

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**BROADBAND COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday, January 9, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Chair Michael Riis-Christianson

Directors Tom Greenaway  
Clint Lambert  
Andrea Newell  
Mark Parker  
Gerry Thiessen – arrived at 9:09 a.m., left at 9:46 a.m.

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services  
Nellie Davis, Regional Economic Development Coordinator  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Shane Brienen, District of Houston – arrived at 9:05 a.m., left at 9:43 a.m.  
Falko Kadenbach, Vice President, ABC Communications  
Jerry Petersen, Electoral Area “F” (Vanderhoof Rural) – left at 9:50 a.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Riis-Christianson called the meeting to order 9:00 a.m.

**AGENDA**

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Parker

**BBC.2020-1-1**

“That the Broadband Committee Agenda for January 9, 2020 be approved as amended to include in New Business – Rio Tinto.”

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

**MINUTES**

**Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes – November 21, 2019**

Moved by Director Parker  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

**BBC.2020-1-2**

“That the Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes of November 21, 2019 be approved.”

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

**DELEGATION**

**ABC COMMUNICATIONS – Falko Kadenbach, Vice President RE: Update – Regional LTE Project**

Chair Riis-Christianson welcomed Falko Kadenbach, Vice President ABC Communications.

Mr. Falko provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

**ABC Communications - Update**

- Wireless Coverage
- ABC Wireless Packages
- Challenges for Rural BC
  - o Low Population Density
  - o Remote Locations

## **DELEGATION (CONT'D)**

### **ABC COMMUNICATIONS – Falko Kadenbach, Vice President RE: Update – Regional LTE Project (Cont'd)**

- Lack of Available Backhaul Access
- Same Desire for Bandwidth as Urban Consumers
- Capital Intensive Infrastructure Construction
- LTE as a Solution
  - Huawei
- FTTH (Fibre to the Home) as a Solution
  - Active E and GPON
- Coverage Maps
  - Area C – limited coverage
  - Area D
  - Area E
  - Area F
  - Area G – limited coverage
- Projects in Process
  - Cluculz lake
  - Sinkut mountain
  - Fraser mountain
  - Olson Road – Southside of Francois Lake
- Project funding options
  - Provincial Program
    - NDIIT Connecting BC Program
- Federal Program
  - CRTC Broadband Fund
- Cooperative Strategies – Discussion.

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- Verdun Mountain (TV Whitespace network) – cutting edge technology
  - T.V. Rebroadcasting Societies – RDBN staff identified interest in utilizing infrastructure/services currently in place
- Existing solar sites and the estimated costs of developing further sites
- Challenges in regard to funding criteria
  - Approaching government in regard to funding models that support rural and northern communities
- RDBN Broadband Study
  - Working collaboratively to move initiatives forward
  - Determining creative solutions
  - ABC identifying areas and determining viability to build additional infrastructure
    - Financial feasibility considerations
- Treating fibre backbone as a utility
- Licensed 3.5 ghz spectrum scheduled to become mobile spectrum and reauctioned as part of a 5<sup>th</sup> generation (5G) deployment
- Satellite technology
- RDBN prioritizing projects and ABC's interest in further discussion.

Chair Riis-Christianson thanked Mr. Kadenbach for attending the meeting.

## **REPORT**

### **RDBN Broadband Study**

Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Parker

### **BBC.2020-1-3**

“That the Broadband Committee recommend that the Board prioritize the following projects for 2020 grant applications: Fort St. James Cellular Coverage; Buck Flats Cellular and LTE Coverage; Grassy Plains and Ootsa Lake Cellular and LTE Coverage; Industrial Cellular and LTE Coverage for Clearview Landfill, Pinkut Lake and Taltapin Lake; fibre to the home for Area B/Area E - Highway 35 and Southbank, and east end of Francois Lake.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Discussion took place in regard to including the east end of Francois Lake project for 2020 grant applications.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Invite Rio Tinto to an Upcoming Broadband Committee Meeting**

Moved by Director Parker  
Seconded by Director Lambert

### **BBC.2020-1-4**

“That the Boardband Committee invite Rio Tinto to an upcoming Broadband Committee meeting to discuss cellular coverage on the Southside of Francois Lake.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Parker  
Seconded by Director Lambert

### **BBC.2020-1-5**

“That the meeting be adjourned 10:05 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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Michael Riis-Christianson, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant