

MINUTES of the **STATUTORY MEETING** of the **NORTHERN ROCKIES REGIONAL BOARD** held in the Bear Pit, Town/Regional Office, Town Square, Fort Nelson, BC on Monday, December 2nd, 2002 at 6:45 p.m.

THOSE PRESENT

Mayor Morey - Chair
Director Barr
Director Craddock
Director Gray
Director Lutsiak
Director Middleton
Director Streeper
Director Unruh

STAFF

Pat Bailey - CAO
Randy McLean - Treasurer/Deputy CAO
Debbie Walker - Corporate Administrator
Heather Brown - Deputy Corporate Administrator
Linda Wallace - DRDS
Bruce Hupman - DOP
Walter Lutsiak - Fire Chief
Tom Sprado - DRS
Maria Badall - RPM
Bob Pattison - DCM
Barclay Pitkethly - Project Coordinator
Stacey Loe - Purchasing Clerk
Noelle Sutherland - Recreation Facility Maintenance
Annette Boomer - Recreation Facility Maintenance
Trevor Somers - Firefighter
Al Bone - Lieutenant, Fire Dept

MEDIA/PUBLIC

Father Mickey Anderson - FN Ministerial Association
Dr Anthony Kenyon
Judith Kenyon
Ken Unruh
Sandra Sutherland
Darlene Clarke
Sheryl Streeper
Debbie McGregor
Ken Clarke
Maria Clarke
Alex Kenyon
Abigail Neville
Rob Neville

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MEDIA/PUBLIC (Cont.)

Antonia Neville
Alexander Neville
James Martell
Olive McLean
P. A. MacKenzie
Pansy Slate
Vickie Lutsiak
Don Readman
Sandra Bone
Carrie Lentz
Sharon Barr

1. Call to Order A quorum being present, Chair Morey called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m. and proceeded with the business placed before it.

2. Election of Vice Chairperson Regional Secretary Walker advised that the Local Government Act required the election of Vice Chairpersons for the Regional Board. So saying, she called for nominations for the position of Vice Chairpersons.

MOVED by Director Lutsiak, **SECONDED** by Director Streeper that the following members be nominated for the position of Vice Chairpersons:

January to April	Director Barr
May to August	Director Gray
September to December	Director Middleton

CARRIED

Regional Secretary Walker called for further nominations thrice more. There being no further nominations, Director Barr, Director Gray, and Director Middleton were declared Vice Chairpersons for the Regional Board for the above noted terms.

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APPOINTMENT OF STANDING
COMMITTEES BY MAYOR
CHRIS MOREY

3. Personnel
Committee

Mayor Morey announced the appointment of the following members to the Personnel Committee:

Chair:	Mayor Chris Morey
Vice Chair:	Councillor Bill Streeper
Member:	Councillor Keith Lutsiak

4. Single Tier
Government
Committee

Mayor Morey announced the appointment of the following members to the Single Tier Government Committee:

Chair:	Mayor Chris Morey
Vice Chair:	Councillor Keith Lutsiak
Members:	Councillor Ted Craddock Councillor Bill Streeper Councillor Karen Unruh Director Ed Barr Director Dan Gray Director Shelley Middleton 4 citizens to be appointed for a 1 year term

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING
COMMITTEES BY RESOLUTION

5. Airport Advisory
Committee

MOVED by Director Lutsiak, **SECONDED** by Director Streeper that Councillor Karen Unruh be appointed as Chair, that Director Dan Gray be appointed as Vice Chair, that Director Barr be appointed as member, and that 4 citizen members be appointed for a 1- year term to the Airport Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

6. Mile 292 Water
Utility Committee

MOVED by Director Craddock, **SECONDED** by Director Unruh that Director Barr be appointed Chair to the Mile 292 Water Utility Committee and that 4 citizen members be appointed as chosen by the Mile 292 community.

CARRIED

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7. ASSIGNMENT OF PORTFOLIOS BY MAYOR
Mayor Morey announced the assignments of the following portfolios:
8. Agriculture & Rural Development Portfolio
Director Dan Gray (Primary)
Director Shelley Middleton (Alternate)
9. Business & Service Development Portfolio
Councillor Keith Lutsiak (Primary)
Councillor Bill Streeper (Alternate)
10. Energy & Transportation Portfolio
Councillor Bill Streeper (Primary)
Councillor Ted Craddock (Alternate)
11. Forestry Portfolio
Councillor Ted Craddock (Primary)
Councillor Karen Unruh (Alternate)
12. Social & Cultural Development Portfolio
Councillor Karen Unruh (Primary)
Councillor Keith Lutsiak (Alternate)
13. Communications & Rural Water Utilities Portfolio
Director Ed Barr (Primary)
Director Dan Gray (Alternate)
14. Tourism & Parks Portfolio
Director Shelley Middleton (Primary)
Director Ed Barr (Alternate)

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

15. Fort Nelson-Liard Land Resource Management Plan Monitoring Committee Representative
MOVED by Director Streeper, **SECONDED** by Director Barr that Director Shelley Middleton be appointed as the Regional District representative to the Fort Nelson-Liard Land Resource Management Plan Monitoring Committee.

CARRIED

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16. Municipal Finance Authority Representative **MOVED** by Director Streeper, **SECONDED** by Director Unruh that Councillor Ted Craddock be appointed as the Regional District representative to the Municipal Finance Authority and that Director Dan Gray be appointed as Alternate.

CARRIED

17. Municipal Insurance Association Executive Representative **MOVED** by Director Lutsiak, **SECONDED** by Director Streeper that Councillor Ted Craddock be appointed as the Regional District representative to the Municipal Insurance Association and that Director Dan Gray be appointed as Alternate.

CARRIED

18. North Central Municipal Association Executive Representative **MOVED** by Director Craddock, **SECONDED** by Director Streeper that Mayor/Chair Chris Morey be appointed as the Regional District representative to the North Central Municipal Association Executive and that Councillor Karen Unruh be appointed as Alternate.

CARRIED

19. Northern BC Tourism Association Representative **MOVED** by Director Streeper, **SECONDED** by Director Barr that Director Shelley Middleton be appointed as the Regional District representative to the Northern BC Tourism Association.

CARRIED

20. Northern Rockies Alaska Highway Tourist Association Representative **MOVED** by Director Lutsiak, **SECONDED** by Director Unruh that Director Shelley Middleton be appointed as the Regional District representative to the Northern Rockies Alaska Highway Tourist Association.

CARRIED

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21. Northern Rocky Mountains
Park Public Advisory
Group Representative

MOVED by Director Craddock, **SECONDED** by Director Lutsiak that Director Shelley Middleton be appointed as the Regional District representative to the Northern Rocky Mountains Park Public Advisory Group and that Director Ed Barr be appointed as Alternate.

CARRIED

22. Northwest Corridor
Development Corporation
Board Representative

MOVED by Director Barr, **SECONDED** by Director Middleton that Councillor Bill Streeper be appointed as the Regional District representative to the Northwest Corridor Development Corporation and that Councillor Keith Lutsiak be appointed as Alternate.

CARRIED

23. 3M/Elected Officials
Committee on Regional
Policing Representative

MOVED by Director Craddock, **SECONDED** by Director Streeper that Mayor Chris Morey be appointed as the Regional District representative to the 3M/Elected Officials Committee on Regional Policing and that Councillor Keith Lutsiak be appointed as Alternate.

CARRIED

24. Resolution for Adoption
Each Meeting

MOVED by Director Craddock, **SECONDED** by Director Unruh that the decisions of the meeting of the Town Council as held preceding this meeting of the Regional Board be adopted for implementation.

CARRIED

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25. Presentations for Recognition
of Service, Retiring Council
& Board Members

Director Hugh Morey
1996 to 2002

Director Rod McCartney
1993 to 2002

Director Jack Sime
1976 to 1979 and
1996 to 2002

Councillor Jackie Allen
1996 to 2002

Councillor Grace Bumstead
1989 to 1990 and
1993 to 2002

Mayor/Chair Harry Clarke
1971 to 1973 and
1999 to 2002

Chair Morey presented plaques to retiring Director Hugh Morey, Director Rod McCartney (absent), Director Jack Sime (absent), Councillor/Director Jackie Allen (absent), Councillor/Director Grace Bumstead (absent), and Mayor/Chair Harry Clarke in appreciation of their commitment and dedication to the Town of Fort Nelson and the Northern Rockies Regional District.

26. Mayor Chris Morey
First Address to the
Community

Mayor Chris Morey gave her first address to the community as follows:

“Tonight marks the formal beginning of my first term as Chairperson and Mayor. I accept with deep gratitude and profound humility the responsibility entrusted to me by the people of the Northern Rockies and Fort Nelson.

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26. Mayor Chris Morey
First Address to the
Community (Cont.)

You have my sincere commitment that over the next three years I will work diligently to serve you to the best of my ability, and to strive to live up to the expectations that you have of me.

I wish to begin by congratulating Councillor Karen Unruh on her re-election to office and by congratulating the newly elected members: Councillors Ted Craddock, Keith Lutsiak, and Bill Streeper for their victories at the polls, and Electoral Directors Ed Barr, Dan Gray, and Shelley Middleton for their ascent to elected office. I look forward to working with them individually and as a local government team as we begin our terms of public service.

