

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

BROADBAND COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, September 19, 2019

PRESENT: Chair Michael Riis-Christianson

Directors Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Rob Newell
Mark Parker

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Other Jerry Petersen, Director, Electoral Area "F" (Vanderhoof Rural)

CALL TO ORDER Chair Riis-Christianson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

AGENDA Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Greenaway

BBC.2019-1-1 "That the Broadband Committee Agenda for September 19, 2019 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes – August 28, 2019 Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Greenaway

BBC.2019-1-2 "That the Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes of August 28, 2019 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

Project Priority Setting

Discussion took place in regard to:

- The RDBN having oversight in developing internet services
- Internet service within the RDBN is key to improving the economy drawing businesses to the region and for individual residents
- Internet Service Providers (ISP's) only providing service to low-risk, high-yield residents and areas
- Developing a pilot project within the region
- Lobbying the Federal and Provincial Government and recommending that grant monies provided are for those areas that are without service and/or inadequate service
- Cost to establish internet service in an area and potential return on investment
- High, medium, and low priority areas
- CRTC grant submissions require applicants to have persons with a minimum of three years of experience

REPORTS (CONT'D)

- Chair Riis-Christianson provided an update from Mayor McGuire, Village of Granisle
 - Projects within the Village of Granisle require no further analysis at this time
- Industry partnerships/stakeholders e.g. Rio Tinto to develop connectivity in areas
 - Director Newell has been in discussions with Kiel Giddens, Public Affairs Manager, TC Energy
- Safety concerns in regard to connectivity during wildfire events
- Download and upload speeds at the RDBN building
- More information being required from the ISP's in regard to plans for service development in the region and potential possibilities
- Investigating South Fort St. James P20.3 and Northwest Fort St. James P20.2
 - Boundaries are arbitrary and consideration can be given to make adjustments
- Director Lambert is attending a meeting this evening at Wisteria and will provide further information in regard to plans for the area
- Terrain in areas such as the Southside of Francois Lake is very rugged and can create connectivity challenges
- Meetings with ISP's
 - Scheduled with Shaw at the 2019 UBCM Convention
 - Staff are working to schedule a meeting with Telus and other ISP's
 - CityWest is scheduled for a future RDBN Board meeting
- Goal of 97% coverage
- Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation and Strathcona Regional District
- District of Elkford's experience
- RDBN priority to find a partner, form an ISP and the entity to apply for grant funding with a determined area
- Involving other stakeholders such as BC Hydro and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Next steps moving forward
 - Meet with ISP's
 - Review areas covered by internet
 - Areas that have service but not meeting CRTC standards for download/upload speeds
- Prioritizing areas with no service, followed by areas with limited service.

Project Priority Setting

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Greenaway

BBC.2019-1-3

"That the Broadband Committee recommend to the Board that connectivity be prioritized to all areas that do not currently have services."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION ITEM

CIRA Speed Test Engagement

Staff have developed plans to promote the CIRA Speed Test Engagement, including the use of Social Media, the Business Forum and Chamber of Commerce memberships. Once data is being collected specific areas that require more information can receive specific focus.

Discussion took place in regard to lobbying the Provincial and Federal Governments in regard to connectivity being an essential service and that local governments are a mechanism for oversight. Information sharing with the public in regard to areas lacking service was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Lambert

BBC.2019-1-4

“That the meeting be adjourned 10:28 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Michael Riis-Christianson, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant