



Alaska Statewide Broadband Advisory Board

Alaska Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development

Minutes for Regular Board Meeting- October 16, 2023, at 10:00 AM AKDT.

The Minutes were approved by the SBAB on November 20, 2023.

Attendance

Present:

Members: Glenda Ledford (Chair); Michael Brase; Charles Carpenter; Representative Bryce Edgmon; Anastasia (Ana) Hoffman; Thomas Lochner; Travis Million; Kathleen Moran; Christine O'Connor; Laurel Shoop; Charlene Stern; Mary Swain; and Tara Sweeney (Vice Chair).

Staff Present: Lisa Von Bargen, Deputy Director; and Melissa Kookesh, Tribal Liaison.

Members Absent: Senator Lyman Hoffman and Steve Noonkesser.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

The Deputy Director Von Bargen called the roll, and thirteen members of the board were present. Quorum was met.

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Thomas Lochner to approve the draft agenda as presented. Seconded by Mary Swain. Vote on the motion 13 Yeas, 0 Nays, motion passed.

III. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None.

IV. Approval of Minutes from Prior Meetings

Motion by Ana Hoffman to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of August 21, 2023; the special meeting of August 28, 2023; and the rescheduled regular meeting of September 29, 2023. Seconded by Vice Chair Tara Sweeney. Vote on the motion 13 Yeas, 0 Nays, motion passed.

V. Subcommittee Reports

None.

VI. Staff Reports

1. Digital Equity Plan

Thomas Lochner stated the Draft Digital Equity Plan has been out for review with the departments of the State of Alaska for thirty days. That timeframe has ended and the plan is now back with the Office of Broadband to incorporate those edits. Upon completion it will be provided to the

Department of Commerce and Governor's Office leadership for review. It will then be posted for the 30-day public comment period.

2. Initial Proposal Volume 1

Thomas Lochner stated that Volume 1 has been posted for public comment for the past thirty days. That period ends on Wednesday, October 18th. Any public feedback, and the comments regarding Local, Tribal, and State buildings as Community Anchor Institutions will be incorporated into Volume 1 this week before it is forwarded to the Department of Commerce and Governor's Office leadership for review prior to submittal to NTIA.

3. Initial Proposal Volume 2

Thomas Lochner stated that the Broadband Office staff collaborated with the experienced grant personnel within the Division of Community & Regional Affairs to complete the draft grant program which was submitted this past Friday to the Department of Law for review. Upon completion of the legal review Volume 2 will be sent to Department of Commerce and Governor's Office leadership before being posted for public comment.

4. Tribal Consultation

Melissa Kookesh reported the Alaska Broadband Office will be scheduling Tribal Consultations in the near future to review the grant program. Thomas Lochner reported there will be a reception hosted by the Alaska Telecom Association on October 18th during AFN to provide an opportunity for Tribal entities and ISPs to engage. He reported Melissa Kookesh was responsible for organizing that gathering. Ana Hoffman asked if Thomas would still be presenting on Wednesday and he responded in the affirmative.

Lisa Von Barga asked Chair Ledford if we could formalize December 11th as the date for the in-person meeting in Anchorage. Chair Ledford requested that date be formalized.

VII. Unfinished Business

None.

VIII. New Business

None.

IX. Public Comment

None.

X. Board Member Business from the Floor

None.

XI. Adjournment

Motion by Mary Swain to adjourn. Seconded by Christine O'Connor and approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20am on October 16, 2023. The next meeting is November 20, 2023.