



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

**BROADBAND COMMITTEE
AGENDA
Thursday, September 19, 2019**

PAGE NO.

ACTION

AGENDA- September 19, 2019

Approve

Supplementary Agenda

Receive

MINUTES

2-5

**Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes
- August 28, 2019**

Approve

REPORTS

6

**John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
- Project Priority Setting**

**Recommendation
(Page 6)**

DISCUSSION ITEM

CIRA Speed Test Engagement

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

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.

AGENDAMoved 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

Michael Riis-Christianson, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Broadband Committee – September 19, 2019

To: Chair Riis-Christianson and Committee Members
From: John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Date: September 9, 2019
Re: Project Priority Setting

Overview:

In order to narrow down the scope of any future work and in preparation for the CRTC grant application, the Committee needs to narrow down the number of possible projects.

Discussion:

Tanex has created a series of possible projects based upon the geographic proximity of households. The biggest factor in viability is residential density.

To narrow down the number of projects before further funds are expended on gathering more information about each project, the Committee should prioritize the projects. The projects should be placed into three categories:

1. High (further analysis)
2. Medium (2nd priority for further analysis)
3. Low (no further analysis at this time)

At the next stage, each project that is identified as high will have a detailed cost analysis completed. At that time estimates such as cost per subscriber will be available.

The maps are available under separate cover.

Recommendation:

(All/Directors/Majority)

“That the Broadband Committee recommend to the Board its prioritization of projects.”