



Alaska Statewide Broadband Advisory Board

Alaska Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development

Minutes for Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting- September 29, 2023, at 2:30 PM AKDT.

Approved by the SBAB on October 19, 2023.

Attendance

Present:

Members: Glenda Ledford (chair); Tara Sweeney, vice-chair; Michael Brase; Charles Carpenter; Representative Bryce Edgmon; Anastasia (Ana) Hoffman; Thomas Lochner; Travis Million; Kathleen Moran; Steve Noonkesser; and Laurel Shoop.

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

Members Absent: Senator Lyman Hoffman; Christine O'Connor; Charlene Stern; and Mary Swain.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:31 pm.

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

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion by T. Sweeney to approve the draft agenda as presented. Seconded by A. Hoffman and 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

1. Approval of BEAD Initial Proposal Volume 1

Motion by T. Sweeney to approve the draft agenda as presented. Seconded by A. Hoffman.

Laurel Shoop asked about reconciling actual attachments with those listed in the draft of Volume 1, specifically the.csv files for unserved and underserved locations. Thomas Lochner provided an explanation.

Kathleen Moran asked about how locations in rural Alaska will be identified if they are address dependent because many locations don't have addresses. Thomas Lochner explained an address is only one way in which a location can be identified. Latitude and longitude can be used, along with finding the site on a map.

Tara Sweeney asked about how challengers' personally identifiable information (PII) would be protected, and recommended the portal include the option for challengers to self-identify what they consider to be PII. Thomas Lochner and Lisa Von Barga explained how challenge information will be collected and sent to only the requisite internet service provider, and that all PII will be removed before the challenge is posted on the ABO website.

Michael Brase asked about FCC map versions and expressed concern about Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) that are not identified on the official map. Thomas Lochner explained the difference between map versions. Lisa Von Barga explained that the FCC maps were not intended to identify CAIs, although some may have made it on the map. Michael Brase requested the most current version of the CAI list be distributed to the Board. Mr. Brase asked about the identification of local, Tribal, federal, and state facilities on the CAI list. Thomas Lochner explained the Alaska Broadband Office received guidance from NTIA that local, Tribal, federal, and state offices and facilities are not considered CAIs. Thomas Lochner said the ABO will remove federal facilities but will leave all the others on the list for now. Mr. Brase further commented he had just become aware the Fairbanks school district officials are unaware of the CAI list and the state challenge process and we need to ensure we are communicating with school districts.

Laurel Shoop expressed how critical it is for school districts to be included on the CAI list and to have information about the challenge process.

Tara Sweeney questioned the exclusion of federal, state, local, and Tribal government facilities from the CAI list. Thomas Lochner explained the ABO will still submit at state, local, and Tribal government facilities on the official list submitted to NTIA.

IX. Public Comment

None.

X. Board Member Business from the Floor

Representative Edgmon recommended the Statewide Broadband Advisory Board hold an in-person meeting, in the near future so the group could benefit from face-to-face discussion and a comprehensive update on all aspects of broadband by the ABO. Several members of the Board responded in the affirmative to having an in-person meeting. Chair Ledford requested the staff make the arrangements.

XI. Adjournment

Motion by Thomas Lochner to adjourn. Seconded by Mike Brase and approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10pm on September 29, 2023. The next meeting is October 16, 2023.