



# PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

## BROADBAND INTERNET AND MOBILITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 26, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC

Directors Present: Chair Hiebert, Electoral Area D  
Vice-Chair Rose, Electoral Area E  
Director Dober, City of Dawson Creek  
Director Hansen, City of Fort St. John (via Zoom)  
Director Kealy, Electoral Area B  
Director Quibell, District of Hudson Hope  
Director Sperling, Electoral Area C  
Director Taillefer, District of Taylor (via Zoom)  
Director Veach, Village of Pouce Coupe  
Director Zabinsky, City of Fort St. John (via Zoom)

Directors Absent: Director Courtoreille, District of Chetwynd  
Alternate Director Norbury, District of Tumbler Ridge

Staff Present: Shawn Dahlen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer  
Joanne Caldecott, Deputy Corporate Officer  
Roxanne Shepherd, Chief Financial Officer  
Trevor Ouellette, IT Manager  
Annette Andrews, Communications Manager  
Terri Henrickson, Regional Connectivity Coordinator/Recorder

Others Present: Jeanne Holliss, Executive Director of Connected Communities

---

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chief Administrative Officer called the meeting to order and announced the results of the election for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Broadband and Internet Committee for 2024/25: Director Hiebert was elected as the Chair and Director Quibell was elected as Vice-Chair. The Chief Administrative Officer turned the Chair over to Chair Hiebert.

Chair Hiebert introduced Jeanne Holliss, Executive Director of Connected Communities as the new representative to the Committee from the Ministry of Citizens Services, attending the call via Zoom.

Director Taillefer, District of Taylor joined the meeting at 10:08 a.m.



**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

MOVED Director Rose

SECONDED Director Sperling

That the Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee adopt the January 26, 2024 Meeting Agenda:

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**3. GALLERY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

4.1 July 26, 2023 Draft Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee Meeting Minutes

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**6. DELEGATIONS**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

**8. REPORTS**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**10. CONSENT CALENDAR**

10.1 Connecting Communities BC (CCBC) Funding Program - Third Intake

10.2 NDIT Northeast Projects

10.3 BC Connectivity Report 2022 - Fall 2022

10.4 Northern BC Connectivity Benefits Study - Report 2 Summer 2023

**11. ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

11.1 Terms of Reference

11.2 Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee - Guiding Principles

11.3 Bylaw No. 2487, 2022

**12. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

12.1 Notice of Closed Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee Meeting- January 26, 2024, ADM-BIMC-019

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

**CARRIED**

**3. GALLERY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**4.1 July 26, 2023 Draft Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee Meeting Minutes**

MOVED Director Dober

SECONDED Director Sperling

That the Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee adopt the Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee meeting minutes of July 26, 2023.

**CARRIED**

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**6. DELEGATIONS**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

## 8. REPORTS

### 8.1 Update Connectivity Strategy Report - 2024, ADM-BIMC-021

In response to a question regarding the need a new strategy, the Chief Administration Officer (CAO) explained that an update of the existing strategy is being recommended as the industry situation changes rapidly. The IT Manager further explained that there has been advancement of trunk connectivity in our region, and governmental changes that affect connectivity. There were concerns that the report would be outdated by the time it is completed. Discussion continued and the CAO reminded all about confidentiality.

There was discussion on expanding the motion to include future possibilities as well as deferring until First Nations can communicate with directors regarding connectivity projects in their area. The Corporate Administration Officer reminded the directors and the Chair that deferring would affect budget considerations. Director Quibell stated that the process that would occur during the report making would include communication with the First Nations.

MOVED Director Kealy

SECONDED Director Quibell

That the Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee recommend that the Regional Board authorize staff to initiate a public procurement to source external expertise to collaborate with stakeholders to collect, revise and update data and develop a high-level design for the PRRD 2024 Regional Connectivity Strategy Report.

**CARRIED**

**OPPOSED:** Director Rose, Director Kealy, and Director Veach

### 8.2 Open Access Municipal Networks - Response, ADM-BIMC-020

Director Sperling requested comments from staff regarding what they thought of the information gathered.

The Chief Administration Officer explained that municipalities have more leverage for existing infrastructure than the Peace River Regional District. The IT Manager explained that the Open Access Networks are in competition with the large ISPs who have large cash flow abilities. The open access networks felt good about what they had accomplished, but yearly they must reassess their goals in an ever-changing IT world.

MOVED Director Sperling

SECONDED Director Rose

That the Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee receive the report titled 'Open Access Municipal Networks – Response - ADM-BIMC-020', which summarizes the information received from Coquitlam and Campbell River regarding the operations and governance of their open access municipal networks, for information.

**CARRIED**

**8.3 Function 135 – Regional Connectivity Draft 2024 Budget, ADM-BIMC-018**

MOVED Director Veach

SECONDED Director Sperling

That the Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee recommend that the Regional Board include the draft 2024 budget totaling \$1,454,419 for Function 135 – Regional Connectivity, in the 2024 Financial Plan, with an estimated 2024 tax rate of \$0.0030/\$1,000 for this function, which is an estimated requisition decrease of 74.3%.

**CARRIED**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**10. CONSENT CALENDAR**

MOVED Director Sperling

SECONDED Director Veach

That the Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee receive the January 26, 2024 Consent Calendar for information.

**CARRIED**

Director Dober left the room at 10:37 a.m. and returned at 10:38 a.m.

Director Veach left the room at 10:38 a.m.

**10.2 NDIT Northeast Projects**

Director Sperling lifted Item 10.2 NDIT Northeast Projects from the consent calendar and asked Director Rose to update the committee from the NDIT meeting.

Director Rose spoke about his concern when he reads about the NDIT grant successes, but notices that there is not a complete service provided in the areas needed. He mentioned a lack of planning and backfill in many areas in the PRRD.

Chair Hiebert asked Jeanne Holliss to comment. Jeanne Holliss touched on the Connecting Communities BC (CCBC) Funding Program Third Intake (Item 10.2) in hopes of clarifying the areas of concerns regarding planning and backfill and those households still unreachable. She mentioned the process and the assessments that are done in the different zones to gather information on upscaling and fill needs in the areas to reach more households and fulfill connectivity needs. She invited the committee to invite her Connecting Communities BC team to the next Broadband meeting to discuss further the third intake and where there may still be gaps in service in the areas of concern.

Director Rose mentioned that he understands that some residences have one choice and that is Starlink but feels that this solution is expensive and cannot be expected to be sustained by the residents or be subsidized on a monthly subscription basis. If larger ISPs can provide connectivity in some of these areas, then it should be provided.



**10.2 NDIT Northeast Projects (Cont'd)**

MOVED Director Sperling

SECONDED Director Rose

That the Broadband Internet Mobility Committee request staff to contact Connecting Communities BC (CCBC) and Network BC to present as a delegation at a future Broadband Internet Mobility Committee meeting.

**CARRIED**

**11. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**11.1 Terms of Reference**

**11.2 Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee - Guiding Principles**

**11.3 Bylaw No. 2487, 2022**

**12. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

**12.1 Notice of Closed Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee Meeting – January 26, 2024, ADM-BIMC-019**

MOVED Director Sperling

SECONDED Director Veach

That the Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee recess to a Closed Meeting for the purpose of discussing the following items:

Agenda Item	Description	Authority
3.1	Minutes	CC Section 97(97(1)(b) Closed Minutes, Access to Records.
7.1	Report	CC 90(1)(j) Information Prohibited from Disclosure

**CARRIED**

**RECONVENE**

The Chair reconvened the open portion of the Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee Meeting at 10:49 a.m.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

CERTIFIED a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Broadband Internet and Mobility Committee from a meeting held on January 26, 2024 in the PRRD Board Room, 1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC.

---

Leonard Hiebert, Chair

---

Terri Henrickson, Regional Connectivity  
Coordinator/Recording Clerk