



Alaska Statewide Broadband Advisory Board

Alaska Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development

Minutes for Regular Board Meeting- April 15, 2024, at 10:00 AM AKDT.

Approved by the Statewide Broadband Advisory Board August 19, 2024.

Attendance

Present:

Members: Charles Carpenter; Ana Hoffman; Glenda Ledford (Chair); Thomas Lochner; Kathleen Moran; Christine O'Connor; Mary Swain; and Tara Sweeney (Vice Chair).

Staff Present: Lisa Von Bargaen, Deputy Director; Melissa Kookesh, Tribal Liaison; and Kalyann Himes, Administrative Specialist.

Members Absent: Michael Brase, Representative Bryce Edgmon; Senator Lyman Hoffman; Travis Million; Steve Noonkesser; Laurel Shoop; and Charlene Stern.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:04am.

Deputy Director Von Bargaen called the roll, and eight members of the board were present. Quorum was met.

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Ana Hoffman to approve the draft agenda as presented. Seconded by Mary Swain. Approved by unanimous consent.

III. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None.

IV. Approval of Minutes from Prior Meetings

a. Rescheduled Regular Meeting of February 26, 2024

Motion by Thomas Lochner to approve the minutes from the Rescheduled Regular Meeting of February 26, 2024. Seconded by Mary Swain. With the note that a couple of typographical errors needed to be corrected, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

V. Subcommittee Reports

None.

VI. Staff Reports

a. Program Overview

Thomas Lochner provided a brief program overview summary for the Board.

b. In-State Mapping Challenge Process

Thomas Lochner provided a detailed description of the upcoming In-State Mapping Challenge for the Board.

c. Tribal Consultations

Melissa Kookesh provided a summary of the ABO's Tribal Consultations regarding the In-State Mapping Challenge. The first one in-person was held the week of April 1 during the Infrastructure Symposium in Anchorage. The planned Nome in-person consultation is being rescheduled. April 17th there will be a virtual consultation. The fourth one will take place April 26th in person in Anchorage following the ANVCA/ATAA Annual Meeting.

d. Grant Program

Thomas Lochner advised the Board the Alaska Broadband Office is in the process of responding to the first cure request from NTIA.

e. Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program

Thomas Lochner let the Board know the Alaska Digital Equity Plan was approved by NTIA on March 14, 2024. Lisa Von Barga gave an update on the Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was published by NTIA in late March and applications are due from states on May 28, 2024. The purpose of the Capacity Grant Program is to implement state digital equity plans.

VII. Referrals to the Technical Working Group

None.

VIII. Unfinished Business

None.

IX. New Business

None.

X. Public Comment

None.

XI. Board Member Business from the Floor

None.

XII. Next Meeting Date

Lisa Von Barga asked the Board to approve a special meeting to be held on May 10, 2024 for the Board to address the draft Broadband Workforce Development Plan.

Motion by Tara Sweeney to approve a Special Meeting on May 10, 2024 to address the draft Broadband Workforce Development Plan. Seconded by Laurel Shoop and approved by unanimous consent.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion by Ana Hoffman to adjourn. Seconded by Charlie Carpenter and approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:51am on April 15, 2024.