** Peace River Regional District Office, Dawson Creek, BC

#### ATTENDANCE

##### Directors

Chair Sperling, Electoral Area 'C'  
Vice-Chair Rose, Electoral Area 'E'  
Director Ackerman, City of Fort St. John  
Director Bertrand, District of Tumbler Ridge  
Director Bumstead, City of Dawson Creek  
Director Courtoreille, District of Chetwynd  
Director Fraser, District of Taylor  
Director Goodings, Electoral Area 'B'  
(via teleconference)  
Director Heiberg, District of Hudson's Hope  
Director Hiebert, Electoral Area 'D'  
Director Smith, Village of Pouce Coupe  
Director Zabinsky, City of Fort St. John

##### Staff

Shawn Dahlen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer  
Teri Vetter, Chief Financial Officer  
Tab Young, Deputy Corporate Officer  
Kari Bondaroff, GM of Environmental Services  
Trish Morgan, GM of Community Services  
Kathy Suggitt, GM of Development Services  
Crystal Brown, Electoral Area Manager  
Jeff McDonald, Communications Manager  
(via teleconference)  
Trevor Ouellette, IT Manager  
Brenda Deliman, Recorder  
(via teleconference)

#### 1. DEDICATION

The Chair acknowledged the life and career of Mr. Hellmut Patzelt in his role as the Building Inspector and Director of Environmental Services for the PRRD from 1970 – 1992, and offered condolences to his family and friends.

#### 2. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

#### 3. DIRECTORS' NOTICE OF NEW BUSINESS

Director Bertrand Southern Mountain Caribou Draft Snowmobile Management Strategy

#### 4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- 4.1 Adoption of Agenda RD/21/05/01 (27)  
MOVED Director Fraser, SECONDED Director Hiebert,  
That the Regional Board adopt the May 27, 2021 Board Meeting Agenda, as amended to include Director's new business (Snowmobile Management Strategy):
1. **Dedication**
    - 1.1 In Memory of Hellmut Patzelt
  2. **Call to Order**
  3. **Directors' Notice of New Business**
  4. **Adoption of Agenda**

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4.1 Adoption of Agenda  
(Cont'd)

**5. Gallery Comments or Questions**

**6. Adoption of Minutes**

6.1 Regional Board Draft Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2021

**7. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**8. Delegations**

**9. Petitions**

**10. Correspondence**

10.1 BC Emergency Health Services – Protocols for Ambulance Transport of Patients across the BC / Alberta Border

10.2 Dawson Creek Sportsman's Club – Bill C-21: an Act to amend the *Firearms Act*

**11. Reports**

11.1 Development Application Procedures, Fees and Delegation Bylaw No. 2449, 2021, ADM-BRD-195

11.2 Strategic Plan Review and Update – Final Report, ADM-BRD-192

11.3 Assent Voting Notice – Bylaw 2444 and Bylaw 2445, ADM-BRD-193

11.4 Connectivity, ADM-BRD-194

11.5 Carbon Tax Information, ENV-BRD-060

11.6 Development Variance Permit, PRRD File No. 21-003 DVP, DS-BRD-155

11.7 Non-Farm Use within the ALR, PRRD File No. 21-005 ALR NFU, DS-BRD-156

11.8 North Peace Fringe Area OCP Status Update, DS-BRD-158

**12. Bylaws**

12.1 Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2435, 2021 PRRD File No. 21-004 ZN, DS-BRD-153

12.2 Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2435, 2021, PRRD File No. 21-005 ZN, DS-BRD-154

