

Rural Broadband Advisory Committee

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 22, 2021
Time: 6:30 pm
Location: Electronic meeting live streamed at:
<https://video.isilive.ca/tecumseh/live.html>.

Present: Councillor, Brian Houston
Councillor, Tania Jobin
Mayor, Gary McNamara
Member, Nicole Colenutt
Member, Aldo DiNardo
Member, Darrin Drouillard
Member, Dan Grosu

Also Present: Director Information & Communication Services, Shaun Fuerth
Manager Committee & Community Services, Christina Hebert

A. Roll Call

B. Call to Order

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

C. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There is no pecuniary interest declared by the Members.

D. Delegations

1. Dan Circelli, President & CEO Connecting Windsor-Essex

Re: Connecting Windsor-Essex Initiatives

Mr. Dan Circelli, President & CEO of Connecting Windsor-Essex (CWE), provides an overview of CWE, key initiatives driving community impact and considerations for accessing underserved areas of the municipality. He explains what constitutes an 'intelligent community' under six (6) key indicators: broadband, knowledge workforce, innovation, digital equality, sustainability and advocacy and outlines the indicators CWE is actively engaged in within the community.

As part of their mandate, CWE is continually examining ways to access underserved rural areas and is starting the process of testing Starlink Satellite Services to share their knowledge of the quality and capability of

the service. Testing will be in various areas in the region, over a twelve-month period.

Mr. Circelli highlights the importance of security and privacy which is equal to connectivity - what we connect, we must protect. CWE will continue to build a knowledge centre that will help to share valuable processes and best practices.

In response to a Member's query, Mr. Circelli explains how CWE can help to address areas where significantly underserved, including starting with speed tests and assisting to facilitate discussions with ISPs to re-engage on ways they can expand their footprint to the underserved areas.

The Mayor, and Chair of SWIFT, apprises the Western Ontario Wardens Caucus and SWIFT sent correspondence to the Ministry seeking release of the maps of the fifteen counties identified under the first phase of the provincial investment.

Mr. Circelli reiterates advocating for the internet exchange point is imperative.

It is noted ISPs are having difficulty sourcing fiber, as well contractors are experiencing workforce shortages creating further challenges.

Mr. Circelli vacates the meeting at 7:34 pm.

E. Communications

1. Rural Broadband Advisory Committee Minutes

July 14, 2021

Motion: RBAC - 6/21

Moved By Tania Jobin

Seconded By Dan Grosu

That the July 14, 2021 minutes of the Rural Broadband Advisory Committee as were duplicated and delivered to the members, **be adopted.**

Carried

F. Reports

1. Director Information & Communication Services Briefing Note, dated September 14, 2021

Re: CIRA Speed Test Campaign

The Director Information & Communication Services provides a status update respecting the CIRA Speed Test Campaign. Following the campaign launch in early July, the portal has received approximately 400

data points throughout the Town. Promotional postcards are being mailed to encourage residents to partake in the speed test, together with sharing on the Town's website and social media channels. CIRA will continue to analyze data received and report observations back to the Committee following the campaign.

In response to an inquiry, the Director Information & Communication Services confirms once raw data is analyzed, will be able to discount any outliers and create a refined map for Town purposes.

Motion: RBAC - 7/21

Moved By Gary McNamara

Seconded By Dan Grosu

That the Briefing Note, dated September 14, 2021, regarding the CIRA Speed Test Campaign, **be received**.

Carried

2. Director Information & Communication Services, Briefing Note, dated September 14, 2021

Re: Hydro One Communication Tower - North Talbot Road Lakeshore

The Director Information & Communication Services reviews the briefing note regarding the Hydro One Communication Town and apprises the Town has made contact with Hydro One staff to discuss the possibility of leasing part of this tower for point to point wireless communication. Administration will continue to work with representatives from Hydro One to explore possible lease agreements with local Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

Further to Members' queries, the Director Information & Communication Services confirms the Town does have point to point communications in the south end of the municipality which is maintained by the Town, however do have areas where upgraded infrastructure is needed and a lease arrangement for use of the tower would be beneficial.

Member Darrin Drouillard notes a tower analysis and wind loading analysis on any equipment added to the tower would need to be undertaken.

Preliminary discussions with Hydro One indicate possibility of interested ISP providing backbone point to point connection and/or wireless connectivity.

The Mayor will contact SWIFT to inquire about temporary solutions, as well as to determine the meaning of 'underserved' and potential implications for RBAC's initiatives.

Motion: RBAC - 8/21

Moved By Tania Jobin

Seconded By Darrin Drouillard

That the Briefing Note, dated September 14, 2021, regarding the Hydro One Communication Tower - North Talbot Road Lakeshore, **be received**.

Carried

G. Unfinished Business

None.

H. New Business

1. Action Plan

In response to a Member's inquiry, the Mayor apprises announcements regarding broadband advancements will be forthcoming.

The Members discuss the goal of the Committee in creating short and long term action plans and importance of devising same.

The Director Information & Communication Services has compiled RBAC action plan examples from area municipalities for reference in drafting short and long term action plans. He reviews the action items discussed this evening for tracking on the RBAC Unfinished Business List.

The Committee concurs exploring a municipally-owned utility is premature at this stage.

I. Next Meeting

The next Rural Broadband Advisory Committee meeting will be held electronically on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

J. Adjournment

Motion: RBAC - 9/21

Moved By Dan Grosu

Seconded By Darrin Drouillard

That there being no further business, the Wednesday, September 22, 2021 meeting of the Rural Broadband Advisory Committee **be adjourned** at 8:28 pm.

Carried

Councillor Brian Houston, Chair

Councillor Tania Jobin, Vice-Chair