

Rural Broadband Advisory Committee

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Time: 6:30 pm

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

Absent: Member, Aldo DiNardo

Also Present: Chief Administrative Officer, Margaret Misek-Evans
Director Technology & Client 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 a Member.

D. Delegations

1. David Hartleib, MNSi Outside Plant Manager

Re: New Service Area in Tecumseh

Messrs. David Hartleib and Justin Greer of MNSi provide an overview of MNSi services, including introduction of fiber optic services which started approximately twelve years ago. A map highlighting the current project underway to service areas in the Oldcastle Hamlet is provided. The project route is anticipated to take six months to complete. Notification was provided to affected property owners.

Mr. Hartleib advises access to rural areas with low population density can get costly, which is also dependent on the method needed to access the route. A business decision could be undertaken if identify areas in need within the municipality.

Discussion ensues regarding using the speed test campaign to help build out and pin point defined areas in need of servicing.

The delegation vacated the meeting at 6:54 pm.

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

Re: Connecting Windsor-Essex Updates

Mr. Dan Circelli, President & CEO of Connecting Windsor-Essex (CWE), provides an update to his previous presentation to the Committee regarding CWE.

He reviews 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 reminds participating in testing of Starlink Satellite Services to share their knowledge of the quality and capability of the service.

CWE will be releasing a request for proposal later this year as several contracts will be expiring in early 2023, including public sector facilities that provide services to date.

In response to a Member's query, Mr. Circelli explains the premium and flat rate Starlink fees.

It is noted public/private engagement is not unheard of to help bring service to an area.

Mr. Circelli vacates the meeting at 7:14 pm.

E. Communications

1. Rural Broadband Advisory Committee Minutes

December 8, 2021

Motion: RBAC - 1/22

Moved By Tania Jobin

Seconded By Gary McNamara

That the December 8, 2021 minutes of the Rural Broadband Advisory Committee as were duplicated and delivered to the members, **be adopted.**

Carried

F. Reports

None.

G. Unfinished Business

1. March 9, 2022

2. Director Technology & Client Services Briefing Note, dated March 9, 2022

Re: Tecumseh Rural Broadband Advisory Committee (TRBAC) March 2022

The Director Technology & Client Services reviews the briefing note and following Unfinished Business matters:

Speed Test

- A final campaign reminder will be provided to residents to conduct speed tests and clearly define areas in need

Hydro One Tower Site

- As discussed previously, subsequent meetings have taken place to start the dialogue between the necessary parties to explore opportunities for 50/10 wireless connectivity

Short / Long Term Action Plan

- Informal action plan noted in Unfinished Business and will continue to develop

Interim Report

- An update report on the Committee's initiatives to-date will be presented at the April 26, 2022 Regular Council Meeting

H. New Business

The Building Broadband Faster Act

The Members are apprised of the recently enacted Building Broadband Faster Act, 2021 (Act), which gives authority to the Minister of Infrastructure to reduce barriers to the deployment of broadband-related infrastructure and subsequent amendments. Under the Act, timelines are now being established and the Minister may impose administrative penalties for non-compliance or contravention of the Act and its regulations.

I. Next Meeting

J. Adjournment

Motion: RBAC - 02/22

Moved By Dan Grosu

Seconded By Darrin Drouillard

That there being no further business, the Wednesday, March 9, 2022 meeting of the Rural Broadband Advisory Committee **be adjourned** at 7:31 pm.

Carried

Councillor Brian Houston, Chair

Councillor Tania Jobin, Vice-Chair