12.3 OCP and Zoning Amendment Bylaws No. 2425 and 2426, 2021, PRRD File No. 20-001, DS-BRD-157

**13. Strategic Plan**

13.1 2019-2022 Strategic Plan

**14. New Business**

14.1 Director Bertrand – Southern Mountain Caribou Draft Snowmobile Management Strategy

**15. Appointments**

15.1 2021 Board Appointments List

**16. Consent Calendar**

16.1 Office of the Prime Minister – Bill C-264

16.2 Minister of Municipal Affairs – Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program

16.3 North Peace Airport Society – Notice of Annual General Meeting

16.4 Union of BC Municipalities – 2019 Housing Needs Report Program Grant

16.5 Sparc BC – Access Awareness Day

16.6 City of Penticton – BC Governments Use of Provincial Paramountcy to Undermine Local Government Bylaws

16.7 DC Sportsman's Club – Letter of Support for NDIT Application

16.8 Dawson Creek Ski and Recreation Association – Letter of Support for NDIT Application

16.9 Peace River – Williston Reservoir Advisory Committee Meeting Notes of February 19, 2021

16.10 Peace Christian School Parent Committee – Letter of Support for NDIT Application

16.11 Recreation Sites and Trails BC – Trails Strategy for BC

16.12 PRRD Building Permit Report for April 2021

16.13 Items Previously Released from Closed Meetings, ADM-BRD-190

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4.1 Adoption of Agenda  
(Cont'd)

- 16.14 Calendar of Events  
17. Notice of Motion  
18. Media Questions  
19. Adjournment

**CARRIED**

**5. GALLERY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS**

**6. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- 6.1 RD/21/05/02 (27)  
May 13/21 Regional Board Minutes  
MOVED Director Heiberg, SECONDED Director Hiebert,  
That the Regional Board adopt the Board Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2021.

**CARRIED**

**7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**8. DELEGATIONS**

**9. PETITIONS**

**10. CORRESPONDENCE**

- 10.1 RD/21/05/03 (27)  
BCEHS – Transport of Pts between BC/AB  
MOVED Director Zabinsky, SECONDED Director Hiebert,  
That the Regional Board receive the correspondence dated May 20, 2021 from BC Emergency Health Services regarding protocols for the transport of patients between BC and Alberta for discussion.

**CARRIED**

The Regional Board engaged in a discussion regarding the sharing of concerns on this topic at the 2019 Interprovincial meeting.

- RD/21/05/04 (27)  
MOVED Director Rose, SECONDED Director Heiberg,  
That the Regional Board authorize that BC Emergency Health Services be advised that its request for specific concerns regarding protocols for the transport of patients between BC and Alberta will be responded to following the Interprovincial meeting to be held in October 2021.

**CARRIED**

- 10.2 RD/21/05/05 (27)  
*Firearms Act*  
MOVED Director Bertrand, SECONDED Director Zabinsky,  
That the Regional Board receive the correspondence from the Dawson Creek Sportsman's Club regarding Bill C-21, an Act to amend the *Firearms Act*, for discussion.

**CARRIED**

The Regional Board discussed the challenges of commenting on Bill C-21, as municipalities will have the option to pass a bylaw related to handgun storage and transport in their jurisdiction, which could result in differing rules as a resident travels across the Regional District.



10.2 *Firearms Act*  
(Cont'd)

RD/21/05/06 (27)

MOVED Director Ackerman, SECONDED Director Heiberg,

That the Regional Board refer the correspondence from the Dawson Creek Sportsman's Club regarding Bill C-21, an Act to amend the *Firearms Act*, to member municipalities; further, that the Board consider a unified position regarding Bill C-21 once all feedback has been received.

**AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING**

RD/21/05/07 (27)

Motion to Amend

MOVED Director Rose, SECONDED Director Heiberg,

That Regional Board amend the motion by adding 'and the Electoral Area Directors Committee' immediately following 'member municipalities'.

**CARRIED**

The Chair called the Question to the Motion as Amended:

Motion as Amended

That the Regional Board refer the correspondence from the Dawson Creek Sportsman's Club regarding Bill C-21, an Act to amend the *Firearms Act*, to member municipalities and the Electoral Area Directors Committee; further, that the Board consider a unified position regarding Bill C-21 once all feedback has been received.

**CARRIED**

**11. REPORTS**

11.1

Bylaw No. 2449, 2021

The Chair Called the Question to Resolution No. RD/21/05/26 from the May 13, 2021 Board meeting, which had been tabled until such time as the Electoral Area Directors Committee had reviewed 'Development Application Procedures, Fees and Delegation Bylaw No. 2449, 2021'.

