REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, April 14, 2022

PRESENT:	Chair	Michael Riis-Christianson
	Directors	Clint Lambert Chris Newell Mark Parker Gerry Thiessen
	Director Absent	Tom Greenaway, Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)
	Staff	Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer – via Zoom Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development Justin Greer, Economic Development Assistant John Illes, Chief Financial Officer Rowan Nagel, GIS Technician – via Zoom Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
	Others	Mark Fisher, Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural) Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle Annette Morgan, Village of Telkwa – arrived at 9:50 a.m. Bob Motion, District of Fort St. James Jerry Petersen, Electoral Area "F" (Vanderhoof Rural) – arrived at 9:55 a.m.
	Media	Eddie Huband, LD News

CALL TO ORDER   Chair Riis-Christianson called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

AGENDA   Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Parker

BBC.2022-2-1   "That the Connectivity Committee Agenda for April 14, 2022 be approved."

         (All/Directors/Majority)   <u>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</u>

MINUTES

<u>Connectivity Committee Meeting Minutes –February 10, 2022</u>   Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Lambert

BBC.2022-2-2   "That the Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2022 be approved."

         (All/Directors/Majority)   <u>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</u>

REPORTS

<u>Understanding Internet Speed Discrepancies</u>

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Lambert

<u>BBC.2022-2-3</u>

"That the Connectivity Committee receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development's Understanding Internet Speed Discrepancies memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)   <u>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</u>

The following was discussed:
- Internet speed discrepancy information is fragmented
- Updated data will hopefully assist with new grant programs
- Provide more specific information about service
- Mapping served/unserved areas
    o inadequate data to determine service
    o inaccurate mapping still a challenge.

Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development and Rowan Nagel, GIS Technician provided a presentation with the following mapping layers: the federal speed test, provincial pseudo housing and RDBN addressing.

Discussion took place regarding:
- Providing the mapping information to the province
- Advocacy regarding the federal government mapping
- Northshore of Francois Lake and Fort St. James area mapping information
- Province's mapping indicates there are homes in locations that no dwellings exist
- No mechanism to request mapping adjustments to reflect actual on the ground information
- Strategy moving forward regarding wireless and fibre applications when future projects are unknown
- Meeting with CityWest
    o direction moving forward
    o fibre first
    o future proof technology
- Province has indicated that projects that do not receive support from local government will not move forward within the provincial/federal funding partnership announced in March 2022
    o Projects currently approved or conditionally approved retroactive to 2020
    o May change representation of houses served on the mapping
- Accurate mapping is crucial to obtain funding.

<u>Connecting Remote Communities and First Nation Reserves to High-speed Internet</u>

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Parker

<u>BBC.2022-2-4</u>

"That the Connectivity Committee receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development's Connecting Remote Communities and First Nation Reserves to High-speed Internet memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)   <u>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</u>

VERBAL REPORT

Chair Riis-Christianson – Update

- Attended meetings with BC Broadband Association, Regional Connectivity Knowledge Network and the Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Citizens' Services
- Announcement of provincial/federal funding partnership more cohesive approach
- Concerns regarding mapping
- Information is needed regarding projects in the works in order to plan for current and future projects
- Province of BC – Request to Participate (RTP) – Connecting Remote Communities and First Nation Reserves to High-speed Internet a positive step
- Projects will require local government support.

Verbal Report   Moved by Director Parker
                                   Seconded by Director Newell

BBC.2022-2-5   "That the Connectivity Committee receive the verbal report as presented."

                                   (All/Directors/Majority)   CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT   Moved by Director Lambert
                                   Seconded by Director Parker

BBC.2022-2-6   "That the meeting be adjourned at 10:13 a.m."

                                   (All/Directors/Majority)   CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Michael Riis-Christianson, Chair   Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate
                                          Services