



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

REGIONAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 3, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC

Directors Present:

Chair Sperling, Electoral Area C
Vice-Chair Hiebert, Electoral Area D
Director Courtoreille, District of Chetwynd
Director Dober, City of Dawson Creek
Director Hansen, City of Fort St. John
Director Kealy, Electoral Area B (via Zoom)
Director Krakowka, District of Tumbler Ridge
Director Quibell, District of Hudson's Hope (via Zoom)
Director Rose, Electoral Area E
Director Taillefer, District of Taylor
Director Veach, Village of Pouce Coupe (via Zoom)
Director Zabinsky, City of Fort St. John

Staff Present:

Shawn Dahlen, Chief Administrative Officer
Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer
Roxanne Shepherd, Chief Financial Officer
Kari Bondaroff, General Manager of Environmental Services
Kevin Clarkson, General Manager of Community Services
Ashley Murphey, General Manager of Development Services
Bryna Casey, Community Services Manager
Joanne Caldecott, Deputy Corporate Officer
Trevor Ouellette, IT Manager
Annette Andrews, Communications Manager
Olivia Lundahl, Electoral Area Officer
Katherine Lovino, Administrative Clerk
Carmen Willms, Legislative Services Clerk/Recorder

Delegations:

STARS
Glenda Farnden, Senior Municipal Relations Liaison

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:23 a.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

RD/24/10/01

MOVED Director Hansen

SECONDED Director Dober

That the Regional Board adopt the October 3, 2024 Board Meeting Agenda:



2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA (Cont'd)

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3. GALLERY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Committee of the Whole Draft Meeting Minutes for September 12, 2024

4.2 Regional Board Draft Meeting Minutes for September 12, 2024

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6. DELEGATIONS

6.1 STARS Re: Update

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Certified Resolution from District of Chetwynd Re: Electoral Area E Scramblevision and Chetwynd TV Re: Meeting

7.2 Letter from Chetwynd Communications Society Re: Radio Station Grant

7.3 Letter from Fort St. John Senior Citizens' Association Re: Letter of Support

7.4 Letter from Tyler Holte Re: Northern Health Authority Advocacy

7.5 Letter from North Central Local Government Association Re: Mental Health and Addictions Accord Draft

7.6 Invitation from South Peace Health Services Society Re: Medical Professionals Night

8. REPORTS

8.1 Authorization to Attend Northern Health Think Tank Event - October 28, 2024, DR-BRD-084

8.2 Electoral Area Directors Committee Recommendations from September 26, 2024 ADM-BRD-536

8.3 Rural Budgets Administration Committee Recommendation from September 26, 2024, ADM-BRD-533

8.4 Request for Economic Development Funds – Promotional Materials and Events, ADM-BRD-531

8.5 Clearview Arena Shared Use and Occupancy Agreement Renewal, CS-BRD-347

8.6 Interim Housing Needs Report Update, DS-BRD-431

8.7 2025 Fleet Allocation and Capital Budget Pre-Approval, ENV-BRD-207

8.8 Invitation to Present PRRD Corporate Asset Management Plan, FN-BRD-301

8.9 Proposed 2025 Board and Committee Meeting Schedule, ADM-BRD-529

9. BYLAWS

10. NEW BUSINESS

11. APPOINTMENTS

11.1 2024 Board Appointments List

12. CONSENT CALENDAR

12.1 Items Previously Released from Closed Board Meeting held on September 12, 2024, ADM-BRD-532

12.2 Bylaw Enforcement Update DS-BRD-432 – Pringle Shadow

12.3 Electoral Area Directors Committee Draft Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2024

12.4 Rural Budgets Administration Committee Draft Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2024

12.5 Response from Ministry of Forests Re: West Parsnip, Forest Service Road Access

12.6 Response from Ministry of Forests Re: Forestry Sector in British Columbia

12.7 Response from Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation Re: Wind Farms in the Peace River Regional District

12.8 Response from Environmental Assessment Office Re: Quality Wind Licence Transfer

12.9 Letter from Ministry of Housing Re: Extension for Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing Zoning Bylaw Requirements

12.10 Letter from District of Chetwynd to Ministry of Forests re: Fort St. John Canfor Closure

13. STRATEGIC PLAN

13.1 2023 - 2026 Strategic Plan

14. COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

15. CHAIR'S REPORT

(Cont'd on next page)



- 15.1 Chair's Report
- 16. NOTICE OF MOTION**
- 17. MEDIA QUESTIONS**
- 18. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**
- 19. ADJOURNMENT**

CARRIED

3. GALLERY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Committee of the Whole Draft Meeting Minutes for September 12, 2024

RD/24/10/02

MOVED

Director Hiebert

SECONDED

Director Taillefer

That the Regional Board adopt the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of September 12, 2024.

