

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO



**BROADBAND COMMITTEE
AGENDA
Thursday, October 24, 2019**

PAGE NO.ACTIONAGENDA- October 24, 2019

Approve

Supplementary Agenda

Receive

MINUTES

2-4

Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes
- September 19, 2019

Approve

DELEGATIONCITYWEST

Donovan Dias, Vice President, Sales & Project Management
Bart Kuntz, Vice President, Outside Plant
Mike Pilon, Director of Projects
RE: Current and Future Expansion Plans

CORRESPONDENCE

5

British Columbia Cattlemen's Association
- Request to Improve High-Speed Internet in
Rural Communities

Receive

DISCUSSION ITEM

Fibre Lines – BC Assessment Impact

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDANEW BUSINESSADJOURNMENT

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**BROADBAND COMMITTEE MEETING****Thursday, September 19, 2019**

PRESENT: Chair Michael Riis-Christianson

Directors Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Rob Newell
Mark Parker

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Other Jerry Petersen, Director, Electoral Area "F" (Vanderhoof Rural)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Riis-Christianson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

AGENDAMoved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Greenaway**BBC.2019-1-1**

"That the Broadband Committee Agenda for September 19, 2019 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**MINUTES****Broadband Committee
Meeting Minutes
– August 28, 2019**Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Greenaway**BBC.2019-1-2**

"That the Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes of August 28, 2019 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**REPORTS****Project Priority Setting**

Discussion took place in regard to:

- The RDBN having oversight in developing internet services
- Internet service within the RDBN is key to improving the economy drawing businesses to the region and for individual residents
- Internet Service Providers (ISP's) only providing service to low-risk, high-yield residents and areas
- Developing a pilot project within the region
- Lobbying the Federal and Provincial Government and recommending that grant monies provided are for those areas that are without service and/or inadequate service
- Cost to establish internet service in an area and potential return on investment
- High, medium, and low priority areas
- CRTC grant submissions require applicants to have persons with a minimum of three years of experience

REPORTS (CONT'D)

- Chair Riis-Christianson provided an update from Mayor McGuire, Village of Granisle
 - Projects within the Village of Granisle require no further analysis at this time
- Industry partnerships/stakeholders e.g. Rio Tinto to develop connectivity in areas
 - Director Newell has been in discussions with Kiel Giddens, Public Affairs Manager, TC Energy
- Safety concerns in regard to connectivity during wildfire events
- Download and upload speeds at the RDBN building
- More information being required from the ISP's in regard to plans for service development in the region and potential possibilities
- Investigating South Fort St. James P20.3 and Northwest Fort St. James P20.2
 - Boundaries are arbitrary and consideration can be given to make adjustments
- Director Lambert is attending a meeting this evening at Wisteria and will provide further information in regard to plans for the area
- Terrain in areas such as the Southside of Francois Lake is very rugged and can create connectivity challenges
- Meetings with ISP's
 - Scheduled with Shaw at the 2019 UBCM Convention
 - Staff are working to schedule a meeting with Telus and other ISP's
 - CityWest is scheduled for a future RDBN Board meeting
- Goal of 97% coverage
- Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation and Strathcona Regional District
- District of Elkford's experience
- RDBN priority to find a partner, form an ISP and the entity to apply for grant funding with a determined area
- Involving other stakeholders such as BC Hydro and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Next steps moving forward
 - Meet with ISP's
 - Review areas covered by internet
 - Areas that have service but not meeting CRTC standards for download/upload speeds
- Prioritizing areas with no service, followed by areas with limited service.

Project Priority Setting

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Greenaway

BBC.2019-1-3

"That the Broadband Committee recommend to the Board that connectivity be prioritized to all areas that do not currently have services."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION ITEM

CIRA Speed Test Engagement

Staff have developed plans to promote the CIRA Speed Test Engagement, including the use of Social Media, the Business Forum and Chamber of Commerce memberships. Once data is being collected specific areas that require more information can receive specific focus.

Discussion took place in regard to lobbying the Provincial and Federal Governments in regard to connectivity being an essential service and that local governments are a mechanism for oversight. Information sharing with the public in regard to areas lacking service was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Lambert

BBC.2019-1-4

"That the meeting be adjourned 10:28 a.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Michael Riis-Christianson, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant



BRITISH COLUMBIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Beef Cattle Industry of British Columbia

AGRI CENTRE - #4 - 10145 DALLAS DRIVE, KAMLOOPS, B.C. V2C 6T4 PHONE (250) 573-3611 FAX (250) 573-5155

October 4, 2019

ATTN: Mayor / Regional District Chair

RECEIVED

OCT 10 2019

Our File: 2019-035
SENT BY MAIL

RE: Request to Improve High-Speed Internet in Rural Communities

The BC Cattlemen's Association is a provincial organization comprised of 56 local and regional cattlemen's organizations. We represent almost 1,200 rancher members many of whom operate in rural and remote regions throughout the province.

There have been advancements in technology and society has grown accustomed to having high-speed internet access at their finger tips at all times. Ranchers face a much different reality. Most areas not have high-speed internet, satellite internet is expensive and often the topography in rural areas limits the signal quality. Cell coverage is also intermittent in rural areas.

At the same time, the province is moving toward a paper-less, digital system for authorizations that affect our daily activities for grazing, water licences, woodlots etc. In some cases, the province isn't even creating paper applications, a good example of this is the recent implementation of groundwater licensing requirements. Ranchers cannot be expected to operate in digital world for their daily business, if they are not given the tools to do so.

Rural resident need high-speed internet access.

There are only a few months left in this decade, let's help the agricultural community move out of the 90s and into 2020 with improved access to internet.

The BC Cattlemen's Association asks the regional district to work to improve rural connectivity and immediately apply for a grant from the CRTC Broadband Fund (<https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/internet/internet.htm>).

Best regards,

Larry Garrett,
BCCA President

Note: place on next broadband committee meeting.

cc: Hon. Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture
Arjun Singh, Chair UBCM