



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

RIONDEL COMMISSION OPEN MEETING AGENDA

7:00 PM

Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote (hybrid model).

Join by Video:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://rdck-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/99365439474?pwd=dt01B7UQVRpVgzCgb2t1woavUKcZ0w.1>

Meeting ID: 993 6543 9474

Passcode: 528084

Dial by your location

- +1 778 907 2071 Canada
- 833 955 1088 Canada Toll-free

In-Person Location: Riondel Community Centre, Commission Office, Room #6
1511 Eastman Avenue, Riondel, BC

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Commissioner G. Panio	Riondel	In-person
Commissioner N. Anderson	Riondel	In-person
Commissioner J. Donald	Riondel	In-person
Commissioner L. Cranna	Riondel	In-person
Commissioner S. Downing	Riondel	In-person
Commissioner M. Stevely	Riondel	In-person
Commissioner S. Horwood	Riondel	In-person
G. Jackman	Director – Electoral Area A	In-person

STAFF

Cheryl Wright	Meeting Coordinator
---------------	---------------------

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Panio called the meeting to order at ____ p.m.

2. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the Indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

The Agenda for the August 5th, 2025, Riondel Commission meeting, be adopted as circulated.

Carried/Defeated/Referred

4. RECEIPT OF MINUTES

The Tuesday, August 5th, 2025, Riondel Commission, minutes have been received.

5. DELEGATE

There are no Delegates scheduled for this Commission meeting.

6. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair will call for questions from the public at _____ p.m.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7.1 Fibre Optics at the Riondel Community Centre

Commission Stevely will provide an overview of the Fibre Optics installation at the Riondel Community Centre with an update to the August meeting presentation.

7.2 Community Centre Renovation meeting with Riondel Community Centre Groups

Chair Panio to update the Commission on this meeting and participants recommendations. The groups reviewed both (1) and (2) in their meeting as well as the long-term planning for the Community Centre options:

- (1) major renovations to the entire building, with a high-cost factor and uncertain funding.
- (2) ongoing maintenance of the building, with small-scale improvements, and with the understanding that at some point need for major repairs or upgrades may mean end-of-life for the current building.

7.3 Riondel Community Centre Sign

Chair Panio to update the Commission on the sign changes.

7.4 Benches for the Riondel Regional Park

Commissioner Anderson to update the Commission on the type of benches recommended.

7.5 Budget Review for July 2025

Chair Panio to update and review with the Commission the July Budget.

7.6 Sound Baffles in the Auditorium

Chair Panio to update the Commission on the new sound baffle's efficiency in the Auditorium.

7.7 Thank You Plaque

Chair Panio to update the Commission on the estimate for a plaque.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Riondel Community Centre Contractor's Quote

Chair Panio to lead the Commission in a discussion regarding the quote for the renovation work at the Riondel Community Centre.

8.2 Role and Responsibility of the Riondel Commission

Chair Panio to lead the Commission in a discussion regarding the roles and responsibilities of the RDCK Riondel Commission.

8.3 Outdoor Carpeting or Turf

Chair Panio to lead the Commission in a discussion regarding the need for outdoor carpeting or turf for the bocce court.

8.4 Tractor and Snow Clearing

Chair Panio to lead the Commission in a discussion regarding the need for winter snow clearing for the Riondel Community Centre.

9. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair will call for questions from the public at _____ p.m.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next Riondel Commission meeting is scheduled for October 7th, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved

The Riondel Commission meeting be adjourned at _____ p.m.

Carried



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

RIONDEL COMMISSION OPEN MEETING MINUTES

7:00 PM

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote (hybrid model).

Join by Video:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://rdck-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/99365439474?pwd=dt01B7UQVRpVgzCgb2t1woavUKcZ0w.1>

Meeting ID: 993 6543 9474

Passcode: 528084

Dial by your location

- +1 778 907 2071 Canada
- 833 955 1088 Canada Toll-free

In-Person Location: Riondel Community Centre, Commission Office, Room #6
1511 Eastman Avenue, Riondel, BC

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Commissioner G. Panio	Riondel	In-person
Commissioner N. Anderson	Riondel	In-person
Commissioner L. Cranna	Riondel	In-person
Commissioner S. Downing	Riondel	In-person
Commissioner S. Horwood	Riondel	In-person
Commissioner M. Stevely	Riondel	In-person
G. Jackman	Director – Electoral Area A	In-person

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Commissioner J. Donald	Riondel	Absent
------------------------	---------	--------

STAFF

Cheryl Wright	Meeting Coordinator
---------------	---------------------

6 out of 7 voting Commission members were present – quorum was met.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Panio called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the Indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

The Agenda for the August 5th, 2025, Riondel Commission meeting, be adopted as circulated with the addition of:

- 8.5 Budget Review
- 8.6 New Auxiliary Maintenance Person
- 8.7 thank you plaque

Carried

4. RECEIPT OF MINUTES

The Tuesday, July 8th, 2025, Riondel Commission, minutes have been received.