MOVED Director Courtoreille, SECONDED Director Hiebert,

That the Regional Board give 'Development Application Procedures, Fees and Delegation Bylaw No. 2449, 2021', first, second, and third readings, which establishes the procedures under which an owner of land may apply for a variety of permits and bylaw amendments, as required by the *Local Government Act*, Section 460, and imposes fees for those applications as permitted under *Local Government Act* Section 397 and Section 462, and delegates the issuance of development permits to the General Manager of Development Services.

**CARRIED**

RD/21/05/08 (27)

MOVED Director Heiberg, SECONDED Director Bumstead,

That the Regional Board adopt 'Development Application Procedures, Fees and Delegation Bylaw No. 2449, 2021'.

**CARRIED**

RD/21/05/09 (27)

MOVED Director Fraser, SECONDED Director Smith,

That the Regional Board authorize a review of development application fees, compared to neighbouring local governments and with consideration given to recouping advertising costs.

**CARRIED**



11.2

Strat Plan

RD/21/05/10 (27)

MOVED Director Ackerman, SECONDED Director Courtoreille,

That the Regional Board adopt the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan as amended to add a section titled “New and Emerging Issues” that includes the following items:

1. COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan – regular updating of the plan is required to address changes in public health orders and resulting impacts on operations and restoration of services. During this period, it was expressed that the organization needs to be flexible and nimble and focus on immediate needs vs discretionary requests.
2. Gap in public engagement – develop strategies to address current challenges with in-person engagement and communication with constituents resulting from COVID-19.
3. Embracing ‘new normal’ opportunities – consider strategies/policies associated with alternative work arrangements, engagement practices, and other adaptive measures resulting from COVID-19.
4. New Financial Contribution Services – establish new services that will provide dedicated funding for programs that have been impacted by elimination of grant in aid. Includes drafting and consideration of service establishment bylaws and determining elector approval processes.
5. Sub-regional governance – investigate options for a sub-regional governance structure to enhance the effectiveness of sub-regional services and governance.

**AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING**

RD/21/05/11 (27)

Motion to Amend

MOVED Director Fraser, SECONDED Director Ackerman,

That the Regional Board amend the motion by replacing the term ‘new normal’ with ‘future’ in the third emerging opportunity.

**CARRIED**

The Chair called the Question to the Motion as Amended:

Motion as Amended

That the Regional Board adopt the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan as amended to add a section titled “New and Emerging Issues” that includes the following items:

1. COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan – regular updating of the plan is required to address changes in public health orders and resulting impacts on operations and restoration of services. During this period, it was expressed that the organization needs to be flexible and nimble and focus on immediate needs vs discretionary requests.
2. Gap in public engagement – develop strategies to address current challenges with in-person engagement and communication with constituents resulting from COVID-19.
3. Embracing ‘future’ opportunities – consider strategies/policies associated with alternative work arrangements, engagement practices, and other adaptive measures resulting from COVID-19.
4. New Financial Contribution Services – establish new services that will provide dedicated funding for programs that have been impacted by elimination of grant in aid. Includes drafting and consideration of service establishment bylaws and determining elector approval processes.

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11.2 Strat Plan  
(Cont'd)

5. Sub-regional governance – investigate options for a sub-regional governance structure to enhance the effectiveness of sub-regional services and governance.

**CARRIED**

11.3  
Bylaws No. 2444 and  
2445, 2021

RD/21/05/12 (27)

MOVED Director Heiberg, SECONDED Director Zabinsky,

That the Regional Board authorize that the Notice of Assent Voting for Seniors Aging in Place Support Services Establishment Bylaw No. 2444, 2021, and Health Related Services Grant-in-Aid Service Establishment Bylaw No. 2445, 2021 include a synopsis of the bylaws as permitted under the *Local Government Act* Section 176 (4) (a) and (5).

**CARRIED**

11.4  
Connectivity

RD/21/05/13 (27)

MOVED Director Courtoreille, SECONDED Director Smith,

That the Regional Board authorize the establishment of a Broadband Internet and Mobility Standing Committee to expand upon the work of the Fiber Working Group and the PRRD Connectivity Strategy.

**CARRIED**

RD/21/05/14 (27)

MOVED Director Fraser, SECONDED Director Bertrand,

That the Regional Board adopt the following Vision for connectivity in the region:

“Residents, businesses, and organizations within the PRRD will have access to reliable, redundant, high-speed Broadband Internet services in their homes, businesses and public buildings, at performance levels that meet all of their needs for health, education, economic development, that are delivered now and into the future.”

