



Alaska Statewide Broadband Advisory Board

Alaska Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development

Minutes for Regular Board Meeting- Mar 22, 2023, at 9:00 AM AKDT

Approved by the SBAB on 05/02/23.

Attendance

Present:

Members: Glenda Ledford, chair; Tara Sweeney, vice-chair; Michael Brase, Charles Carpenter, Bryce Edgmon, Archibald (Stewart) Ferguson, Anastasia (Ana) Hoffman, Thomas Lochner, Travis Million, Kathleen Moran, Steven Noonkesser, Christine O'Connor, Charlene Stern.

Staff: Sara Chambers, DCCED Boards and Regulations Advisor; Eugene Hickey, Senior Assistant Attorney General; Anessa Feero, Administrative Specialist.

Members Absent: Lyman Hoffman, Laurel Shoop.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introductions

The secretary called the roll, and thirteen members were present. Quorum was met.

2. Review/Approve Agenda

Motion by K. Moran to approve the draft agenda as presented. Seconded by T. Sweeney and approved unanimously through a roll-call vote.

3. Review Mission and Purpose of the Board

Director of the Broadband Office (ABO), T. Lochner read out the Mission and Purpose of the Board as defined by Article II in the draft Rules of Order.

4. Administrative Orientation

DCCED Boards and Regulations Advisor, S. Chambers provided a review of the Robert's Rules of Order and presented explanations on items in the draft Rules of Order. The statutory and regulatory requirements of the board were presented.

Motion by T. Sweeney to adopt the draft Rules of Order. Seconded by S. Ferguson.

Motion to amend the current motion by C. O'Connor to amend Article IV in the draft Rules of Order to include the election of a vice-chair and remove language that an acting chair would be selected by majority vote in the absence of a chair. Seconded by S. Noonkesser and approved unanimously.

Motion to amend the current motion by C. Carpenter to amend Article IV in the draft Rules of Order so that if more than one person is nominated for the office of the chair, election occurs by roll call vote instead of a paper ballot. Seconded by S. Noonkesser and approved unanimously.

Motion to adopt the amended Rules of Order is approved unanimously.

Senior Assistant Attorney General, E. Hickey, presented an Ethics Training on when and how board members are expected to disclose potential conflicts according to the State Ethics Act (AS §§39.52.010–965).

5. Report on the Operations of the Alaska Broadband Office

The Director of the ABO, T. Lochner, provided an operations report and an update on federal grant requirements, including the following:

- a. Disbursement Priorities defined by the Broadband Equity Access Deployment Grant (BEAD) created by the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA).
- b. Covered Populations defined by the Digital Equity (DE) grant created by IIJA.
- c. Current Evaluation of Underserved and Unserved Locations in Alaska by ABO.
 - a. Unserved populations can't meet the threshold of 80% of the community having 25 Mbps Download Speed/ 3 Mbps Upload Speed.
 - b. Underserved populations can't meet the threshold of having 80% of the population have 100 Mbps Upload Speed/20 Mbps Download Speed but have above the threshold of unserved.

The board discussed the importance of the definition of high-cost and high-rural areas currently being created by the National Telecom and Information Association (NTIA), and the priority in making sure that definition is advantageous to Alaska. Board members requested a copy of the grant Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and presentation materials.

6. New Business

The board held an election for both the chair and vice-chair.

Motion by T. Million to nominate Glenda Ledford for the chair position. Seconded by C. O'Connor.

Motion by M. Brase to nominate Tara Sweeney for vice-chair position. Seconded by A. Hoffman.

No other nominees were presented, and the motions were approved unanimously through roll call vote.

The meeting was turned over to the chair to preside. The board discussed when and how often to hold regular meetings.

Motion by T. Lochner that the board meet every three weeks for one hour. Seconded by C. O'Connor and approved by unanimously.

7. Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

8. Adjournment

Motion by S. Noonkesser to adjourn. Seconded by A. Hoffman and approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am on March 22, 2023.