CARRIED

4.2 Regional Board Draft Meeting Minutes for September 12, 2024

RD/24/10/03

MOVED

Director Krakowka

SECONDED

Director Hansen

That the Regional Board adopt the Regional Board Meeting minutes of September 12, 2024.

CARRIED

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6. DELEGATIONS

6.1 STARS Re: Update

Chair Sperling advised that the STARS Delegation would arrive later in the morning and varied the agenda to move to Item 7 – Correspondence.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Certified Resolution from District of Chetwynd Re: Electoral Area E Scramblevision and Chetwynd TV Re: Meeting

RD/24/10/04

MOVED

Director Rose

SECONDED

Director Courtoreille

That the Regional Board authorize a meeting between the Mayor and Council of the District of Chetwynd and the Peace River Regional District staff to discuss Area E Scramblevision and Chetwynd TV.

CARRIED

7.2 Letter from Chetwynd Communications Society Re: Radio Station Grant

RD/24/10/05

MOVED

Director Rose

SECONDED

Director Hiebert



7.2 Letter from Chetwynd Communications Society Re: Radio Station Grant (Cont'd)

That the Regional Board receive the letter from the Chetwynd Communications Society regarding their application for a grant for information. **CARRIED**

7.3 Letter from Fort St. John Senior Citizens' Association Re: Letter of Support

RD/24/10/06

MOVED Director Kealy

SECONDED Director Hiebert

That the Regional Board provide a letter of support to the Fort St. John Senior Citizens' Association Branch 58 for their application to the BC Hydro Go Fund to support their Seniors Lunch program.

CARRIED

7.4 Letter from Tyler Holte Re: Northern Health Authority Advocacy

RD/24/10/07

MOVED Director Kealy

SECONDED Director Zabinsky

That the Regional Board receive the letter from Tyler Holte regarding Northern Health Authority Advocacy for discussion.

CARRIED

Directors voiced appreciation for Tyler Holte's efforts to advocate for better healthcare in the region and for his support.

7.5 Letter from North Central Local Government Association Re: Mental Health and Addictions Accord Draft

RD/24/10/08

MOVED Director Hiebert

SECONDED Director Zabinsky

That the Regional Board receive the letter from the North Central Local Government Association regarding the Mental Health and Addictions Accord for discussion

CARRIED

Directors discussed the draft Mental Health and Addictions Accord (Accord) and whether to add anything to it. They noted that the finalized version of the Accord would be sent by the North Central Local Government Association on October 10, 2024 and that a decision as to whether to become a signatory to the Accord would return to the Regional Board. Directors noted that the official signing would occur at the Mental Health and Addictions Symposium to be held in Prince George on November 13-14, 2024.

RD/24/10/09

MOVED Director Hiebert

SECONDED Director Zabinsky

That the Regional Board receive the final version of the NCLGA Mental Health and Addictions Accord at the October 17, 2024 Regional Board Meeting and determine the Peace River Regional District Board's final endorsement/participation in the Accord at that time. **CARRIED**



7.5 Letter from North Central Local Government Association Re: Mental Health and Addictions Accord Draft (Cont'd)

RD/24/10/10

MOVED Director Krakowka

SECONDED Director Dober

That the Regional Board authorize all Electoral Area Directors to attend the Mental Health and Addictions Symposium in Prince George on November 13-14, 2024 funded from Function 110 – Legislative Regional if they so wish.

CARRIED

OPPOSED: Director Rose

7.6 Invitation from South Peace Health Services Society Re: Medical Professionals Night

RD/24/10/11

MOVED Director Hiebert

SECONDED Director Krakowka

That the Regional Board authorize Directors to attend the Celebration of Medical Professionals on October 17, 2024.

CARRIED

8. REPORTS

8.1 Authorization to Attend Northern Health Think Tank Event - October 28, 2024, DR-BRD-084

RD/24/10/12

MOVED Director Zabinsky

SECONDED Director Courtoreille

That the Regional Board authorize Chair Sperling to attend the Northern Health Think Tank Dinner & Engagement event to be held on October 27-28, 2024 at the Fairmont Vancouver Airport Hotel in Vancouver, BC.

Directors discussed that the invitation to the Northern Health Think Tank Dinner & Engagement event was forwarded to Chair Sperling by Mayor Torgerson from the Village of Valemount who had noticed that the Peace River Regional District had not been included on the original invitation. They noted that the event was regarding emergency closures, recruitment and retention. Chair Sperling asked the Directors to provide him with any information they would like him to raise at the event and noted that Northern Health was meeting the costs of the event.

