

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, February 9, 2023

PRESENT: Chair Michael Riis-Christianson

Directors Clint Lambert
Judy Greenaway
Shirley Moon
Chris Newell
Mark Parker
Stoney Stoltenberg – arrived at 9:30 a.m.

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Rowan Nagel, GIS Technician – via Zoom
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Others Lee Brain, VP- Community & Stakeholder Relations, CityWest
Martin Elphee, District of Fort St. James
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle
Henry Wiebe, Village of Burns Lake
Stefan Woloszyn, Chief Executive Officer, CityWest – via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER Chair Riis-Christianson called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

AGENDA Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.C.2023-1-1 “That the Connectivity Committee Agenda for February 9, 2023 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MINUTES

Connectivity Committee Meeting Minutes –August 11, 2022 Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Newell

C.C. 2023-1-2 “That the Connectivity Committee Meeting Minutes of August 11, 2022 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

DELEGATION

CITYWEST – Stefan Woloszyn, Chief Executive Officer and Lee Brain, VP- Community & Stakeholder Relations RE: Connectivity Projects

Chair Riis-Christianson welcomed Stefan Woloszyn, Chief Executive Officer and Lee Brain, VP- Community & Stakeholder Relations, CityWest.

Mr. Brain introduced himself and provided an overview of his position of VP – Community & Stakeholder Relations.

Mr. Woloszyn provided an update regarding CityWest’s Connecting Coast Project.

- 1200 km of fibre has been laid in the water
- Prince Rupert to Vancouver interchange
 - o Most difficult component of this project connecting northern BC to the rest of the world
- Create redundancy
- Consult and receive approvals from 23 different governing authorities
- Largest subsea project in the world
- Exciting project – benefits of the subsea project for the north.

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- CityWest provides service as far east as Vanderhoof
- Challenges of a smaller Internet Service Provider (ISP)
 - o Wanting to build infrastructure that takes significant time, effort, resources and creates exceptionally long-term solutions as well as allowing communities to not have a digital divide and allows connectivity for decades
 - o Meeting partner communities new project needs in a timely manner
 - o Recognizing ability to meet growth within available capacity
 - o Supply chain issues
 - o Awaiting funding application decisions for up to two years or more
 - Advocacy and utilizing communication and respectful narrative
 - Due to confidentiality constraints unable to share information with partner communities.
- Culturally providing the best level of technology
- CityWest developed construction division in 2021 and completely renovated the division in 2022

Chair Riis-Christianson thanked Messrs. Woloszyn and Brain for attending the meeting.

REPORT

Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development and Rowan Nagel, GIS Technician provided an overview presentation of the Connectivity Mapping showing underserved, unserved areas, proposed project areas, Innovation, Science, Economic Development’s (ISED) National Broadband Internet Service Availability mapping areas.

REPORT (CONT'D)

Connectivity Mapping Review

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.C.2023-1-3

"That the Committee receives the Manger of Regional Economic Development's Connectivity Mapping Review memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Regional Connectivity Knowledge Network

Chair Riis-Christianson provided an update regarding the Regional Connectivity Knowledge Network.

- Forum to teach new local government and First Nations officials about connectivity issues
- Province and the Union of B.C. Municipalities played a key role
- Incredible benefit to expanding connectivity knowledge
- At the last meeting Chair Riis-Christianson brought forward the potential to move the organization towards strategic advocacy efforts
 - Developing a provincial framework that focus' on lobbying for rural connectivity issues
 - Reviewing the Alberta Rural Connectivity Coalition
- Need an organization that represents rural communities at a provincial and federal level.

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Newell

C.C.2023-1-4

"That this meeting be closed to the public pursuant to 90(2)(b) of the Community Charter for the Board to deal with matters relating to the following:

- Electoral Area Specific Connectivity Projects."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Newell

C.C.2023-1-5

"That the meeting be adjourned at 9:41 a.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Michael Riis-Christianson, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director
of Corporate Services