I am also pleased to acknowledge the successful outcome of the museum referendum. This has not only enabled the provision of needed financial support for local museum services, but affirms the significant and positive image that the museum has earned in the court of public opinion. I commend the Historical Society for a job well done and I look forward to working with them in the months and years ahead.

Over the next three years, the Regional Board and Town Council will be focussed on building and maintaining a vibrant economy for Fort Nelson and the Northern Rockies.

We have many economic development and financial priorities to strive towards including: the construction of the Clarke Lake by-pass and the Sierra-YoYo-Desan Road upgrade, land acquisition policies, facility and infrastructure improvements, the operation of our airport, regional policing, traffic lights, landscape enhancement and beautification, and the next steps toward single-tier government to name just a few.

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26. Mayor Chris Morey
First Address to the
Community (Cont.)

Important to note, is that these and other initiatives will always be considered within the context of our financial resources ... your tax dollars ... but with the realization that the shifting of costs for services is more & more from federal and provincial governments, to local government.

Our work will also be about balancing our economic needs and aspirations, with the environmental and social values considered by our citizens to be important for the common good. The portfolios I have appointed the individual elected officials to this evening, reflect that needed balance. Each portfolio is comprehensive and includes a number of responsibilities and liaisons ... some of which are new ... that have been designed to assist your local government to inform itself on local issues, and to demonstrate our willingness to do so and the importance we place on it.

Our community and region are now in an era where services that we once had the luxury of taking for granted, especially in health, education, and social services, can no longer be considered certainties. We must approach these situations with intelligence and offer to senior government creative and workable solutions in the best interests of our citizens and for the viable future of our region.

In the past, the role of local government was straightforward and confined to the delivery of services to the public, particularly infrastructure. Today, the role has become very broad and is reflective of the complex realities facing a contemporary and intelligent public. But, it is neither possible nor desirable for a single organization to solve all the problems and meet all the challenges facing the community and region, if positive outcomes are to be achieved. We, as your local government, must be seen to be part of the solution knowing that every worthwhile endeavor requires collaboration and partnering among organizations, and with our citizens.

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26. Mayor Chris Morey
First Address to the
Community (Cont.)

The most fundamental principle of governance that we must consider in every decision that we make is that these eight seats do not belong to us ... they belong to the people of the Northern Rockies/Fort Nelson, who are not to be viewed as simply consumers of local services, but as active participants in the life of the Regional District and the Town.

As the people's representatives, we will be expected to provide leadership and to find creative ways to reach out and engage our citizens in the local government process. In doing so, we must be willing to listen to our citizens and take strategic action when we can, and mostly importantly, when we should.

An example of this is in relation to housing in Fort Nelson. During my term as Councillor, I heard time and time again a broad spectrum of citizen concerns about housing. As your Mayor, I will undertake a process in the new year to find a way that local government, industry, and the community can come together to take a closer look at this issue in a meaningful and productive way.

I am optimistic that public interest and involvement in such an initiative will be significant.

One of the solutions for achieving local autonomy and decision-making is to move to a single-tier government structure. In this year's opinion poll, citizens responded with a resounding 'yes' in their agreement to go to at-large voting, which is the first and most fundamental step toward becoming single-tier. I consider it to be among the most important priorities over the next three years. A single-tier government structure may be the only recourse we have to accessing a broader tax base, and to gaining real flexibility in decision-making as to how we spend those dollars.

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26. Mayor Chris Morey
First Address to the
Community (Cont.)

I particularly look forward to the work involved in this and to the outcome we have such a great opportunity to achieve for the benefit of all citizens.

In closing, I again want to thank you for the trust you have placed in me, the Regional Directors and Town Councilors.

I know that we all look forward to the exciting work which will be ours to do in the next three years. Fort Nelson & the Northern Rockies has many opportunities for the present and the future. Despite any challenges, we have every reason to look ahead with optimism and pride. The resourcefulness of our region and of our people will be the determinants of a bright future.

Following the adjournment of the meeting, it is my pleasure to invite everyone present to join us upstairs in the Mayor's office for a celebratory reception. And, on behalf of the Regional Board, Town Council, and our staff, I wish every citizen of the Northern Rockies/Fort Nelson a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year. Thank you."

27. Closing Prayer

Father Mickey Anderson of the Catholic Church led those present in a closing prayer

28. Adjournment

MOVED by Director Unruh, **SECONDED** by Director Lutsiak that the December 2nd, 2002 Statutory Regional Board meeting be declared adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

CARRIED

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CERTIFIED a true and correct copy of the Statutory Meeting of the Northern Rockies Regional Board held on Monday, December 2nd, 2002.

Debbie Walker, Corporate Administrator

Heather Brown, Deputy Corporate Administrator

Mayor Chris Morey, Chair