As members appointed to the South Peace Recruitment and Retention Committee, Directors Hiebert and Dober, confirmed they were also unaware of the meeting, however noted that they were becoming well educated after attending these Committee meetings, and advised that good progress was being made at the ground level.

Directors questioned why the event regarding Northern Health was being held in Vancouver, specifically as Northern Health was spending money to send attendees to Southern British Columbia for the event. They also discussed the lack of an invitation from Northern Health to the Peace River Regional District and the municipalities located within, and expressed frustration that the Chief Executive Officer of Northern Health still had not appeared as a delegation before the Regional Board as requested.



Recess

The Chair recessed the meeting at 10:50 a.m. to allow time to access information regarding the Northern Health Think Tank Dinner & Engagement event to inform Directors prior to reaching a decision on his attendance at the event.

Reconvene

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

8.1 **Authorization to Attend Northern Health Think Tank Event - October 28, 2024, DR-BRD-084 (Cont'd)**

The Chair read aloud the body of the email he had received regarding the Northern Health Think Tank Dinner & Engagement event for the Directors' information. Directors discussed the benefit of limiting elected officials on retention and recruitment committees, and that the invite highlighted medical professionals from different areas of Northern Health. Directors discussed the lack of an agenda or itinerary, and that the event was not listed on the Rural Coordination Center of British Columbia's event calendar. Directors were concerned that the original invitation had not included any elected officials from the Peace River Regional District, and questioned their influence with Northern Health despite the issues with service interruptions in the area.

The Chair called the Question to the Motion.

CARRIED

OPPOSED: Director Rose

8.2 **Electoral Area Directors Committee Recommendations from September 26, 2024, ADM-BRD-536**

RDR/24/10/13

MOVED

Director Kealy

SECONDED

Director Hiebert

That the Regional Board transfer title of the Rose Prairie Community Centre Parking Lot to the Rose Prairie Community Club, and should the Society be unwilling or unable to accept the transfer, that title to the land be reverted to the Crown, and that if any problems arose with the transfer, that the matter be brought back before the Regional Board.

CARRIED

Directors noted that there was a difference in cost between transferring title and assigning a License of Occupation.

RD/24/10/14

MOVED

Director Kealy

SECONDED

Director Hiebert

That the Regional Board assign the License of Occupation for the Halfway Graham Recreation Grounds to the Halfway Graham Community Club, and should the Society be unwilling or unable to accept the transfer, that the License of Occupation be returned to the Crown, and that if any problems arose with the transfer, that the matter be brought back before the Regional Board.

CARRIED

OPPOSED: Director Dober



8.2 Electoral Area Directors Committee Recommendations from September 26, 2024, ADM-BRD-536 (Cont'd)

Directors confirmed that if there were no issues when transferring the License of Occupation, this item would not need to be brought back before the Regional Board.

RD/24/10/15

MOVED Director Kealy

SECONDED Director Hiebert

That the Regional Board assign the License of Occupation for the Buick Creek Recreation Grounds to the Buick Creek Community Club, and should the Society be unwilling or unable to accept the assignment, that the License of Occupation be returned to the Crown, and that if any problems arose with the transfer, that the matter be brought back before the Regional Board.

CARRIED

OPPOSED: Director Dober

8.3 Rural Budgets Administration Committee Recommendation from September 26, 2024, ADM-BRD-533

RD/24/10/16

MOVED Director Rose

SECONDED Director Courtoreille

That the Regional Board approve a grant in the amount of \$100,000 payable from Function 505 – Chetwynd and Area Scramblevision, to be issued to Chetwynd Communications Society to assist with general operating costs.

CARRIED

Directors noted that these funds were budgeted for in taxation without an agreement on dispersion which had necessitated the grant request. Directors clarified that previously, funding was almost fully subsidized by tax dollars. Successful Bingo events had reduced the subsidization, but had not been as lucrative recently.

8.4 Request for Economic Development Funds – Promotional Materials and Events, ADM-BRD-531

RD/24/10/17

MOVED Director Hiebert

SECONDED Director Rose

That the Regional Board allocate \$5,075 from Function 140 - Economic Development to fund the purchase of updated promotional items.

