



# WEST VIRGINIA BROADBAND ENHANCEMENT COUNCIL

## APPROVED MINUTES | June 13, 2019

<b>Meeting Title</b>	WV Broadband Enhancement Council		<b>Time</b>	10:00 a.m.	
<b>Chairperson</b>	Robert Hinton		<b>Location</b>	Capitol Complex, Bldg. 3, First Floor	
<b>Attendance</b>	P-Present; TC-Teleconference; A-Absent				
	<b>Council Member</b>	<b>Representing</b>		<b>Council Member</b>	<b>Representing</b>
P	Robert Hinton, Chairman	Rural Business User Congressional Dist. 2	-	C. Edward Gauch	WV Dept. of Commerce, Cabinet Secretary
P	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	P	The Honorable Robert Plymale	WV Senate (D) (Ex-Officio/Advisory Member)
P	Robert Cole	Rural Residential User Congressional Dist. 1	TC	The Honorable Danielle Linville	WV House (R) (Ex-Officio/Advisory Member)
P	R.A. "Pete" Hobbs	Rural Residential User Congressional Dist. 3	-	The Honorable Craig Blair	WV Senate (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	-	Ric Cavender	Urban Business User
P	Joshua D. Spence	WV Office of Technology, Chief Technology Officer	-	John Reasbeck	Rural Business User Congressional Dist. 1
-	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	
-	Dr. Mary Stewart	Representing Matt Turner	-		
	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Agency</b>		<b>Representative</b>	<b>Agency</b>
-	Mitch Blake	Director, WVGES	P	Tony Simental	WV GES, Office of GIS Coordination
P	Chris Campbell	Tilson Technology	-	Kelli Talbott	WV Attorney General's Office Legal Counsel
-	Peter Markham	Bowles Rice Legal Counsel	-	Wes White	WV Development Office Legal Counsel
P	Alexandra Shulz	Bowles Rice Legal Counsel	P	Kelly Workman	WV Development Office Development Manager
	Tony O'Leary	WV Development Office Project Manager	P	Arianna Whitehair	WV Development Office Intern
<b>Agenda Item</b>		<b>Details/Minutes</b>			
1. Call to Order, Opening Remarks; Roll Call		Chair Robert Hinton called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.			
2. Approval of 5/9/2019 Council Meeting Minutes and Financial Statement		Robert Morris moved that the May 2019 meeting minutes be approved as presented; Jeff Proctor second; motion passed unanimously. Chair Hinton said the Financial Statement has been accepted and will be submitted for audit			
3. USDA ReConnect Review and Update		<p>Chair Hinton noted that several state applications were submitted to the program but have not received an official confirmation from USDA. He said for the first round nationwide, 78 applications requesting approximately \$500 million in funding were submitted.</p> <p>Chair Hinton recommended that the Council compile findings from this first round of applications, create a list of items that can be addressed in conjunction</p>			

	<p>with federal representatives, and advocate with USDA RUS to make changes that may restrict applications.</p> <p>Mr. Proctor added that his application experience working with the Fayette County Urban Renewal Authority was that it difficult to navigate the process itself, particularly when addressing the financial questions.</p> <p>Mr. Morris said he found that the amount of mapping needed required for projects for non-contiguous project areas was not user friendly or manageable, as the project he was working with would have needed 1,100-plus maps. He and Mr. Proctor both complimented the Region 4 Planning and Development Council, and all PDCs, for the efforts in assisting with the application process.</p>
4. WV PSC Pole Attachment Rulemaking Order, June 4, 2019	<p>Mr. James Kelsh with the Bowles Rice law firm gave an overview of the WV PSC pole attachment rulemaking order. Mr. Kelsh said the order is a result of Senate Bill 3 passed during the 2019 Regular Legislative Session which provides authority to the WV Public Service Commission to jurisdiction over pole attachments. He said the PSC is taking public comments on its order until July 5 and he would submit comments by the Council to the WVPSC.</p> <p>After discussion, the Council voted unanimously on a motion by Mr. Morris and second by Mr. Proctor to appoint Chair Hinton to work with Mr. Kelsh in drafting the Council's comments to the PSC. The comments would be reviewed and approved by the Council as a whole prior to July 5 by teleconference call.</p>
5. Utility Feasibility Studies	<p>Mr. Frank Blake, Project Engineer with the American Electric Power company provided a summary of his company's plan to study the use of utility infrastructure to expand broadband in rural, unserved areas of the state per Senate Bill 3 which directed power companies to conduct a Utility Feasibility Study by the end of the 2019 calendar year.</p> <p>Mr. Blake said the company project team would address three primary questions: Is it in the public and company's interest to use utility distribution infrastructure to expand middle mile capacity; to then lease that middle mile capacity to last-mile providers; and finally would it be feasible from a cost, technology and practical and regulatory perspective to do so.</p> <p>Mr. Blake said AEP welcomes any feedback from the Broadband Council to make its study more comprehensive, adding his team has gathered a lot of useful information already posted on the Council website. Mr. Blake said he will report back to the Council at future meetings with updates.</p>
6. State Broadband Plan/Review of 2019 FCC Broadband Deployment Report	<p>Mr. Chris Campbell with Tilson Technology Management, Inc. provided the Council updates to the ongoing drafting of the state's 2020 Five Year State Broadband Plan. Mr. Campbell said data has been collected from FCC Form 477 reports; the 2019 FCC Broadband Deployment Report and the American Community Survey (ACS) report.</p> <p>He presented key findings to the Council, utilizing maps and offered where the work will continue in conjunction with the Council's State Broadband Plan steering committee. The presentation noted that West Virginia ranks low by various reports areas that are served by broadband-level service and by those who adopt broadband service.</p>
7. Public Comments	No public comments were made
8. Next Meeting Date	July 11, 2019; 10:00 a.m.; Building 3, First Floor Conf. Room 124
9. Adjournment	Chair Hinton adjourned the meeting at 11:33 a.m.

<b>Action Items</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Assigned To</b>	<b>Month Identified</b>	<b>Target Completion Date</b>
1.	Legal and Cooperative Toolkit and Training	WVU Law	June 2017	ARC grant funds approved
2.	Broadband Hub ARC Broadband Hub/Mapping Project	Simental, Workman	November 2018	Meetings May-June-July
3.	Website Updates-Speed test survey updates, map updates	Commerce	December 2018	Portions Complete; Survey modifications pending
4.	NTIA/National Broadband Map Improvements			5/10/2019 Initial Data Reviews
5.	FY 2018 CDBG Broadband Project Implementation Meetings			June-August 2019
6.	Guide to Broadband Development			September 2019
7.	Release of FY 2019 CDBG and ARC Applications			CDBG May 2019 ARC-June 2019
8.	2020-2025 State Broadband Plan			December 2019