**CARRIED**

RD/21/05/15 (27)

MOVED Director Fraser, SECONDED Director Hiebert,

That the Regional Board adopt the following connectivity principles:

- Connectivity is essential to strengthen the social, economic, ecological and cultural resilience within the region.
- Connectivity and technology shape residents’ choices, behaviours, and needs.
- Connectivity is pertinent to all regional district planning and decision-making.
- The Regional District has a role in ensuring residents have access to high-speed Broadband Internet.
- The Regional District views Broadband infrastructure as essential infrastructure.
- The nature and expense of connectivity deployment requires a forward-looking vision to maximize potential and coordinate efforts within the regional district.
- Convergence of public and private infrastructure where it benefits the public and protects public interests is good public policy.
- Access to Broadband Internet and Infrastructure must be leveraged through Official Community Plans, regional growth planning, and spatial planning (i.e. land use bylaws, subdivision bylaws) to maximize potential within the region.

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11.4 Connectivity  
(Cont'd)

- An understanding of the true drivers and needs for connectivity will inform decisions.
- Leveraging one infrastructure to advance another (i.e. dig once policies) is in the public interest.
- Access to Broadband Internet and infrastructure allows the regional district to retain and grow businesses, create and retain skilled workers, and re-invigorate communities.
- Broadband Redundancy is essential to protect Internet, telephone, cellular, and essential government services throughout the region in the event of damage to Broadband Infrastructure at any time.

**CARRIED**

11.5  
Carbon Tax

The Chair noted that as the requested information regarding the implications of the Supreme Court ruling that carbon tax is constitutional and the impacts to the Province of BC resolution had been provided, that deferred Resolution No. RD/21/03/11 (25) could now be voted on:

Motion to Amend

MOVED Director Fraser, SECONDED Director Heiberg,  
That the Regional Board amend the motion by adding “using marked fuel” following ‘agricultural community’.

**DEFEATED**

**IN FAVOUR: Director Goodings**

Motion as Amended

The Chair called the Question to Resolution No. RD/21/03/09 (25) from the March 25, 2021 Board meeting, which was also deferred pending receipt of information regarding the supreme court ruling on carbon tax:

MOVED Chair Sperling, SECONDED Director Goodings,  
That the Regional Board receive the letter from Arthur Hadland dated March 2, 2021 which asked the Regional Board to take action to extinguish the Provincial Carbon Tax for the Region; further, that the Regional Board authorize that a letter be sent to the Honourable John Horgan, Premier of BC, the Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and the Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Finance; requesting that the agricultural community, and residents and businesses who do not have access to BC Hydro’s power grid in the Peace River Regional District be exempted from British Columbia’s Carbon Tax; further, that the letter be copied to South Peace MLA Mike Bernier, and North Peace MLA Dan Davies.

**CARRIED**

**OPPOSED: Director Goodings**





11.6 RD/21/05/16 (27)  
DVP 21-003 MOVED Chair Sperling, SECONDED Director Hiebert,  
That the Regional Board respectfully refuse Development Variance Permit No. 21-003, that proposes an increase in the maximum permitted accessory building floor area from 187 square metres to 197.4 square metres for the property identified as PID 011-919-175.

**CARRIED**

**OPPOSED: Director Goodings**

11.7 RD/21/05/17 (27)  
NFU 21-005 ALR NFU MOVED Director Goodings, SECONDED Director Hiebert,  
That the Regional Board receive the report titled 'Non-Farm Use within the ALR, PRRD File No. 21-005 ALR NFU, DS-BRD-156' for discussion.

**CARRIED**

The Regional Board discussed the relocation of the boat launch from Cache Creek to Halfway East River, public access, engagement with user groups, and the boat launch area design.

RD/21/05/18 (27)  
MOVED Director Ackerman, SECONDED Director Bertrand,  
That the Regional Board forward a letter to the Environmental Assessment Office and BC Hydro (Site C Project) to advise that consideration of ALR Non-Farm Use application 21-005-ALRNFU (ALC File 62580) has been deferred until such time as further information regarding the rationale for relocating the boat launch from Cache Creek to Halfway East River, and details regarding the design for the boat launch area are received.