CARRIED

8.5 Clearview Arena Shared Use and Occupancy Agreement Renewal, CS-BRD-347

RD/24/10/18

MOVED Director Kealy

SECONDED Director Zabinsky

That the Regional Board authorize renewal of the “Clearview Arena Society Shared Use and Operating Agreement” between the Peace River Regional District, the Board of Education of School District No. 60 (Peace River North) and the Clearview Arena Society for use and operation of the Clearview Arena for a ten year term ending October 2034;

- 8.5 Clearview Arena Shared Use and Occupancy Agreement Renewal, CS-BRD-347 (Cont'd)**
further, that the Chair and Administrative Officer be authorized to sign the renewal Agreement on behalf of the Peace River Regional District.

CARRIED

Directors commended the collaboration of those involved in drafting the Clearview Arena Shared Use and Occupancy Agreement, and noted that the 10-year term provided all involved with more certainty.

- 8.6 Interim Housing Needs Report Update, DS-BRD-431**
RD/24/10/19

MOVED Chair Sperling
SECONDED Director Hiebert

That the Regional Board review and provide feedback on the report titled “Interim Housing Needs Report Update – DS-BRD-431” by October 21, 2024 via planning@prrd.bc.ca.

CARRIED

Directors expressed concern that during the Urbanic Consultants Ltd. presentation at the Committee of the Whole meeting held on October 3, 2024 before the Regional Board meeting, the presenters indicated that the information had been discredited as it was based on flawed calculations. They noted that the deadline to complete the Housing Needs Report was January 1, 2025 and staff confirmed that the final report would be presented at the December 6, 2024 Regional Board meeting.

- 8.7 2025 Fleet Allocation and Capital Budget Pre-Approval, ENV-BRD-207**
RD/24/10/20

MOVED Director Zabinsky
SECONDED Director Hiebert

That the Regional Board provide capital budget pre-approval, for the 2025 supplemental request to replace Unit 27, 2020 GMC Sierra 3500, with a one-tonne 4x4 pick-up, Unit 28, 2020 Chevrolet Colorado, with a quarter-tonne 4x4 pick-up, and Unit 25, 2018 Trail Tech 20 foot, flat deck, tilt-deck trailer, with a heavy-duty, 20 foot, flat deck, tilt-deck trailer, at a total cost not to exceed \$180,000 (including PST) and authorize the inclusion of the expense in the draft 2025-2029 PRRD Financial Plan.

Directors clarified that used vehicles would be traded in or dispersed through the GovDeals auctions website. Directors discussed how the costs were distributed to different vehicles and the choice of purchasing a tilt-deck trailer rather than a gooseneck trailer. Directors commended staff for providing the 10-year Fleet Capital Plan.

The Chair called the Question to the Motion.

CARRIED

- 8.8 Invitation to Present PRRD Corporate Asset Management Plan, FN-BRD-301**
RD/24/10/21

MOVED Chair Sperling
SECONDED Director Zabinsky

8.8 Invitation to Present PRRD Corporate Asset Management Plan, FN-BRD-301 (Cont'd)

That the Regional Board invite PSD City Wide to appear as a Delegation at the October 17, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting to present the PRRD Corporate Asset Management Plan.

Directors discussed the advantages and disadvantages of having the presenters attend the October 17, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting via Zoom rather than in person.

Amendment:

RD/24/10/22

MOVED Director Hansen

SECONDED Director Zabinsky

That the Regional Board amend the motion to remove the words 'appear as a Delegation at the October 17, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting' and replace with 'attend the October 17, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting virtually as a Delegation.'

DEFEATED

IN FAVOUR: Directors Dober, Hansen, Kealy, Rose, Taillefer and Zabinsky.

The Chair called the Question to the original Motion.

CARRIED

OPPOSED: Director Hansen

8.9 Proposed 2025 Board and Committee Meeting Schedule, ADM-BRD-529

RD/24/10/23

MOVED Chair Sperling

SECONDED Director Krakowka

That the Regional Board approve the 2025 Peace River Regional Board, Regional Hospital District Board and Committee Meeting Schedule, to set the 2025 meeting dates for Regular Board and Hospital District Board Meetings, Solid Waste Committee Meetings, Electoral Area Directors Committee and Rural Budgets Administration Committee Meetings, Health Care Scholarship Committee Meetings and Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee Meetings, as presented.

Directors discussed the advantages and shortcomings of holding Regional Board meetings in Fort St. John and other communities within the Regional District, such as outreach, cost, and issues experienced over time around electronic participation and the estimated costs to address the audio visual issues.

The Chair called the Question to the Motion.

CARRIED

Vary Agenda

Chair Sperling varied the agenda to return to Item 6 – Delegations.

