



Alaska Statewide Broadband Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

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

Minutes for Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting – September 5, 2025, 10:00 AM.

These minutes were approved by the Board at the Regular Board Meeting on December 15, 2025.

Attendance

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

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: Speaker Edgmon (staff Amory Lelake attended on behalf of), Ana Hoffman, and Senator Hoffman. One board position is vacant.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:07am. Administrative Specialist Sarah Adams called the roll and ten members of the board were present at the time the meeting was called to order. Quorum was met.

II. Approval of Agenda

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

III. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None.

IV. Approval of Minutes from Prior Meetings

a. Regular Meeting June 16, 2025

Motion by Christine O'Connor to approve the prior meeting minutes, seconded by Faye Tanner. 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. The summary included an explanation of the two extensions the ABO received to submit the Final Proposal to NTIA. Director Lochner further explained the ABO is currently working with NTIA to confirm subgrantee selection for grant awards. Director Lochner also explained the ABO will post the Final Proposal for a seven-day public comment period, the start of which is to be determined.

Director Lochner stated that during the application period for the Alaska Broadband Grant Program, NTIA advised the ABO incorrect service-level data had been provided for some Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSL). NTIA provided the ABO with the correct data which resulted in a seven-day extension of the application period for the grant program so applicants could have access to the corrected data and apply it to their applications as necessary.

Director Lochner also stated that during the application review period, the ABO provided applicants with a 36-hour cure period to correct deficiencies.

Public Attendee Stephanie Fan asked if there will be a copy of the draft Final Proposal that will be available during the public comment period. Director Lochner responded in the affirmative and stated that the draft will include the required BSL data spreadsheets and subgrantee selection.

Public Attendee Shawn Williams asked if the extension information is available on the ABO website and Director Lochner responded that the information is not on the website because the information is tentative. Shawn Williams also asked if the incorrect BSL data was identified before or after the application deadline. Director Lochner clarified that the issue was identified and corrected prior to the application deadline and the deadline was extended seven days to accommodate any necessary revisions to applications.

Public Attendee Lewis Schnaper asked if the ABO had provided a seven-day cure period for applicants and the Director corrected that there was thirty-six-hour cure period and that there would be a seven-day public comment period announced soon.

Board Member Michael Brase asked if Director Lochner could articulate what the data change was. Director Lochner stated that due to a revocation of an award through another Federal broadband grant program, several were classified as underserved when they needed to be classified as unserved. There were no changes to the total BSL count – only reclassification of current BSLs.

VII. Unfinished Business

None.

VIII. New Business

None.

IX. Public Comment

None.

X. Board Member Business from the Floor

None.

XI. Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2025.

XII. Adjournment

Motion by Mary Swain to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Charlie Carpenter. Chair Leford adjourned the meeting at 10:23am on September 5, 2025.