



WEST VIRGINIA BROADBAND ENHANCEMENT COUNCIL

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 Gauch	WV Dept. of Commerce, Cabinet Secretary
TC	Robert Morris, Vice Chairman	Urban Residential User	P	Jeff Proctor	Representing Secretary Gauch
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)
-	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	TC	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	P	Tony Simental	WV GES, Office of GIS Coordination
-	Peter Markham	Bowles Rice Legal Counsel	P	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	P	Kelly Workman	WV Development Office Development Manager

Agenda Item	Minutes
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.
4. Legislative Session	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
5. NTIA Comment on Broadband Availability Data; Updates to National Broadband Availability Map	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.
6. State Resiliency Office: Infrastructure and Transportation Committee	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.
7. Related Events:	<p>Chair Hinton said the Council would be represented at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>Council member and WVOT CTO and Council member Josh Spence also announced Cyber Security Day at the Legislature for February 1.</p>
5. Public Comments	No public comments
6. Next Meeting Date	February 14, 2019; 10:00 a.m.; Building 3, First Floor Conf. Room 124
7. Adjournment	Meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Action Items

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