



Northeast Alberta Information HUB Board/Membership Meeting Minutes Portage College, St. Paul, Alberta November 18, 2019

- Attending:** Bob Buckle/Cold Lake, Caroline McAuley/Vermilion, Soren Odegard/County of Two Hills, Jocelyne Lanovas/Mannville, Greg Sparklingeyes/Whitefish Lake First Nation, Dan Hobson/Lloydminster, Bev Lockett/Portage College, Lorin Tkachuk/Lac La Biche, Tim MacPhee/Vegreville, Stan Delorme/Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement, Steve Upham/St. Paul County, Jody Quickstad/Mannville, Cheryle Eikland/Marwayne, Terri Hampson/Elk Point, Judy Schuler/Bruderheim, Judy Koschade/Bruderheim, Lonnie Wolgien/County of Vermilion River, Rob Pulyk/Vermilion, Ben Fadeyiw/M.D. Bonnyville, Lorne Halisky/Smoky Lake County, Jana Rowe/Lac La Biche County, Gary Ward/St. Paul, Ross Whitelaw/Smoky Lake, Brian McEvoy/Bonnyville, Heather Perryman/Kitscoty, Laurant Amyotte/County of St. Paul, Jody Fowls/Lamont, James Kowal/Mundare, Michelle Wright/Smoky Lake Region, Ed Sosnowski/Myrnam, Willie Babiuk/Two Hills, Gerren Saskiw/Two Hills, Leonard Ewanishen/Two Hills, Bob Bezpalko/Alberta HUB, Jennifer Leroux/Alberta HUB
- Regrets:** Lindsay Haag/EMW, Mike Tartkowski/Two Hills
John Andersen/Thorhild County, Diane Jenkinson/M.D. Bonnyville

Steve Upham called the meeting to order at 10:15am

Steve welcomed everyone for attending and acknowledged that today's meeting is taking place on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of The Metis People. In the spirit of reconciliation, we recognize the traditional Indigenous territories within which our communities and the Alberta HUB region is located.

Roundtable introductions took place

- 1.0 Adoption of the Agenda – Steve asked for a review of the agenda and a motion for approval.....
Caroline McAuley moved adoption of the agenda. Carried
- 2.0 Adoption of July 23, 2019 Board/Membership meeting minutes – Steve asked for a motion to approve the minutes of June 27, 2019.....
Tim MacPhee moved the approval of the July 23, 2019 Board Meeting minutes. Carried
- 3.0 Steve asked Jennifer Leroux to present the Financial report as of October 31, 2019
Steve asked if there was any discussion or questions concerning the financial report.
Hearing no further discussion Steve asked for a motion to approve.
Caroline McAuley moved the approval of the October 31 ,2019 financial report as presented. Carried



4.0 Alberta HUB operations as of April 1, 2020 – Steve Upham

Core Funding – Government of Alberta EDT&T

Steve advised the membership that the GOA has not decided if they will fund Alberta HUB (REDA Program) and that all indications a decision will take place in spring.

Steve advised that Minister Fir is planning to meet with the 9 REDA chairs prior to Christmas.

A roundtable discussion took place.....

Lorin Halisky (Smoky Lake County) suggested that each member send in a letter to the Minister of EDT&T stating the value of Alberta HUB and the need for the GOA to continue to fund our regional economic development alliance.

It was suggested that a letter be written detailing the outcomes Alberta HUB has delivered to the membership and each member sign it.

It was also mentioned that any member can still send a letter to the Minister should it so choose. Hearing no further discussion.....

Steve Upham moved that Alberta HUB create a letter detailing the valuable work Alberta HUB has delivered to its members and all members sign it.

This letter would be sent to Minister Fir.

Carried

It was noted that this letter will be copied to the 5 MLAs representing the Alberta HUB region.

4.0a Alberta HUB to fund/replace 100k

Bob spoke to the financial status of Alberta HUB which is strong and that should EDT&T not provide funding as of April 1, 2020 that Alberta HUB can continue operations delivering value to its members.

Bob provided a copy of the draft business plan strategy (2020-21) detailing planned activities under the Investment Attraction/Expansion/Retention, Business Support/Entrepreneurship and Regional/Community Capacity Building.

