

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**BROADBAND COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday, August 28, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Chair Michael Riis-Christianson  
Directors Tom Greenaway  
Clint Lambert  
Mark Parker  
Director Rob Newell, Electoral Area "G" (Houston Rural)  
Absent  
Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair Riis-Christianson called the meeting to order at 12:27 p.m.

**AGENDA** Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

**BBC.2019-1-1** "That the Broadband Committee Agenda for August 28, 2019 be approved."

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

**REPORTS**

**Terms of Reference Review** Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Lambert

**BBC.2019-1-2** "That the Broadband Committee adopt the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Broadband and Connectivity Committee Terms of Reference."

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

**Legislation Review *Local Government Act 273 to 275*** Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Parker

**BBC.2019-1-3** "That the Broadband Committee receive the Chief Financial Officer's August 20, 2019 memo titled "Legislation Review *Local Government Act 273 to 275*."

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

Discussion took place in regard to the *Local Government Act Section 274 Exception for assistance under partnering agreements* and the definition of "high-speed internet service". Concerns were brought forward regarding the potential risks of providing high-speed internet service and subscribers purchasing the service.

## **REPORTS (CONT'D)**

### **Important Milestones in Preparing for CRTC Grant Submission**

Moved by Director Parker  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

BBC.2019-1-4

“That the Broadband Committee receive the Chief Financial Officer’s August 20, 2019 memo titled “Important Milestones in Preparing for CRTC Grant Submission.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- Options in preparing for CRTC Grant submission
  - o Determining a business entity
    - Establishing a service – lengthy process
    - RD created corporation – requires consent of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
    - Potential partnerships with a society e.g. Rebroadcast societies – very limited capacity and volunteer organization
  - o Entity applying must have internet expertise
    - RDBN would require a partner
- If moving forward staff will determine best models to bring forward to the RDBN Board for consideration
- Identify and prioritize projects to apply for grant funding
  - o Provide at upcoming Broadband Committee meeting
- The importance of determining risk tolerance
- Future risks with the constant changing of technology
- Cost to subscribers and coverage
- The need to meet and have discussions with ISPs (internet service providers)
- Potential advocacy role with the Federal and Provincial Government
- Is there sufficient backbone infrastructure
- CRT grant requires applicants to own and operate infrastructure
- ISPs may only provide service to low-risk, high-yield opportunities
- 50 megabits per second download and 10 megabits per second upload
- Lobbying to ensure guidelines for funding to be allocated to areas that receive less than the 50 download and 10 upload speeds
- Rural areas participating in the economy require access to adequate high-speed internet as defined by the *Local Government Act*
- High-speed internet is a key factor for retention
- Federal Governments March 2019 announcement of providing everyone in Canada access to high speed internet at minimum speeds of 50/10 Mbps by 2030
- Potential partnership with Regional District of Fraser-Fort George (RDFFG)
  - o RDFFG recently received a positive update from Telus in regard to internet improvements in their region
- Many other agencies require high speed internet such as rural healthcare and education
- Deadlines for grant submissions have not been announced as of yet

## **REPORTS (CONT'D)**

### **Subject Matter Experts and Project Management**

Moved by Director Parker  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

#### **BBC.2019-1-5**

“That the Broadband Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors approve TANex continue on a month to month basis to provide subject matter expertise and project management under the direction of the Broadband Committee at rates presented as outlined in the January 14, 2019 TANex report.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **CIRA Speed Test**

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

#### **BBC.2019-1-6**

“That the Broadband Committee receive the Chief Financial Officer’s August 20, 2019 memo titled “CIRA (Canadian Internet Registration Authority) Speed Test;” and further, that the Broadband Committee recommend that the Board direct staff to secure the CIRA Speed Test platform at a cost of \$3,000 for one year allocated to the Northern Capital Planning Grant Broadband apportionment.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The benefits of the data from the CIRA speed test was discussed along with marketing the tool to RDBN residents.

### **Meeting with Major Internet Providers and Non-Disclosure Agreements**

Moved by Director Parker  
Seconded by Director Lambert

#### **BBC.2019-1-7**

1. “That the Broadband Committee recommend that the Board direct staff to arrange meetings between the Broadband Committee and the major telecoms as well as the local internet providers, and other interested stakeholders, and that where possible, the meetings to be held in Vancouver are arranged during UBCM 2019 week to minimize travel costs; and

2. Further, that the Broadband Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors enter into non-disclosure agreements with telecommunications companies when requested.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Speaking with the Liberal Opposition Critics at the 2019 UBCM Convention was discussed along with meeting with the major telecoms as soon as possible.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Pipeline Legacy Funding for Broadband/Connectivity**

Discussion took place in regard to asking the question of pipeline companies in regard to legacy funding/infrastructure for broadband and connectivity in the region.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Parker

BBC.2019-1-8

“That the meeting be adjourned 1:49 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Michael Riis-Christianson, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant