



**MINUTES of the REGULAR MEETING of the BOARD
THURSDAY, July 16, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.
MEETING #06/26**

PRESENT (virtual):	Robert Burns, Rainy River East Lisa Teeple, Township of Emo Robert Ferguson, Town of Atikokan Mike Ford, Township of Alberton
PRESENT (in person):	Wade Desserre, Rainy River West Telford Advent, Township of Morley Debbie Ewald, Town of Rainy River (Chair) Brendan Hyatt, Township of La Vallee Andrew Hallikas, Town of Fort Frances (Vice Chair) Don Canfield, Rainy River Central
REGRETS:	Bill Langner, Township of Dawson
ABSENT:	James Gibson, Township of Chapple Colleen Fadden, Township of Lake of the Woods
ADMINISTRATION:	Charene Gillies, CAO Leanne Gurski, Director of Finance & Infrastructure Faisal Anwar, Director of Community Services Heather Latter, Communications Advisor Michelle Shute, Infrastructure Manager
GUESTS (virtual):	Marie Brady, Save the Green Space at 820 Liam Oliver Neilson, Fort Frances Times

-
- 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**
Bill Langner provided regrets due to technical issues.
 - 4. Approval of Agenda**
Resolution #40/26 MOVED BY B. Hyatt and SECONDED BY D. Canfield:

RESOLVED THAT the District of Rainy River Services Board (DRRSB) approve the agenda of July 16, 2026 as presented.
--

Carried.

5. Delegation

Marie Brady, representing the Save the Green Space at 820 group, presented on residents' concerns regarding the potential development of housing on the 820 Fifth Street East property in Fort Frances and asked the DRRSB to preserve the site as green space and consider alternative locations for any potential development.

Both guests left the meeting at the conclusion of the item.

6. Approval of Minutes

Resolution #41/26 MOVED BY T. Advent and SECONDED BY W. Desserre:

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the District of Rainy River Services Board held Thursday, June 18, 2026 be approved as presented.

Carried.

7. Administration Reports

7.1. CAO Report: Strategic Plan Q2 Update

The Board received a progress update on implementation of the Strategic Plan. The highlights included continued progress in governance modernization, workforce stabilization, leadership development, responsible digital modernization, and exploratory housing work, including efforts to ready the Fifth & Frenette property for housing development and participation in the NOSDA northern housing portfolio-based approach to help enable access to capital funding from other levels of government. The report also emphasized strengthened partnerships with Indigenous organizations, the Kenora District Services Board (KDSB), municipalities, educational institutions, and community agencies to support long-term organizational resilience, service continuity, and community-based solutions.

Board members discussed ongoing recruitment and retention challenges for paramedic services and in the child care programs and noted that incentives such as Northern Living Allowances or Northern Tax Credits have been used in other sectors to attract workers to northern communities. A recommendation was made to bring forward to NOSDA for consideration and potential advocacy for provincial support.

7.2. Infrastructure: Building Condition Audits

The Board received a report on the 2025 Building Condition Assessments, which were completed to provide a clearer understanding of the current condition of most DRRSB-owned buildings and to support long-term capital planning. The report highlighted the significant ongoing investments required to maintain the existing DRRSB infrastructure portfolio and a projected funding gap of approximately \$55 million over twenty years. Michelle Shute, Infrastructure Manager, noted that administration will continue to use the assessment results to inform budget planning, capital prioritization, reserve forecasting, and future discussions regarding building renewal, redevelopment, and/or replacement.

7.3. Finance Reports

The Board received a presentation from the Director of Finance and Infrastructure regarding the Q2 Financial Statements. Due to the recent implementation of the new Finance/HR system and the ongoing development of reporting processes, the financial statements were presented on screen rather than included as hard copies in the Board package. It was noted that finances are currently tracking as expected. The Q2 Investment Report and Q2 Maintenance Report were included in the Board package for information.

8. Committee Reports

8.1. Negotiations Committee

A. Hallikas, Chair of the Negotiations Committee, gave a summary of the most recent meeting held July 8, 2026, noting the committee met to review whether the current Management Agreement should be re-opened before the end of its term. After careful consideration, the Committee is not recommending that the Board consider re-opening the Agreement.

Resolution #42/26 MOVED BY D. Canfield and SECONDED BY T. Advent:

RESOLVED THAT the District of Rainy River Services Board (DRRSB) receive the report of the Negotiations Committee and direct that the current Management Agreement remain in effect with no further action at this time.

Carried.

9. In Camera

Resolution #43/26 MOVED BY B. Hyatt and SECONDED BY W. Desserre:

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

X Positions, plans, procedures, or instructions for negotiations conducted by or on behalf of the DRRSB.

Carried.

10. Business Arising

10.1. TWOMO Election Update

The Returning Officer provided an update on the 2026 TWOMO election process noting that the nomination period remains open and outreach has been undertaken through local newspaper advertisements and direct correspondence to local roads boards. As of the report date, no nominations had been received; Administration will continue to monitor and support the process, with nominations due by August 21, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

10.2. NOSDA Housing Portfolio Project Update

The Board received an update on the NOSDA Housing Portfolio Project including the work completed to advance the Fifth & Frenette property toward redevelopment readiness to position it for housing funding opportunities. Administration noted that the project goal is to support attainable rental housing for moderate-income households and that significant funding contributions from other levels of government would be required for any building of new housing to proceed.

11. New Business

11.1. Infrastructure: Fotheringham Court

The Board received an update on the Fotheringham Court Structural and Sanitary Repairs project, which is intended to address long-standing slab settlement, drainage, and deteriorated sanitary infrastructure concerns affecting the main floor laundry room and public washrooms. Administration requested delegated authority to issue the RFQ in July, review submissions and award the work in August, subject to a suitable bid and available funding, due to the absence of a regularly scheduled August Board meeting. The contract award and project details will be reported back at the next regular Board meeting.

Resolution #44/26 MOVED BY B. Hyatt and SECONDED BY B. Burns:

RESOLVED THAT the District of Rainy River Services Board (DRRSB) authorize Administration to review submissions for the Fotheringham Court Structural and Sanitary Repairs and award the contract to the successful qualified bidder in accordance with the project specifications and available project funding, and further that Administration report the contract award to the Board at its next regular meeting.

Carried.

12. Information Items

- 12.1.** June 19, 2026 Fifth & Frenette Media Release
- 12.2.** NOSDA 2026 Resolutions
- 12.3.** DRRSB Letter CPLTC TPA 26-27
- 12.4.** DRRSB Letter MLITSD re SGEI June 26 2026
- 12.5.** TWOMO Package for Local Roads Boards
- 12.6.** June 30, 2026 DRRSB Bursaries

13. Next Meeting

The next Regular Board Meeting of the District of Rainy River Services Board will be held on Thursday, September 17, 2026.

14. Adjournment

Resolution #45/26 MOVED BY R. Ferguson and SECONDED by L. Teeple:

RESOLVED THAT the District of Rainy River Services Board (DRRSB) meeting be adjourned.

Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.



CHAIR



SECRETARY-TREASURER (CAO)

September 17, 2026

DATE APPROVED