Specific industry sectors identified were AT&D UAV, Agriculture (Hemp/valu – ad/Plastics)
Tourism and Energy (oil/gas)

Bob then provided 3 draft budget scenarios detailing resource funding and expenses for the membership to review. Once the GOA (EDT&T) decides if they will fund Alberta HUB (REDA Program) the Alberta HUB membership will then determine the budget moving into the operating year beginning April 1, 2020.

Bob spoke to the CARES funding options (in 2 of the budget scenarios) that can assist in delivering outcomes for each member.

Option 1 Alberta HUB applies for CARES funding providing 50% matching dollars for a 2 year Project beginning April 1, 2020 ending March 31, 2022

Option 2 Should an Aboriginal community member be the lead applicant applying for CARES on behalf of Alberta HUB matching dollars are reduced to 25% matching dollars.

Stan Delorme, chairman of Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement asked Bob to attend their council meeting on November 19, 2019 to present to council to discuss this opportunity.

Bob will attend.



Bob will move forward with a 2-year CARES application based on the options provided.

To Start : April 1, 2020 To End March 31, 2022

The matching funds will depend on the Lead applicant.....

Aboriginal community (as lead) 25% matching / Alberta HUB (as lead) 50% matching

Total amount \$200,000 with Alberta HUB matching either \$100,000 or \$50,000

Project will focus on investment in Tourism/Agriculture (hemp/valu-add/AT&D UAV).

Once the details are confirmed the final application will be brought to the membership/board
For approval.

Please note that this application can be withdrawn at any time.

5.0 **RABC update – Steve Upham/ Bob Bezpalko**

Due to the uncertainty of GOA funding the RABC “paused” operations as of October 31,2019.

Bob advised the membership that Lisa Ford has been very dedicated to the RABC and the
Members of Alberta HUB in providing business support services.

Due to the uncertainty of funding Lisa decided to accept the manager’s position for Community
Futures for Bonnyville/Cold Lake.

With regret Bob advised the membership/board that the RABC program has ended as the CF offices
throughout the Alberta HUB region do a great job in offering these services.

6.0 **Membership Update – Bob Bezpalko**

Bob advised the membership that in the current fiscal environment his intent is to attract
additional members in the business and industry categories.

Bob advised that he met with McsNet and invited them to join as a business member.

7.0 **Eastern Alberta Trade Corridor – update Bob Bezpalko**

Alberta HUB and PEP continue to support this initiative leveraging dollars and resources
highlighting investment in the corridor/Alberta HUB.

8.0 EATC will be attending the CHTA conference November 26 to 28th and providing investment Information to 400 delegates. Lorin Tkachuk and Bob Bezpalko will be attending on behalf of Alberta HUB.

Planning continues for the Local to Global forum.

9.0 **Broadband Update – Bob Bezpalko**

Bob spoke to the fact communities are receiving letters from Service Alberta asking about
Broadband projects (on-going/planned) and who their contact is. Some Alberta HUB communities
Have advised Service Alberta that I am (Alberta HUB) is their contact.



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LUNCH Steve paused the meeting for lunch.



1pm Steve called the meeting back to order.

Broadband Presentation: Regional Approach

Steve introduced Brian Krest and Keith Ponton from the IBI Group a global engineering Company with offices in Edmonton and Fort McMurray.

- IBI has an extensive Understanding of Municipal Broadband Strategies and Networks
- Global and Local Experts in Municipal Broadband and Intelligent Communities

Brian and Keith spoke to the need of broadband in economic development. IBI was involved in The SWIFT project in Ontario where 18 counties worked together in addressing their broadband issues. Other examples that were highlighted: Canmore, High River, St. Albert.

Keith/Brian spoke to the steps needed to address the broadband issue from a regional perspective and how it leverages resources.

Steve thanked Brian and Steve for their presentation.

**The next Alberta HUB meeting is scheduled for Monday March 16,2020 .
Please note a February meeting may be called depending on the release of the GOA budget
or information concerning REDA funding for 2020.**

Steve adjourned the meeting at 1:45pm

Steve Upham
Chair

Lorin Tkachuk
Sec/Treasurer