



**MINUTES of the REGULAR MEETING of the BOARD  
THURSDAY, November 20, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.  
MEETING #09/25**

**PRESENT (in person):** Debbie Ewald, Town of Rainy River (Chair)  
Andrew Hallikas, Town of Fort Frances (Vice Chair)  
Wade Desserre, Rainy River West  
Telford Advent, Township of Morley

**PRESENT (virtual):** Lisa Teeple, Township of Emo  
Brendan Hyatt, Township of La Vallee  
Robert Ferguson, Town of Atikokan  
Mike Ford, Township of Alberton  
Robert Burns, Rainy River East  
Bill Langner, Township of Dawson  
James Gibson, Township of Chapple

**REGRETS:** Don Canfield, Rainy River Central  
Colleen Fadden, Township of Lake of the Woods

**STAFF:** Charene Gillies, CAO  
Leanne Gurski, Director of Finance & Infrastructure  
Aynsley McKinnon, Human Resource Manager  
Heather Latter, Communications Advisor  
Joshua Colling, Chief of Paramedic Services  
Sandra Weir, Housing and Homelessness Prevention Manager  
Tanis Fretter, Children's Services & Income Support Manager  
Brenda Witherspoon-Bedard, Homelessness Community Engagement Coordinator

**GUESTS (virtual):** Kevin Douse, public  
Lily Clark, Beam Group  
Jerrett Myers, Beam Group  
Mary Beth Jonz, Beam Group

- 
- 1. Call to Order**  
The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
  - 2. Land Acknowledgement**
  - 3. Attendance & Declaration of Conflict of Interest**  
There were no declarations of Conflict of Interest.

**3.1. Regrets from Board Members**

Resolution #57/25 MOVED BY W. Desserre and SECONDED BY A. Hallikas:

Chief of Paramedic Services reported a continued focus on stabilization, with down-staffing decreasing and overall service reliability improving. He credits recent recruitment gains and ongoing modernization efforts as contributing factors.

### 6.3. CAO Report – included in meeting package

The CAO shared that Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) is exploring a partnership with EllisDon Community Builders focused on taking a coordinated, regional approach to developing new affordable housing. This approach includes a northern portfolio positioned to access federal and provincial funding. The Board directed administration to continue participating in this exploratory work, including identifying potential opportunities across the Rainy River District for inclusion within the regional portfolio.

Resolution #60/25 MOVED BY R. Ferguson and SECONDED BY T. Advent:

**RESOLVED THAT** the Board direct Administration to continue to participate in discussions about the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA)-EllisDon Community Builders (EDCB) exploratory work, including identifying potential opportunities across the Rainy River District for inclusion within the regional portfolio.

**Carried.**

## 7. Business Arising

### 7.1. Insurance Services – Report included in meeting package

Administration has accepted the proposal from IPE through Westland for the 2025-26 Year.

## 8. Presentation

Lily Clark, of Beam Group, presented the Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan 2026-2030. A copy of the plan is included in the meeting package.

## 9. In Camera

Resolution #61/25 MOVED BY A. Hallikas and SECONDED BY R. Burns:

**RESOLVED THAT** the District of Rainy River Services Board (DRRSB) now meet in-camera to address matters pertaining to:

- Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including DRRSB employees.
- Labour relations or employee negotiations.
- Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before Administrative Tribunals, affecting the DRRSB or a local board.

**Carried.**

Resolution #66/25 MOVED BY T. Advent and SECONDED BY R. Burns:

**RESOLVED THAT** the District of Rainy River Services Board (DRRSB) direct administration to gather information about funding relating to the whole of the district population, including First Nations, to inform planning and decision-making.

**Carried.**

**11. Information items**

- 11.1. 2025-26 MHS4PSP The Rainy River District
- 11.2. 2025-2026 MHS4PSP RRD Schedule
- 11.3. Rainy River – COCHI-OPHI YR7 IP Approval Letter
- 11.4. Communication from EDU re CWELCC
- 11.5. Letter from Minister Parsa PRS
- 11.6. RRDOHT EL Update Nov 2025
- 11.7. Memorandum CUPE National Rep 2025-11-14
- 11.8. Municipal Council Virtual Learning Series

**12. Next Meeting**

The next Regular Board Meeting of the District of Rainy River Services Board will be held in person on December 18, 2025 starting at 10:00 a.m.

**13. Adjournment**

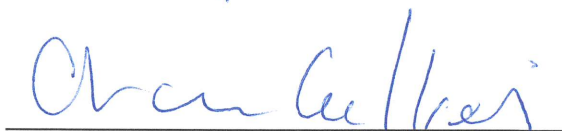
Resolution #65/25 MOVED BY A. Hallikas and SECONDED W. Desserre:

**RESOLVED THAT** the District of Rainy River Services Board (DRRSB) meeting of November 20, 2025 be adjourned at 10:48 am.

**Carried.**

**Meeting adjourned.**

  
CHAIR

  
SECRETARY-TREASURER (CAO)

  
DATE APPROVED