Technical Working Group of the Alaska Statewide Broadband Advisory Board

Alaska Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Minutes for Regular Meeting - June 7, 2024, at 11:00 AM AKST.
Approved by the Technical Working Group on June 19, 2024.

Attendance

Present:

Members: Tony Dodge, Daniel Kirschbaum, Martin Marshall, Matthew Narus, Christine O'Connor, Matthew Peterson, and Michael Willmon.

Staff Present: Thomas Lochner, Director; Lisa Von Bargen, Deputy Director; and Kalynn Himes, Administrative Specialist.

Members Absent: None.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

As this was the first meeting of the Technical Working Group, Deputy Director Von Bargen called the meeting to order at 11:02am.

Deputy Director Von Bargen called the roll, and seven members of the Technical Working Group were present. Quorum was met.

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Daniel Kirschbaum to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Christine O'Connor. Approved by Unanimous Consent.

III. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None.

IV. Approval of Minutes from Prior Meetings

None.

V. Subcommittee Reports

None.

VI. Staff Reports

None.

VII. Unfinished Business

None.

VIII. New Business

a. Ethics Training

Sara Chambers, Boards and Regulations Advisor, provided a verbal summary of the ethics information provided in the meeting packet, and answered questions from Technical Working Group members.

b. Approval of Rules of Order

Motion by Matthew Peterson to approve the Rules of Order. Seconded by Daniel Kerschbaum. Approved by Unanimous Consent.

Michael Willmon inquired if the Working Group should discuss the Chair position being automatically populated by the Industry Representative position on the Statewide Broadband Advisory Board. There was no further comment by Working Group members.

c. Approval of Prioritization of Non-Fiber Transmission Technologies

Motion by Matthew Peterson to approve the Prioritization of Non-Fiber Transmission Technologies. Seconded by Michael Willmon.

Michael Willmon initiated the discussion bringing up several ways in which the topic could be approached, including the difference between middle mile and last mile deployment needs.

Director Thomas Lochner provided context for the request related to the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program.

The full working group discussed the need to conduct considerable work before recommendations could be made and official action could be taken. There was discussion about the way in which the Working Group would need to meet in publicly noticed meetings to conduct due diligence work. Michael Willmon volunteered to develop a matrix of technologies in preparation for the next meeting.

Michael Willmon moved to postpone action on the item until appropriate due diligence was completed. Matthew Peterson seconded the motion. The roll was called for the vote and the motion passed seven votes in the affirmative.

IX. Public Comment

Shawn Williams from PDI requested a review of the potential conflict of interest by members of the Technical Working Group providing the technology prioritization. Mr. Williams explained it was likely several members of the Technical Working Group would be participating in the development of applications for the upcoming Alaska Broadband Grant Program (using BEAD funds) in which this technology prioritization recommendation may be used.

Sara Chambers, Boards and Regulations Advisor, responded that she would address the issue with the Alaska Department of Law.

X.   Board Member Business from the Floor

None.

XI.   Next Meeting Date

It was determined the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, from 9:30am-11:00am. The Technical Working Group decided to meet every two weeks thereafter on Thursdays at 9:00am.

XII.   Adjournment

Motion by Michael Willmon to adjourn. Seconded by Matthew Peterson and approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13pm on June 7, 2024.