

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, June 10, 2021

PRESENT: Chair Michael Riis-Christianson

Directors Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Mark Parker
Gerry Thiessen

Director Absent Chris Newell, Electoral Area "G" (Houston Rural)

Alternate Director Andrea Newell, Electoral Area "G" (Houston Rural) – via Zoom

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Shane Brienen, District of Houston – left at 2:22 p.m.
Mark Fisher, Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural)
Dolores Funk, Village of Burns Lake – left at 2:25 p.m.
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle
Bob Motion, District of Fort St. James
Jerry Petersen, Electoral Area "F" (Vanderhoof Rural)
Sarrah Storey, Village of Fraser Lake

CALL TO ORDER Chair Riis-Christianson called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

AGENDA Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Parker

BBC.2021-3-1 "That the Connectivity Committee Agenda for June 10, 2021 be approved."

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

MINUTES

Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes
–April 8, 2021 Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Greenaway

BBC.2021-3-2 "That the Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2021 be approved."

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

REPORTS

Regional Broadband Infrastructure Service Establishment

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Greenaway

BBC.2021-3-3

“That the Connectivity Committee recommend that the Board approve the Alternative Approval Process (AAP) for elector assent for the Regional Broadband Infrastructure Service Bylaw.”

Further, that the Regional Broadband Infrastructure Service Bylaw be presented to the Board on June 24, 2021 for first and second readings.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Costs to establish and develop the Regional Broadband Infrastructure Service
- A requirement for the establishment of a service is sustainable funding
- A region-wide service establishment bylaw and service establishment bylaws for each electoral area
- Giving first and second reading to the Bylaw at the June 24th Board meeting
- Village of Granisle
 - o Its own Internet Service Provider (ISP)
 - o Participation in the service
- RDBN and CityWest Partnership Agreement.

RDBN Connectivity Strategy Discussion

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Greenaway

BBC.2021-3-4

“That the Connectivity Committee receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development’s RDBN Connectivity Strategy Discussion memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- Priority Projects
 - o Electoral Area “C” (Fort St. James Rural)
 - Roberts Road
 - Airport Road
 - o Staff will follow-up with Director Greenaway to ensure all projects are identified
- Scientific process to determine regional and local priorities
 - o Discuss with CityWest and Tannex the best approach to identify projects
- Need for increased cell service in Electoral Area “E” (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)
- Grant funding applications
- T.V. Rebroadcasting Services
- Developing a flexible strategy moving forward
- Funding alternative considerations
- Utilizing Federal Gas Tax funding

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Alternative Connectivity
Funding

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Lambert

BBC.2021-3-5

“That the Connectivity Committee receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development’s Alternative Connectivity Funding memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding the potential for Local Governments to borrow from MFA or other sources and contribute the funding to a third party (where a partnering agreement exists) for the purpose of financing capital costs for high-speed internet service for areas where high-speed service is not available. Ensuring that funding is returned to the RDBN and the limitations to the RDBN’s borrowing power was also discussed.

Grant Application Advocacy

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Parker

BBC.2021-3-6

“That the Connectivity Committee receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development’s Grant Application Advocacy memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Internet Speed Test Study
Update

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Lambert

BBC.2021-3-7

“That the Connectivity Committee receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development’s Internet Speed Test Study Update memorandum.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Greenaway

BBC.2021-3-8

“That the meeting be adjourned at 2:59 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Michael Riis-Christianson, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant