

WV Broadband Enhancement Council Meeting Agenda / Minutes



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| Meeting Title | WV Broadband Enhancement Council Meeting | | |
| Chairperson | Robert Hinton | | |
| Date | January 12, 2017 | Location | WV Capitol Complex Building 6, 6 th Floor, Conf. Rm. A |
| Time | 9:00 am | | |
| Audio connection | 304.957.6999 Conf. ID: 515-1283 | | |

| | Council Member | Representing | | Council Member | Representing |
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| P | Robert Hinton, Chairman | Rural Business User Congressional Dist. 2 | - | J. Keith Burdette | Dept. of Commerce, Cabinet Secretary |
| P | Robert Morris, Vice Chairman | Urban Residential User | P | Gale Given | Office of Technology, Chief Technology Officer |
| TC | Alissa Novoselick, Secretary/Treasure | Urban Business User | - | Michael J. Martirano | Dept. of Education, State Superintendent |
| TC | Robert Cole | Rural Residential User Congressional Dist. 1 | - | Matt Turner | Higher Education Policy Comm., Exec. Vice Chancellor |
| - | Michael Shaffer | Rural Residential User Congressional Dist. 2 | - | Vacant | WV Senate (Dem. Party) (ex-officio/non-voting member) |
| P | R.A. "Pete" Hobbs | Rural Residential User Congressional Dist. 3 | - | Vacant | WV Senate (Rep. Party) (ex-officio/non-voting member) |
| P | John Reasback | Rural Business User Congressional Dist. 1 | - | Vacant | WV House (Dem. Party) (ex-officio/non-voting member) |
| P | Michael J. Holstine | Rural Business User Congressional Dist. 3 | - | Vacant | WV House (Rep. Party) (ex-officio/non-voting member) |
| - | Brittany Carnes | Business User of Large Amounts of Broadband | P | Josh Jarrell | Representing J. Keith Burdette |
| - | | | P | Dr. Jack Smith | Representing Matt Turner |

P = Present; TC = Teleconference; VC = Videoconference; _ = Absent

Agenda (Topics and Minutes)

| Topic | Details/Minutes |
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| Opening Remarks | – |
| Minutes from the December 8, 2016, 2016 Meeting | The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hinton and it was determined that a quorum was present. Mr. Hobbs moved for the approval of the December 8, 2016, meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Morris. The minutes were approved as presented. |
| Financial Report | Alissa Novoselick gave a financial report. She received a financial report and had questions concerning an expense from the old Broadband Council. She requested itemized expenses which was provided. The balance available is \$1,437,765.10. The expenses to date, which include the Ookla data, is \$41,876.57. Governor Tomblin’s proposed budget would give the Council authority to spend \$1.8 million for broadband. |
| Discussion on Gig-Ready | <p>The draft for Gig-Ready had been provided to the members and suggestions and comments were received. It was revised accordingly. The Chairman stated that “Gig-ready” does not recognize that many entities are using much higher bandwidth than one Gig. The intention is to raise awareness that infrastructure deployments need to be targeted for at least one Gig going forward.</p> <p>It was noted that the Government section will list agencies that have pledged support. Questions as to whether the Council was going to request specific commitments from agencies. Chairman noted that the three numbered items in the draft are the limit of the commitment in this document but it will help guide policy going forward. It is a first step that gets everyone on the same page and for their commitment to work together.</p> <p>It was asked how the Council plans to gather Demand Feedback as indicated in the document. This is intended to give providers an indication of demand in an area but is not a commitment.</p> <p>Information on a new HUD requirement for broadband deployment in new low income building had been provided to Council members. This requirement is for inside wire capable of 20/4 transmission.</p> <p>A representative from EDA participating by phone suggested it would be good to provide EDA and other federal partners with the ultimate list of agencies who have pledged support and to educate federal partners on the Council’s efforts. With assistance of Congressional leaders they can work to educate the newly appointed federal agents of the importance of broadband. The Gig-ready campaign would be beneficial for attracting more investors and making people aware of broadband. Chairman Hinton wants to move Gig-ready forward. Motion by Mr. Hobbs, seconded by Mr. Morris to move the campaign forward.</p> |
| Discussion on Ookla Data | The Attorney General’s Office approved the license agreement. The Department of Commerce is hopeful that will be able to purchase the data next week. |

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| <p>Discussion on the upcoming Provider Day</p> | <p>On February 9th the Council will meet at the Technology Park for a full day of provider presentations. This will start at 9:00 am. There are ten confirmed presenters out of twenty invited. They have not heard from any of the Whitespace providers. They will contact Hallie Mason and try to get presenters.</p> <p>The confirmed presenters are Cambium Networks, Shentel, Micrologic, Inc., WVDA.net, Stratuswave, Verizon, NexGen Broadband, Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks, and Armstrong. They have calls out to Zayo and Atlantic Broadband. They believe there will be twelve or thirteen presenters. They will each be given 25 to 30 minutes. Refreshments can be ordered from the facility. This will be open to the public.</p> <p>The providers who have not committed to coming are Israeli TVWhitespace, Birch Communications, Blue Devil Cable, NexGen Broadband, Zito Media, HughesNet, QCOL, Prodigy, and AT&T.</p> <p>It was requested that Alpha be added to the list to contact.</p> |
| <p>Discussion on upcoming broadband workshop</p> | <p>The workshop will be held on January 31st. Fifty people have signed up to attend thus far. It will also be held at Tech Park. It will run from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. All of the State's Planning and Economic Development Councils have received notice. The Agenda is as follows:</p> <p>10:00 Welcome remarks videos by Senator Manchin and Senator Capito.</p> <p>10:00 – 12:00 Education portion. This will breakdown broadband and how it works. Starting at the basics, reality internet hub is not in WV, private/public partnerships, financing and funding.</p> <p>Working Lunch</p> <p>Ryan Palmer with the FCC has been invited as a speaker – not confirmed</p> <p>Funding with Federal partners. (ARC Commission, USDA, USEDA)</p> <p>Connected Nation on helping with securing funding and federal assistance.</p> <p>Someone will speak on a grant project in Region 7, details of the grant and what they have learned on the project thus far.</p> <p>Open to Audience for questions and comments.</p> <p>It was noted that the Council is not endorsing any one firm over another for community broadband projects. WV does not have the resources to help with planning and they need to fill that gap. Communities will select the firms they want to help secure the funding. The Council just needs to provide all the tools and give guidance to help communities. The Council should establish a model on how to go after broadband to help the communities.</p> |

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| Discussion on Website Update | The Council member have visited the test website and provided input and suggestions. The site can be named WVBroadband.gov if the Council wants to use a .gov address. The cost for the name is \$400.00 a year. The Department of Commerce will manage the site. Lengthy discussion on what the site should be named and whether it should be .gov, .org or .com. The initial site was just a repository to put documents in and the council needs to advise what the site should contain. A questionnaire will be prepared and sent out to the members to get their input on their vision of the site and its purpose. |
| Transition Team Meeting | <p>Chairman Hinton advised that he attended the Governor-elect's transition team meeting on December 15th. There were approximately 30 individuals on the Infrastructure Committee and broadband came up more often than other infrastructure subjects. A breakout meeting was held afterwards. Transition members attending that were Kyle Schaeffer, Mark Polan, Cathy Cosco, WVU and MU. One thing that was discussed was creating an Executive Cabinet Position to focus on broadband. Chairman Hinton feels this would make the message that goes outside of WV more positive and having someone in that position would be a plus. New legislation was also discussed to give a tax credit and loans to providers who go into areas for middle mile and last mile.</p> <p>They discussed Small City Block Grants be authorized to be used for broadband. This would help for matching against other grants with little investment on the State's side.</p> <p>The Chairman has had no feedback since the meeting but did receive a draft report. This will be provided to the members.</p> |
| Miscellaneous | Alissa Novoselick has resigned the Council effective January 31 st to take a position in Michigan. Discussion on member replacements and whether the current members will remain on the Council after the new Administration come in. This is unknown as they are Will and Pleasure members with no set terms. |
| Discussion on Provider Presentations | Public Speaker Jason Keeling, a Public Relations Specialist, suggested not using .gov as you may not want to brand the Council as a government body. He suggested WVWired and use a .com or .org and it would cost much less. He stated he owned that web designation and would be willing to give it to the Council. He also suggested the Council look at social media as a way of getting information to the public. |
| Public Comments | No public comments. |
| Adjournment | Meeting adjourned at 10:15a.m. |