



Alaska Statewide Broadband Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Alaska Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development, Alaska Broadband Office

Minutes for Regular Board Meeting – December 15, 2025, 11:00 AM.

Approved by the Statewide Broadband Advisory Board March 16, 2026.

Attendance

Members Present: Michael Brase, Charles Carpenter, Representative Edgmon, Chair Ledford, Thomas Lochner, Travis Million, Kathleen Moran, Steve Noonkesser, Christine O'Connor, Mary Swain, and Faye Tanner.

Staff Present: Lisa Von Bargen, Deputy Director; Melissa Kookesh, Tribal Liaison; Laura Vaught, Project Coordinator; Sarah Adams, Administrative Specialist; and Jan Cox, DCRA Grants Administrator III.

Members Absent: Ana Hoffman, Senator Hoffman, Kathleen Moran, and Steve Noonkesser. One board position is vacant.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:11am. Deputy Director Von Bargen called the roll, and nine members of the board were present at the time the meeting was called to order. Quorum was met.

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Christine O'Connor to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Travis Million. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

III. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None.

IV. Approval of Minutes from Prior Meetings

a. Rescheduled Regular Meeting of September 5, 2025

Motion by Travis Million to approve the prior meeting minutes, seconded by Thomas Lochner. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

V. Subcommittee Reports

None.

VI. Staff Reports

a. Alaska Broadband Grant Program (Director Lochner)

Director Lochner gave a summary of the status of the Alaska Broadband Grant Program. Director Lochner explained the ABO submitted all documentation associated with the Final Proposal to NTIA on October 16, 2025. The ABO also responded to four subsequent cure requests. NTIA is still in the review and decision-making process.

Concurrent with submission to NTIA, the ABO posted the list of provisionally selected subgrantees.

Director Lochner explained the timeframe for NTIA's approval is unknown, although he provided the approval durations for several other states as examples.

Director Lochner provided an estimated timeline if NTIA approves Alaska's Final Proposal by January 5, 2026. NTIA's approval is followed by review and approval by the National Institute of Standards and

Technology (NIST) which could take up to four weeks, taking the timeline to February 5, 2026. The ABO will then have 30 days to review and approve the NIST documentation, which will include review by the Department of Law and approvals by the DCCED Commissioner and the Governor's Office. This puts the timeline in early March 2026.

The ABO will then have up to six months to enter Grant Agreements with the subawardees, potentially pushing the timeline into spring and summer. As part of the grant application, applicants were required to review and agree use the Draft Grant Agreement. Director Lochner has heard from other state broadband offices that NTIA has required some amendments to grant agreements, so it is possible NTIA will also request changes from Alaska.

Board Member Michael Brase asked if Director Lochner could confirm that the only publicly available information regarding provisionally selected subgrantees is the list posted on the ABO website. Director Lochner responded in the affirmative.

VII. Unfinished Business

None.

VIII. New Business

None.

IX. Public Comment

None.

X. Board Member Business from the Floor

None.

XI. Next Meeting Date

Deputy Director Von Barga explained the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is March 16, 2026, if the Board is comfortable moving from bi-monthly meetings to quarterly meetings, with the understanding special meetings will be called if necessary.

Motion by Thomas Lochner to approve moving to quarterly meetings, seconded by Mary Swain. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Deputy Director Von Barga informed the Board she would be sending out a presentation regarding the Executive Branch Ethics Act to provide a refresher opportunity for the members.

XII. Adjournment

Chair Ledford adjourned the meeting at 11:23am.