



WEST VIRGINIA BROADBAND ENHANCEMENT COUNCIL

APPROVED MINUTES | February 21, 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	P	C. Edward Gaunch	WV Dept. of Commerce, Cabinet Secretary
P	Robert Morris, Vice Chairman	Urban Residential User	P	Jeff Proctor	Representing Secretary Gaunch
-	Michael J. Holstine Secretary-Treasurer	Rural Business User Congressional Dist. 3	-	The Honorable Robert Plymale	WV Senate (D) (Ex-Officio/Advisory Member)
TC	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)
	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, WVGES	P	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	P	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	Details/Minutes
1. Call to Order, Opening Remarks; Roll Call	Chair Robert Hinton called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
2. Approval of 1/10/2019 Council Meeting Minutes and Financial Statement	Jeff Proctor motioned to approve the December minutes; Pete Hobbs second; motion carried unanimously. There were no questions or comments regarding the financial statement and they were accepted for audit.
3. USDA ReConnect Program	Chair Hinton gave an overview of the Feb. 20 ReConnect workshop held in Buckhannon which the Council partnered with the USDA and Department of Commerce. He said approximately 50 persons attended in person and about 14 participated by webinar. Chair Hinton said the material was as thorough as it could be at this time and there is still a lot of information to come out in the coming weeks for this pilot broadband grant and loan program. Robert Morris said the workshop went well but the technical questions that communities need answered are still being finalized by USDA.

<p>4. Legislative Session-Update</p>	<p>Chair Hinton spoke to four broadband-related bills still alive in the state Legislature. Senate Bill 3 – the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act was in House committee; Senate Bill 270 – streamlining the process for utility access to DOH ROWs was passed out of Senate and set to be passed out of the House and onto the Governor’s Office for signature; Senate Bill 390 – requiring electric utilities to submit feasibility studies to the Legislature to explore middle-mile projects was in House committee; House Bill 2005 – known as Broadband 3.0 – deals with valuation for wireless technology property, PSC jurisdiction over pole-ready access, and small wireless facilities deployment, was in Senate Committee.</p>
<p>5. Broadband Mapping Initiative of 2019 Summary Attached</p>	<p>Chair Hinton recalled how on Feb. 12 the federal National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) announced a broadband mapping pilot project to be done in conjunction with eight states that includes West Virginia, noting how the initiative could lead to some corrective measures that will allow for better broadband mapping in the future.</p> <p>Kelly Workman with the Development Office addressed what is being asked by NTIA for this partnership and how it relates to a joint effort between the Development Office and the state Geological and Economic Service (WVGES) office to focus diligently on broadband mapping throughout the coming year. This is to allow broadband project teams to identify and obtain all-needed relevant information from one source at the Broadband Council website.</p> <p>Ms. Workman presented an outline of costs and expectations NTIA is requesting of participating states. NTIA officials requests that states’ investments be comparable to NTIA’s investment. Chair Hinton asked the Council to approve the budget as presented with NTIA as presented knowing it will need to be re-evaluated throughout the life of the project. Mr. Proctor motioned that the Council enter into a broadband mapping agreement with NTIA. Mr. Hobbs second the motion and it passed unanimously.</p> <p>Ms. Workman added that another component of this broadband mapping initiative, via an Appalachian Regional Commission grant, is to put a working model in place in specific to 10 counties that allows the Council website to serve as a data hub for these counties to access for broadband and economic development. Ms. Workman added that this initiative would be expanded in time to serve the state Commerce agencies and all counties in identifying and marketing sites for development. This would also be in partnership with WVGES.</p> <p>State GIS Coordinator Tony Simental gave a demonstration of what the mapping initiative with its updated and additional layers would look like on the Council website and what additional information will be obtained and available for further broadband development. The page is expected to go live in the next few months.</p> <p>In a related matter, after discussing the need for additional Broadband Council staff, Robert Cole made a motion that Council staff investigate and present at the March Council meeting the most efficient way to add a GIS person to Council staff to be in Charleston to assist with the discussed mapping initiatives. Mr. Proctor second the motion and it passed unanimously.</p>
<p>6. Broadband Plan Update</p>	<p>There was discussion about updating the 2014-2019 Five-Year Broadband Plan. Ms. Workman said this will done in conjunction with the Council’s technical consultant, Tilson Technology. The new 5-year plan will go into effect by 2020. Ms. Workman said a proposal of the scope and budget of the 2020 plan will be provided in the March meeting.</p>

7. State Resiliency Office	Ms. Workman represents the Council to the State Resiliency Office's Infrastructure and Transportation sector. This sector had its first meeting January 25 and Ms. Workman noted the group is laying the groundwork to its function and its recognition of the importance of broadband.			
8. Related Events:	Chair Hinton spoke of several upcoming events of interest. They included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARC POWER Grant Workshop on March 6 in Morgantown; • The USDA Community Connect grants program is open from Feb. 12-April 15, 2019 • The first deadline for the USDA ReConnect grant and loan program is May 31, 2019. 			
1. Public Comments	Mark DeBruyn asked a question about funding requirements among the various federal programs for broadband development. Ms. Workman was able to answer his question.			
2. Next Meeting Date	March 14, 2019; 10:00 a.m.; Building 3, First Floor Conf. Room 124			
3. Adjournment	Meeting was adjourned at 11:24 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; submitted for review.
2.	Broadband Hub-Initial data requests from providers	Simental, Workman	November 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

Attendees on the Sign In sheet

Jody Ogle
James Ridgeway
Bob McCoy
Kristen Harrison
David Neal
Mark DeBruyn
Oval Barr
Mark Canterbury
Marlene Hackett
Ron Pearson
Charlie Dennie

Chris Campbell - Teleconference