**CARRIED**

11.8 RD/21/05/19 (27)  
NPFA OCP MOVED Director Ackerman, SECONDED Director Fraser,  
That the Regional Board receive the report titled 'North Peace Fringe Area OCP Status Update, DS-BRD-158' for discussion.

**CARRIED**

The Regional Board discussed the consolidation of the North Peace Fringe Area Official Community Plan (NPFA OCP) Technical and Community Committees into the NPFA OCP Steering Committee, and opportunities to present the draft NPFA OCP to the Steering Committee for discussion.

RD/21/05/20 (27)  
MOVED Director Ackerman, SECONDED Director Smith,  
That the Regional Board receive the report titled 'North Peace Fringe Area OCP Status Update, DS-BRD-158' for information.

**CARRIED**





## 12. BYLAWS

12.1  
Bylaw No. 2435, 2021

RD/21/05/21 (27)  
MOVED Chair Sperling, SECONDED Director Fraser,  
That the Regional Board give Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2435, 2021, to rezone the property identified as PID 011-552-018 from C-2 zone to R-2 zone within PRRD Zoning Bylaw 1343, 2001, third reading.

**CARRIED**

RD/21/05/22 (27)  
MOVED Chair Sperling, SECONDED Director Fraser,  
That the Regional Board adopt Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2435, 2021.

**CARRIED**

12.2  
Bylaw No. 2436, 2021

RD/21/05/23 (27)  
MOVED Chair Sperling, SECONDED Director Ackerman,  
That the Regional Board give Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2436, 2021, to rezone the property identified as PID 013-516-523 from C-2 zone to R-2 zone within PRRD Zoning Bylaw 1343, 2001, third reading.

**CARRIED**

RD/21/05/24 (27)  
MOVED Chair Sperling, SECONDED Director Heiberg,  
That the Regional Board adopt Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2436, 2021.

**CARRIED**

12.3  
Bylaws No. 2425 and  
2426, 2021

RD/21/05/25 (27)  
MOVED Director Rose, SECONDED Director Hiebert,  
That the Regional Board defer consideration of Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 2425, 2021 and Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2426, 2021 to a June 2021 Board meeting.

**CARRIED**

## 13. STRATEGIC PLAN

13.1 Strat Plan

The Strategic Plan was included for the Regional Board's information.

## 14. NEW BUSINESS

14.1  
Snowmobile Mgmt  
Strategy

The Regional Board received an update from Director Bertrand on the draft Southern Mountain Caribou Recovery Snowmobile Management Strategy. The Board expressed extreme disappointment that the engagement process for the 'Winter Motorized Recreation Management Plan in the South Peace' was largely disregarded and ignored when the plan was drafted, reminiscent of the previous public engagement done regarding the Partnership Agreement for the Conservation of the Southern Mountain Caribou when the Province largely ignored the thoughtful responses, suggestions, and recommendations provided by residents and liaison Blair Lekstrom. Director Bertrand encouraged Board Directors and the public to visit the Provincial Caribou Recovery Engagement website to review and provide input on the 'Winter Motorized Recreation Management Plan in the South Peace'.



14.1 Snowmobile Mgmt  
Strategy (Cont'd)

RD/21/05/26 (27)

MOVED Director Fraser, SECONDED Director Ackerman,

That the Regional Board authorize a letter to be forwarded to the Premier of BC and the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development to express disappointment in the Province's disregard for input from invested stakeholders such as the South Peace Snowmobile Advisory Committee during the process to draft the Winter Motorized Recreation Management Plan in the South Peace.

**CARRIED**

**15. APPOINTMENTS**

**16. CONSENT CALENDAR**

16.1

Consent

RD/21/05/27 (27)

MOVED Director Hiebert, SECONDED Director Ackerman,

That the Regional Board receive the May 27, 2021 consent calendar.

**CARRIED**

**17. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**18. MEDIA QUESTIONS**

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

CERTIFIED a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regional Board of the Peace River Regional District from a meeting held on May 27, 2021 in the Regional District Office Board Room, Dawson Creek, BC.

Brad Sperling, Chair

Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer