



Alaska Statewide Broadband Advisory Board – November 20, 2023

Regular Board Meeting

Alaska Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development

Meeting Details: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 273 013 022 885; Passcode: z7NexK

Call In: 907-202-7104; Phone Conference ID: 921 810 091#

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
- IV. Approval of Minutes from Prior Meetings
 - a. Regular Meeting of October 16, 2023
- V. Subcommittee Reports (None)
- VI. Staff Reports (Verbal Updates at Meeting)
 - a. Administrative Specialist Announcement
 - b. December 11, 2023 In-Person Meeting Update
 - c. Broadband Workforce Development Plan
- VII. Referrals to the Technical Working Group
 - a. Reliable Broadband -- Technology Prioritization
- VIII. Unfinished Business (None)
- IX. New Business
 - a. Discussion Item: 30-Day Comment Period -- Digital Equity Plan
 - b. Discussion Item: 30 Day Comment Period -- Initial Proposal Volume 2
- X. Public Comment
- XI. Board Member Business from the Floor
- XII. Adjournment



Alaska Statewide Broadband Advisory Board Agenda Statement

Meeting Date:	November 20, 2023
Item Number:	IV.a
Item Title:	Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting of October 16, 2023
Submitted By:	Broadband Office Staff
Recommendation:	Approve Minutes from the Regular Meeting of October 16, 2023
Attachments:	1. October 16, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Summary Statement:

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 16, 2023 are attached for review and approval by the Board.



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.

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

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 Barga, 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 Barga 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.



Alaska Statewide Broadband Advisory Board Agenda Statement

Meeting Date:	November 20, 2023
Item Number:	VII.a
Item Title:	Referral to Technical Working Group: Reliable Broadband Technology Prioritization
Submitted By:	Broadband Office Staff
Recommendation:	None. Referral discussion only.
Attachments:	None.

Summary Statement:

Director Lochner will be leading a discussion with the Board about engaging the Technical Working Group to assist in providing a recommendation to the Board, and ABO staff about the prioritization of technologies as it relates to what is considered “reliable broadband.”



Alaska Statewide Broadband Advisory Board Agenda Statement

Meeting Date:	November 20, 2023
Item Number:	IX.a
Item Title:	Discussion Item: 30-Day Comment Period – Digital Equity Plan
Submitted By:	Broadband Office Staff
Recommendation:	None. Referral discussion only.
Attachments:	Link to Draft Digital Equity Plan

Summary Statement:

The draft Digital Equity Plan was posted on November 9th for the required 30-day public comment period. The Board requested the opportunity to review and provide direct feedback on draft plan to the ABO.

The following link provides access to the ABO website homepage where the draft plan is posted.

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/abo/>

The public comment period ends on December 9th. The ABO staff is respectfully requesting feedback from individual board members by that date.



Alaska Statewide Broadband Advisory Board Agenda Statement

Meeting Date:	November 20, 2023
Item Number:	IX.b
Item Title:	Discussion Item: 30-Day Comment Period – Initial Proposal Volume 2
Submitted By:	Broadband Office Staff
Recommendation:	None. Referral discussion only.
Attachments:	Link to Draft Initial Proposal Volume 2

Summary Statement:

The draft Initial Proposal Volume 2 will be posted by the close of business November 17th for the required 30-day public comment period. The Board requested the opportunity to review and provide direct feedback on draft Volume 2 to the ABO.

The following link provides access to the ABO website homepage where the draft Volume 2 will be posted.

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/abo/>

The public comment period ends on December 18th (the 17th is a Sunday). The ABO staff is respectfully requesting feedback from individual board members by that date.