

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday, February 10, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Chair Michael Riis-Christianson

Directors Tom Greenaway  
Clint Lambert  
Chris Newell  
Mark Parker  
Gerry Thiessen

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

Others Mark Fisher, Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural)  
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle  
Annette Morgan, Village of Telkwa – via Zoom  
Bob Motion, District of Fort St. James – via Zoom  
Jerry Petersen, Electoral Area "F" (Vanderhoof Rural)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Riis-Christianson called the meeting to order at 1:50 p.m.

**AGENDA**

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Parker

BBC.2022-1-1

"That the Connectivity Committee Agenda for February 10, 2022 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MINUTES**

Connectivity Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
–October 7, 2021

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Parker

BBC.2022-1-2

"That the Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2021 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**REPORT**

Prioritization Criteria Metrics

Moved by Director Parker  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

BBC.2022-1-3

"That the Connectivity Committee receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development's Prioritization Criteria Metrics memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **REPORT (CONT'D)**

Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development provided an overview of the Prioritization Criteria Metrics memorandum. The following was discussed:

- Staff developed and tested costing formula
  - o Assist in ranking projects in an area based on lowest cost per home passed
- #2 Population density – terminology
  - o Amend to Density
- Determining a balance of priorities
  - o All priorities may not be equal
  - o In some areas the only access to internet may be satellite
  - o Intention factors considered equally
  - o Prioritization metrics will be determined by each Electoral Area Director
- Prioritization Criteria Metrics a part of the RDBN Connectivity Strategy
- Provides a framework and tool for future Boards
- Design Phase
  - o Staff to reach out for information and collaboration with First Nations partners
- Telecommunication companies speeds are often not the minimally set federal mandate of 50/10 Mbps
- Utilizing different funding for projects
- CityWest
  - o No one left behind model
  - o Ensure lines of communications remain open and RDBN brings forward its priorities.

## **VERBAL UPDATES**

### Chair Riis-Christianson – Update

- Meetings with CityWest – encouraging
- Regional Connectivity Network.

### Verbal Reports

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

### BBC.2022-1-4

“That the Connectivity Committee receive the verbal report as presented.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – Introductory Meeting with Rogers

- Ms. Davis and CAO Helgesen met with three representatives from Rogers
- Preliminary meeting
- Merger with Shaw still moving forward
  - o Federal decision expected March to June, 2022
  - o Included in the merger Rogers committed capital investment to establishing Rural Indigenous Fund
- Investigating areas in western Canada for potential clusters of homes to serve
- Work contingent with merger with Shaw
- Highway of Tears (Highway 16) successful application for 12 towers east of Smithers to Prince Rupert
- Staff provided an overview of RDBN expectations.

**IN-CAMERA MOTION**

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Greenaway

BBC.2022-1-4

“In accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter*, it is the opinion of the Committee that matters pertaining to Section 90(2)(b) – the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party (Connectivity), must be closed to the public, therefore exercise their option of excluding the public for this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Parker

BBC.2022-1-5

“That the meeting be adjourned at 2:20 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

---

Michael Riis-Christianson, Chair

---

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services