5. DELEGATE

5.1 No delegates presented to the Riondel Commission.

6. PUBLIC TIME

No public in attendance.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7.1 Fibre Optics at the Riondel Community Centre

Commissioner M. Stevely provided the Commission with an overview of the Kaslo Fibre Optics installation at the Riondel Community Centre. There will be two links ran into the centre. A storage cabinet will be built to house two fibre modems, one dedicated to the RDCK office and a second for other users. Brandon Turlock will provide an estimate for the installation of cabling and connections in the Centre.

7.2 Review of Structural Assessment for Riondel Community Centre

Chair Panio lead the Commission in a discussion including the review of the long-term plan for the Community Centre with a focus on two (2) options:

- (1) major renovations to the entire building, with a high-cost factor and uncertain funding.
- (2) ongoing maintenance of the building, with small-scale improvements, and with the understanding that at some point need for major repairs or upgrades may mean end-of-life for the current building.

Chair Panio discussed the options with the Commission as well as the option to apply for grants. Applying for grants could take some time and are very uncertain or considering the use of current capital reserve funds for small projects and grants applications for other larger projects.

Commission Members agreed to the suggestion to have a 10:30 am meeting on either Friday, Sept. 12 or Friday, Sept. 19 with representatives from the Riondel Community Centre user groups to see what their preference might be for approaching renovations to the Community Centre. Chair Panio will organize this meeting.

7.3 Waterline work on Ainsworth Avenue (alley)

Chair Panio updated the Commission on the waterline work being completed. Commissioner S. Downing questioned the cost of installation for the provision of water to lots that have trailers on them due to concerns about where the wastewater will end up given the lack of septic tanks. Director Jackman responded that the properties in question have been paying the frontage tax for years which is intended to cover the major infrastructure and provide for water services. Director Jackman also added that if seepage issue/smells are noted the BC Health Authorities Office must be called to report concerns.

7.4 Drainage work on Ainsworth

Chair Panio provided an update to the Commission on the drainage work on Ainsworth Avenue. This work appears to have been delayed. The service was scheduled to start two weeks ago, and a new start date has not been confirmed. Chair Panio will contact Water Operations Manager Alexandra Divlakovski for further information.

7.5 Garden Waste Clean-up

Chair Panio updated the Commission on the garden waste clean-up near the Circle of Friends building, including, completed with the help of the Latter-day Saints Boys Youth Group and community volunteer James Linn. Signage is up stating NO DUMPING. Chair Panio will send a thank you letter to Mr. Linn.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Riondel Community Centre Sign

Chair Panio lead the Commission in a discussion regarding new signage on the Riondel Road South of the Community and new signage for the Riondel Community Centre. The Ministry of Transportation and Transit has said no to the replacement of the current Riondel sign with no further explanation as to why. The next suggestion was for a sign at the Community Centre, funded by “Wayfinding Grant” for community service locations. An example of the sign was shared, and the suggestion was for directional arrows located on either side of the wording.

8.2 Blinds for the Commission Office

Chair Panio discussed the need for blinds in the Commission Office. He reviewed the current estimate for the purchase and instillation of Cellular Blinds from contractor Andrew Caron of The Blindman, Nelson, BC, 250-352-3800 for \$1,600.00 + tax.

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved:

That the Riondel Commission direct Staff to finalize with Andrew Caron of The Blindman Contractor for the purchase and installation of Blinds for the Riondel Community Centre Commission office.

Carried

8.3 Riondel Daze

Chair Panio provided the Commission with an overview of the successful weekend, adding families and individuals enjoyed all the events and activities. Overall Riondel Daze 2025 was a great success.

8.4 New Benches for the Riondel Community Park

Chair Panio lead the Commission in a discussion regarding the need for new benches for the Riondel Regional Park. Maintenance personal had to take a few apart as they were deemed dangerous. Possibly the Men's Shed could consider making some benches for this area. Chair Panio asked Commissioner N. Anderson to inquire about the possibility of this project being undertaken.

8.5 Budget Review

Chari Panio reviewed the following June budget expenditures:

- Drainage budget--\$80,000 for Ainsworth Ave. repair work
- Refuse budget is approximately \$16,000 for the year. This budget has been increased to try to avoid a deficit in operation of the Tip-it Bin service
- Recreation Facility S209--contracting is approximately \$1000 overbudget in the S209 service due to the need of hiring a contractor to clear snow last winter.
- Currently there are no warning signs or red flags on the various budgets for Riondel services.

8.6 New Auxiliary Maintenance Person

A new person has been hired by RDCK for this position. The Riondel Commission was not informed that a job opening had been posted, was not invited to participate in the hiring process, and has not been informed of who has been hired. The lack of communication is of serious concern to the Commission.

8.7 Thank you Plaque

To Columbia Basin Trust for their continuing support of the Riondel Community Centre, Chair Panio to inquire about costs and design to present to the Commission.

9. AREA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Jackman provided the Commission with a verbal update on his research into property percentage increases over the last five years noting:

- Taxes have increased in increments yearly. He discussed a few anomalies he noted over the last 5 years. Taxation for each RDCK service is tracked separately, and some services have seen much higher increases than others over recent years. For example, between 2022 and 2025 the Riondel fire service taxes increased by 17.1% while the Riondel recreation center taxation increased by 44.9%.
- Property taxes do not increase directly due to BC Assessment increases, but BC Assessment numbers are used to determine how taxes for each RDCK service are

allocated to each property within the specific taxation area. Over the period of 2022 through 2025, the assessment for the entire RDCK increased by 44.2%, while the total property tax collected only increased by 31.8%. For Electoral Area A, the total assessment over the same time period increased by 45.1%, while the amount of RDCK taxation increased by 29.3%.

- The BC Assessment numbers are based on the best estimate of actual sale prices (for comparative properties) as of July 1st of the preceding year. Year over year increases in the assessment are also seen through the construction of new homes, renovations/upgrades to existing homes and/or subdivisions. The new construction adds to the total assessment base, offsetting some of the increases that older properties would otherwise need to pick up. At the same time, population growth puts higher demand on some services, increasing the cost of delivering the service over and above inflationary pressures.

Director Jackman suggested a session with interested participants could be arranged to discuss concerns.

10. PUBLIC TIME

No public in attendance.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next Riondel Commission meeting is scheduled for September 2nd, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and seconded,
AND Resolved

The Riondel Commission meeting be adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Carried

Digitally Approved

G. Panio, Chair

Hi Joe and Stuart,

At our most recent Commission meeting, I expressed concerns over a lack of communication in regards to hiring relevant to the Commission. My concerns are expressed below. If I am labouring under some sort of misapprehension, I apologize. But if my understanding is correct, further action would be warranted. Here is my concern:

A while ago, after the hiring of our current Maintenance Person, Keith Light, I believe that I wrote to you expressing my concern that the Commission had been largely excluded from the hiring process. This was a break from previous hiring protocols, where the Commission was involved in much of the hiring process, including interviews with shortlisted applicants. While understanding that final hiring decisions were the prerogative of RDCK staff, the Commission appreciated having a voice in developing job descriptions and in reviewing applicants.

It now appears that communications in regard to hiring are in an even less satisfactory state than that over which I expressed concern. At least in the process leading up to Keith's hiring, we were given the opportunity to post job notices on local bulletin boards and electronic media and to contact local tradespeople who might have been interested in applying.

Last week, however, our Maintenance Person informed me that an Assistant Maintenance person had been hired for the Riondel position. This was the first I had heard of this job opening. The Commission was never informed of the search for a new Assistant Maintenance Person, and there was no chance for any local distribution of a job posting. This surprising lack of communication is both disappointing and counterproductive. We were offered no opportunity to get job postings up locally or otherwise get word out to local people who might not have seen an online RDCK posting. As Chair, I had no opportunity to meet the potential employee with whom I (and other Commissioners) will be expected to work.

I would remind whoever is in charge of hiring protocols that it was the Commission that initially requested the creation of an Assistant Maintenance Person position to provide backup and continuity for our regular Maintenance Person.

Any trend which sees less effective communication between RDCK Human Resources staff and the Riondel Commission is discouraging, to say the least. This runs counter to the positive, strengthened communications now in place between other Creston-based RDCK staff and the Commission. Is there action which can be taken in the future to move towards a return to hiring protocols which were in place when I first began working with the Commission?

Gerald Panio,

Chair, Riondel Commission

Re: Hiring Protocols

External

Inbox

J

Joe Chirico

Tue, Aug 12,
11:25 AM (7
days ago)

to Panio, Stuart, Craig, Stuart, me, Riondel

Commission's are not involved in the hiring of RDCK employees. Now we could have let the Commission know and I believe that this is best practice. Craig, Stuart Durning and I will work on how we ensure that happens next time.

Joe Chirico (He/Him/His) | General Manager of Community Services

Regional District of Central Kootenay

Phone: 250.352.8158 | **Fax:** 250.352.9300

Follow us on [Facebook](#)

rdck.ca