



Alaska Statewide Broadband Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

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

Minutes for Regular Board Meeting – March 16, 2026, 11:00 AM.

These draft minutes were prepared by staff and have not yet been approved by the board.

Attendance

Members Present: Michael Brase, Charles Carpenter, Thomas Lochner, Travis Million, Kathleen Moran, Christine O'Connor, Faye Tanner, and Matthew Purdue.

Staff Present: Sara Chambers, Acting Deputy Director; Melissa Kookesh, Permit Facilitator; Laura Vaught, Project Coordinator; and Jan Cox, DCRA Grants Administrator III.

Members Absent: Senator Hoffman, Representative Edgmon, and Mary Swain. Four board positions are vacant.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Since the Chair and Vice Chair positions are currently vacant, Acting Deputy Director Sara Chambers called the meeting to order. Acting Deputy Director Chambers called the meeting to order at 11:02 am and called the roll. Eight members of the board were present at the time the meeting was called to order. Quorum was met.

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Charlie Carpenter to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Kathleen Moran. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

III. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None.

IV. Board Composition

- i. Welcome New Members – Matthew Purdue
- ii. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
 1. Chair – Thomas Lochner nominated Michael Brase for Chair; Christine O'Conner seconded. Michael Brase declined. Christine O'Conner nominated Travis Million, Charlie Carpenter seconded. Travis Million accepted. The motion to elect Travis Million as Chair was approved by unanimous consent.
 2. Vice Chair – Travis Million nominated Christine O'Conner as Vice Chair; Charlie Carpenter seconded. Christine O'Conner accepted. The motion to elect Christine O'Conner as Vice Chair was approved by unanimous consent.

V. Approval of Minutes from Prior Meetings

a. Regular Meeting of December 15, 2025

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

VI. Public Comment

None.

VII. Subcommittee Reports

None.

VIII. Staff Reports

- a. **Staffing Changes (Director Lochner)** – Director Lochner announced that Deputy Director Lisa Von Barga has left the ABO. Sara Chambers is serving as Acting Deputy Director in the interim. She will be helping to manage the SBAB and provide staffing and organizational management.
- b. **Alaska Broadband Grant Program (Director Lochner)** – Director Lochner provided a comprehensive update on the status of the Alaska Broadband Grant Program, including details on awarded funds, pending federal guidance, permitting challenges, and next steps for subgrantee agreements, with questions from Matthew Perdue regarding rural permitting and funding.

IX. Unfinished Business

None.

X. New Business

None.

XI. Board Member Remarks

None.

XII. Next Meeting Dates

- i. June 8, 2026 – Acting Deputy Director Chambers explained the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is June 8, 2026.
- ii. September 14, 2026
- iii. December 14, 2026

XIII. Adjournment

Charlie Carpenter motioned to adjourn; Michael Brase seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:37 am.