

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday November 7, 2024

PRESENT: Chair Michael Riis-Christianson

Directors Judy Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Shirley Moon
Chris Newell
Mark Parker
Stoney Stoltenberg

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

Others Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle
Kevin Moutray, District of Vanderhoof
Martin Elphee, District of Fort St. James

CALL TO ORDER Chair Riis-Christianson called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

AGENDA Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Parker

C.C.2024-1-1 “That the Connectivity Committee Agenda for November 7, 2024 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Connectivity Committee Meeting Minutes -November 9, 2023 Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Parker

C.C. 2023-3-2 “That the Connectivity Committee Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2023 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Greenaway mentioned that CityWest had indicated they would connect with the District of Fort St. James and herself once the Fort St. James project was publicly released and they continue awaiting follow-up from CityWest.

ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE

RDBN Letter - CRTC
-8000-P114-202404929
-Application to Disclose
Certain Annual Facilities
Survey Data

Moved by Director Stoltenberg
Seconded by Director Newell

C.C.2024-1-3

"That the Committee receive the RDBN Letter to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission -8000-P114-202404929-Application to Disclose Certain Annual Facilities Survey Data."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director Greenaway mentioned that the North Central Local Government Association also provided a letter of support regarding the application.

NEW BUSINESS

Canada's Rural & Remote Broadband Conference (CRRBC) – November 3-5, 2024 - Kelowna B.C.

Chair Riis-Christianson attended the CRRBC and provided a brief update:

- Participated in a panel regarding Amplifying Connectivity Benefits Through Relationships, Creativity and Growth
 - o Discussed lessons learned about relationships
 - Not assuming that telecommunications companies want to have a relationship with you to improve connectivity in a region
 - Encouraged discussions with telecommunication companies in attendance
 - Spoke of the relationship with CityWest
- Speed of technological change
 - o Space a low-cost provider of data
 - Optical transfer between satellite to satellite and satellite to base station
 - Pantera byte speeds rather than gigabyte speeds
 - "Fibre in the sky"
 - Significantly faster
 - Dollars per megabyte are decreasing
 - Requires clear line of sight
 - Impacted by weather
 - o Researching ways to work around weather
 - o Also have high altitude platforms – balloon or plane flying above the weather
- Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite constellations
 - o Federal and provincial governments are helping to fund a Canadian provider to have a constellation to serve Canada – sovereignty
- Chair Riis-Christianson will provide a report in the future.

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Greenaway

C.C.2024-1-4

"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:

- Connectivity Projects."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Lambert

C.C.2024-1-5

"That the meeting be adjourned at 2:45 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Michael Riis-Christianson, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director
of Corporate Services