APPROVED MINUTES | January 10, 2019

Meeting Title | WV Broadband Enhancement Council | Time | 10:00 a.m.
---|---|---|---
Chairperson | Robert Hinton | Location | Capitol Complex, Bldg. 3, First Floor
Conference | 304.957.6999 / ID: 935-9172# | Attendance | P = Present; TC = Teleconference; VC = Videoconference; _ = Absent

**Council Member** | **Representing** | **Council Member** | **Representing**
---|---|---|---
P | Robert Hinton, Chairman Rural Business User Congressional Dist. 2 | C. Edward Gaunch | WV Dept. of Commerce, Cabinet Secretary
TC | Robert Morris, Vice Chairman Urban Residential User | Jeff Proctor | Representing Secretary Gaunch
TC | Michael J. Holstine Secretary-Treasurer Rural Business User Congressional Dist. 3 | The Honorable Robert Plymale | WV Senate (D) (Ex-Officio/Advisory Member)
P | Robert Cole Rural Residential User Congressional Dist. 1 | The Honorable Craig Blair | WV Senate (R) (Ex-Officio/Advisory Member)
P | R.A. “Pete” Hobbs Rural Residential User Congressional Dist. 3 | The Honorable Daniel Linville | WV House (R) (Ex-Officio/Advisory Member)
P | Dr. Steven L. Paine Dept. of Education, State Superintendent | The Honorable Kenneth Hicks | WV House (D) (Ex-Officio/Advisory Member)
P | Brenda Morris Representing Dr. Paine | Ric Cavender | Urban Business User
P | Joshua D. Spence WV Office of Technology, Chief Technology Officer | John Reasbeck | Rural Business User Congressional Dist. 1
P | James Dixon Representing Joshua Spence | Vacancy: Business User Large Amounts of Broadband
— | Matt Turner Higher Education Policy Comm., Exec. Vice Chancellor | Vacancy: Rural Residential User Congressional Dist. 2
TC | Dr. Mary Stewart Representing Matt Turner | — |

Representative | Agency | Representative | Agency
---|---|---|---
— | Mitch Blake Director, WV Geological and Economic Survey | Tony Simental | WV GES, Office of GIS Coordination
— | Peter Markham Bowles Rice Legal Counsel | Kelli Talbott | WV Attorney General’s Office Legal Counsel
P | Alexandra Shulz Bowles Rice Legal Counsel | Wes White | WV Development Office Legal Counsel
P | Tony O’Leary WV Development Office Project Manager | Kelly Workman | WV Development Office Development Manager

**Agenda Item** | **Minutes**
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1. Call to Order, Opening Remarks; Roll Call | Chair Rob Hinton called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.
2. Approval of 12/13/2018 Council Meeting Minutes. Financial Statement review | Mr. Pete Hobbs moved that the December 2018 meeting minutes be approved, Bob Cole second, motion approved unanimously. There were no questions or comments regarding the financial statement, and they were accepted for audit.
3. USDA ReConnect Program | Chair Hinton reviewed the January 9 ReConnect workshop, describing how attendees learned more about the $600 million ReConnect program which is allocating grants, loans and a combination of both for broadband development in underserved and unserved areas. The workshop also detailed the program's eligibility requirements, deadlines and scoring criteria. The workshop also included a mapping presentation by State GIS Coordinator Tony Simental. Chair Hinton said some questions remain unanswered as federal representatives were not able to answer them due to the ongoing federal government shutdown.
Chair Hinton said workshop materials would be posted on the Council website and future workshops sponsored by the Council and Department of Commerce would be scheduled. Chair Hinton said the Council has set a goal of seeing 20 funding proposals be submitted to this funding program.

Alexandra Shulz of Bowles Rice reviewed a memo she was to provide to the Legislature on behalf of the Council that addressed Dig Once legislation and policy. The memo was written based primarily on feedback from a Council Infrastructure meeting with stakeholders, providers and those affected by Dig Once legislation. Ms. Shultz said several inefficiencies have emerged with the legislation. One suggestion includes the elimination of the Class II legal newspaper advertisement requirement of providers. Ms. Shulz said this provision causes up to a 6-week delay for carriers to begin buildout projects and the current requirement to electronically notify the Broadband Council, its carrier list and the state Division of Highway should be sufficient. Ms. Shulz said another recommendation in that distinctions should be made between rural and urban buildout projects.

After brief discussion among attendees, Chair Hinton requested that the memo of recommendations be finalized and then sent to the Council’s Legislature representatives for review for the 2019 Session.

Ms. Kelly Workman with the Development Office gave a synopsis of a Council Request for Comment letter submitted to the National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) regarding alternative methods to current broadband mapping conducted on the federal level. Ms. Workman said West Virginia’s current active mapping has led to an invitation from NTIA to participate in a pilot project to identify alternative ways to broadband mapping on a national scale with several other states. Ms. Workman said an MOU with NTIA would have to be approved by Council and there would be some costs to participate but the benefits would outweigh such costs. Ms. Workman was directed to prepare specifics to present to the Council at the February meeting.

Chair Hinton said the State Resiliency Office - Infrastructure and Transportation Committee, has requested that the Council be a participant on this committee. Chair Hinton appointed Ms. Workman to represent the Council.

Chair Hinton said the Council would be represented at:
1. GIS Day at the Capitol on January 16
2. Broadband Day at the Legislature on January 23
3. West Virginia Economic Development Council on January 22-23
4. West Virginia Association of Counties on February 11

Council member and WVOT CTO and Council member Josh Spence also announced Cyber Security Day at the Legislature for February 1.

No public comments

February 14, 2019; 10:00 a.m.; Building 3, First Floor Conf. Room 124

Meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Assigned To</th>
<th>Month Identified</th>
<th>Target Completion Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Legal and Cooperative Toolkit and Training</td>
<td>Workman, O’Leary, Generation WV, WVU Law</td>
<td>June 2017</td>
<td>ARC grant funds pending</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Broadband Hub-Initial data requests</td>
<td>Simental, Workman</td>
<td>November 2018</td>
<td>December 2018</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Website Updates-Speed test survey updates, links to WVDOH Dig Once list,</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>December 2018</td>
<td>January-March 2019</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Resource Center updates; map updates</td>
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