6. DELEGATIONS

6.1 STARS Re: Update

Chair Sperling welcomed Glenda Farnden, Senior Municipal Relations Liaison with STARS to the meeting to deliver a the annual STARS presentation which included the following information:

- Fundraising Goals

6.1 STARS Re: Update (Cont'd)

- Municipal and Regional Leaders
- 2023/24 Year in Review
- Bases in Western Canada
- Statistics of responses to the PRRD from 2020 - 2024
- PRRD Patients flown by STARS (2010 - Present)
- Massive Hemorrhage Protocol (MHP)
- Longest Mission
- Benefits to the Peace River Regional District

A question-and-answer period ensued and included:

- Appreciation for the services STARS provide.
- Why some local governments in Alberta do not support STARS. The presenter explained that one reason given by the counties that do not support them is that they feel the service should be supported 100% by the provincial government. They explained that the red exclamation marks on the map indicated certain communities within those counties that are supporters of STARS. The presenters explained that fundraising from the municipal and regional supporters enabled them to stay on the leading edge of technology.
- The status of the helicopter fleet upgrade. The presenter explained that the entire fleet were switched over from the BK117 Helicopters to the H145 Helicopters. The presenter noted that the helicopters were all paid for, and are constantly being rotated in and out of maintenance. The presenter explained the importance of having identical helicopter helps create an identical working environment for the medical teams.
- The use of the STARS VIGILANT program. The presenter explained that municipalities or companies that organize an event that might have trauma involvement can register to have direct access to STARS and provided a site registration number.
- Recognition of the valuable benefits as STARS investors, and appreciation for the regular updates that explained to taxpayers how the funds were used.
- Whether STARS would consider restarting live training exercises. The presenter explained that their budget did not currently support live exercises, but the outreach program had been revitalized to provide online training especially geared toward fire departments. The presenter mentioned that there was an outreach team in Grande Prairie that was focused on the critical care side of training with rural hospitals.
- The possibility of sponsoring a one-time live training exercise.

Chair Sperling thanked the STARS presenter for the informative presentation, and Ms. Farnden left the meeting.

Recess

The Chair recessed the meeting for luncheon at 12:26 p.m.

Reconvene and Vary Agenda

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and varied the Agenda to return to Item 9 – Bylaws.



9. BYLAWS

10. NEW BUSINESS

11. APPOINTMENTS

11.1 2024 Board Appointments List

12. CONSENT CALENDAR

Chair Sperling asked Directors whether they wished to lift any items from the October 3, 2024 Consent Calendar.

Directors requested that the following Items be lifted from the Consent Calendar:

12.5 Response from Ministry of Forests Re: West Parsnip, Forest Service Road Access

RD/24/10/24

MOVED Director Rose

SECONDED Director Hiebert

That the Regional Board send a letter to the new Minister of Forests to request that as provincial recreational opportunities in the Peace River Regional District do not benefit from the same level of investment as the remainder of the province, and commitments to preserving and enhancing recreational opportunities in the region were made at the time the WAC Bennett Dam was built, that the Province ensure that the West Parsnip Forest Service Road continue to be maintained so it can remain open to provide access to recreation.

CARRIED

12.7 Response from Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation Re: Wind Farms in the Peace River Regional District

Directors discussed the response from the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, stating the inadequacy of a commitment regarding cumulative effects in the region. Chair Sperling explained that during his meeting with the Ministry during the 2024 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention, he had emphasized the cumulative effects of all windfarm projects on the Peace Region. Directors discussed the lack of communication before the Call for Power from BC Hydro, not just to the Regional District, but also to the First Nations communities. Directors discussed the recent CBC exposé regarding Site C on 'The National' news. Directors also discussed projects which were proposed on private property that were difficult to regulate. Directors noted that the Call for Power had ended during the annual UBCM Convention.

RD/24/10/25

MOVED Director Zabinsky

SECONDED Director Krakowka

That the Regional Board receive the October 3, 2024 Consent Calendar.

CARRIED

13. STRATEGIC PLAN

13.1 2023 - 2026 Strategic Plan

The 2023-2026 Strategic Plan was included for the Regional Board's information.



14. COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

15. CHAIR'S REPORT

15.1 Chair's Report

The Chair thanked Directors who had attended the 2024 Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention, and those who attended the various scheduled Minister meetings. He also thanked staff who assisted the Directors, attended Minister meetings and prepared speaking notes.

16. NOTICE OF MOTION

17. MEDIA QUESTIONS

18. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

19. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:19 p.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 October 3, 2024 in the PRRD Board Room, 1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC.

Brad Sperling, Chair

Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer