

Northeast Alberta Information HUB Board/Membership Meeting Portage College June 27, 2019, St. Paul, Alberta

Attending: Bob Buckle/Cold Lake, Caroline McAuley/Vermilion, Soren Odegard/County of Two Hills, Loren Tkachuk/Lac La Biche County, Jocelyne Lanovas/Mannville, Mike Tartkowski/Two Hills, Greg Sparklingeyes/Whitefish Lake, Tim MacPhee/Vegreville, Stan Delorme/Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement, Steve Upham/St. Paul County, Dan Hobson/Lloydminster, Bev Lockett/Portage College, Bob Bezpalko/Alberta HUB, Jennifer Leroux/Alberta HUB

Regrets: Lindsay Hagg/EMW

- 1.0 Soren Odegard called the meeting to order at 8:50 pm
- 2.0 Adoption of the Agenda –
Addition 5.0a – July 23rd (Tuesday) meeting with CRTC commissioner Lynda Vennard regarding broadband
Lorin Tkachuk moved adoption of the agenda with the addition of 5.0a. Carried
- 3.0 Adoption of February 25, 2019 Board meeting minutes –
Tim MacPhee moved the approval of the February 25, 2019 Board Meeting minutes. Carried
- 4.0 Bob Bezpalko conducted Elections: Chair/Vice-Chair/Secretary, Treasurer for 2019-20
Soren nominated Steve Upham for Alberta HUB Chair
Tim MacPhee moved nominations cease **Carried**
Steve nominated Caroline McAuley for Vice-Chair
Lorin Tkachuk moved nominations cease **Carried**
Stan nominated Lorin Tkachuk as Secretary Treasurer
Caroline McAuley moved nominations cease **Carried**

2019-20 operating year Executive Committee
Chair - Steve Upham County of St. Paul
Vice Chair – Caroline McAuley Town of Vermilion
Secretary/Treasurer – Lorin Tkachuk Lac La Biche County
- 5.0 **Board Meeting 2018-19 Schedule – For Information purposes**
Quarterly Meetings / 3rd Monday of each scheduled month
September 16, 2019 / November 18, 2019 / January 20, 2020 / March 16, 2020
Please note that dates are subject to change due to conflicts.

5.0a CRTC meeting request – July 23rd (Tuesday)

Bob advised the board that the CRTC has requested a meeting with the Alberta HUB membership.
Excerpt from email:

Dr. Linda Vennard, CRTC Regional Commissioner for Alberta and the Northwest Territories will be travelling in Northern Alberta for the purpose of meeting with representatives of the REDAs to hear of the challenges and opportunities in their areas that are relevant to the work of CRTC. The purpose of this email is to see if you and others are interested in meeting with her on July 23, 2019 when she plans on being in your area. If so, as Executive Director of your REDA would you also extend this invitation to members of the community, industry, government, and First Nations that would like to discuss telecommunications and broadcasting challenges or potential opportunities with Dr. Vennard.

Bob advised that he replied a “tentative” yes subject to board approval. This meeting will provide the members of Alberta HUB an opportunity to detail the challenges we are experiencing due to our broadband capabilities. We lack the infrastructure and capacity to move forward in economic development. This also goes to the lack of choice, affordability and reliability effecting business investment, education, healthcare and emergency services in the Alberta HUB region.

Should the board approve this meeting Bob advised he will reach out to chambers, educational institutions and other organizations to capture the message we want the CRTC to hear. This message will include the challenges and possible solutions to broadband development.

Steve asked the board for any further discussion.....

Tim MacPhee stressed that this meeting have actual “solutions/direction” to help our region address this issue.

Hearing no further discussion Steve Upham moved that Alberta HUB hold a board meeting Tuesday, July 23rd in St. Paul.

Carried

6.0 Alberta HUB CARES application for RABC funding

Bob advised the board that CARES did not open for applications May 1, 2019

This program is under review and may or may not open for applications. This will be Determined in the fall budget.

Bob requested for a motion to move forward with the application should this funding Program open in fall.

Steve asked for any discussion on this matter, hearing none requested a motion

To apply for CARES funding should this program open.

Caroline McAuley moved for Alberta HUB to apply for CARES funding for the RABC program should the CARES program open.

Carried

7.0 GOA funding for the RABC program ends June 30, 2019

Further to agenda item 6.0 Bob advised that the GOA funding will end June 30, 2019 and that Alberta HUB will pick up all costs as of July 1, 2019. This was to cover the time frame between GOA ED&T funding (ending) and the CARES funding to start.

At the February 25, 2019 Alberta HUB board/membership meeting it was determined this program had value and all options for funding to be explored.

Until a decision is made by the GOA concerning the CARES funding Bob asked the board to consider a motion amending the Alberta HUB budget to cover the RABC costs from July 1, 2019 to October 30, 2019. Presently the RABC cost approximately \$7000/month to operate. Bob advised Alberta HUB will be reducing as many expenses as possible by closing the RABC office/incubator and eliminating as many expenses while still having the ability to provide business support services throughout the Alberta HUB region. Lisa and Bob are exploring partnerships with ATB as well as other organizations to provide these services with minimal expenses.

Steve asked for any further discussion, hearing none asked for a motion for Alberta HUB to pay all expenses for the RABC program from July 1, 2019 through to October 31, 2019.

Tim MacPhee moved for Alberta HUB to amend its operating budget to accommodate the additional RABC expenses from July 1, 2019 through to and including October 31, 2019. Carried

8.0 Update on REDA funding – For information purposes

Bob advised that the REDA program funding has entered the final year (2019-20) of the 5-year funding agreement with the GOA. Each year Alberta HUB (All REDAs) receives \$100,000 (for operations) provided we have membership revenue of \$25,000 (minimal).

The REDAs as a collective unit is drafting a letter requesting a meeting with Minister Fir, Economic Development, Trade and Tourism to provide her the details on the work the REDAs have done as well as begin the process for another 5-year agreement.

Bob advised his concerns that the work that Alberta HUB has done in regional collaboration in economic development may not have reached those in the decision-making process.

Soren Odegard spoke to this point stating the discussions he has had confirmed this reality.

Bob Buckle mentioned that the work that Alberta HUB has done should be highlighted separately to the GOA. It was stated that the Alberta HUB elected officials speak to their MLAs/Ministers concerning the work Alberta HUB has done in regional economic development.

9.0 CHTA Letter of Support-

Steve asked for a motion to send the (attached) letter of support from Alberta HUB for the Government of Canada to revise their policy on CBD be sent to MP Shannon Stubbs as well as the list of GOA Ministers/MLAs and MP Yurdiga.

Mike Tartkowski moved that the letter of support from Alberta HUB for the Government of Canada to revise their policy on CBD be sent to MP Shannon Stubbs. Carried

10.0 List of Northeast Alberta Information HUB's authorized signatures

Bob provided a list of signatures that are authorized to sign cheques on behalf of Alberta HUB. These include Soren Odegard, Steve Upham, Caroline McAuley, Bob Bezpalko, Jennifer Leroux. With the changes in the executive committee Steve asked for any discussed on this matter.

It was determined that Soren Odegard be removed and Lorin Tkachuk be added.

Caroline McAuley moved to remove Soren Odegard from the authorized signature list. Carried
Steve Upham moved to add Lorin Tkachuk to the authorized signature list. Carried

Prior to the end of the meeting Stan Delorme expressed his concern that the direction/activities of Alberta HUB is not addressing the economic needs of the Aboriginal communities in the region. Mr. Delorme stated more of a focus on aboriginal requirements for economic sustainability needs to be addressed. Mr. Delorme stated reviewing his community's membership is being considered. Steve thanked Stan for his thoughts and his concerns will be addressed.

Steve adjourned the meeting at 9:15pm

Steve Upham
Chair

Lorin Tkachuk
Sec/Treasurer