

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, October 7, 2021

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
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Others Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle – arrived at 9:26 a.m.
Annette Morgan, Village of Telkwa
Bob Motion, District of Fort St. James – via Zoom
Jerry Petersen, Electoral Area “F” (Vanderhoof Rural) – arrived at 9:45 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Riis-Christianson called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Lambert

BBC.2021-4-1

“That the Connectivity Committee Agenda for October 7, 2021 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes –June 10, 2021

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Greenaway

BBC.2021-4-2

“That the Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2021 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

RDBN Connectivity Funding Strategy Discussion

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Lambert

BBC.2021-4-3

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

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Discussion took place regarding the following:

- CityWest first right of refusal for all proposed transport and last-mile fibre projects
- Finalizing the Partnership Agreement with CityWest
- Pursuing connectivity solutions along Highway 16
- Prioritization strategy
 - o Analytical approach
 - o Decisions require Director's input
 - o Investigating options to bring connectivity to areas where it is identified as cost prohibitive
 - Combining cost prohibitive areas with areas that are more affordable
- Determine costing
- Revenue sources beyond taxation
- Rely on partnerships
- Follow up meeting with the Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Citizens' Services
 - o Indicated favour towards partnerships
- Telecoms plans for the region
 - o Knowing existing infrastructure and proposed infrastructure
 - o Assist in directing project focus and priority
 - o Staff will follow up with grant program providers and Ministry of Citizens' Service to determine post application information availability
- Starlink.

Regional Service Establishment Moved by Director Lambert
Communication Update Seconded by Director Newell

BBC.2021-4-4

"That the Connectivity Committee receive the Manager of Economic Development's Regional Service Establishment Communication Update."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Chair Riis-Christianson spoke of developing communication that, at the discretion of Directors, could be shared and utilized to communicate with area residents recognizing that not everyone has access to web-based communication information.

The following was discussed:

- Communication language
- Methods of communication
 - o Community boards
 - o Newspapers
 - o Other
- Alternative Approval Process (AAP) includes two advertisements in each of the region's newspapers.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Honourable Lisa Beare, Moved by Director Parker
Minister of Citizens' Services Seconded by Director Greenaway
-Response to RDBN Letter Re:
Provincial Funding Timelines for
Applications submitted on behalf
of RDBN by CityWest

BBC.2021-4-5

"That the Connectivity Committee receive the correspondence from the Honourable Lisa, Beare, Minister of Citizens' Services Response to RDBN Letter Re: Provincial Funding Timelines for Applications submitted on behalf of RDBN by CityWest."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Conversation took place regarding:

- Number of areas in the region that fibre and wireless options are not accessible
- Low orbit satellite
 - o Potential to work in partnership with the Province to develop affordable options – rebate programs – to ensure everyone has access to affordable connectivity
 - o Geostationary and low-Earth orbit satellite
- Providing notification to property buyers of connectivity availability.

NEW BUSINESS

Cell Tower Installation at Perow Director Newell requested an update regarding the status of the cell tower installation at Perow (near Houston). Staff will inquire.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Lambert

BBC.2021-4-6

"That the meeting be adjourned at 9:55 a.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Michael Riis-Christianson, Chair

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services