



WEST VIRGINIA BROADBAND ENHANCEMENT COUNCIL

APPROVED MINUTES/February 13, 2025

Meeting Title	WV Broadband Enhancement Council	Time	10:00 a.m.
Chairman	William D. 'Bill' Bissett, Chair	Location	Online Meeting

<https://docs.google.com/forms/register>
Call information available upon registration.

Register for public comment. Hold comments until public comment portion of agenda.

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

	Member	Representing		Council Member	Representing
P	William D. (Bill) Bissett Chairman	Large Scale Broadband	P	The Honorable Scott Edwards	Rural Business User, Congressional District 1
P	Michael J. Holstine Secretary-Treasurer	Rural Business User Congressional Dist. 3 / (Now Rural Residential User District 1)	-	Michael R. Graney	WVDED Acting Secretary
P	Roger Calhoun	Rural Residential User Congressional Dist. 3 / Now Urban Residential User (1 of 2)	P	Jeff Proctor	Vice Chairman Representing Secretary Graney
-	Michele Blatt Superintendent	WV Dept. of Education	-	Robert Cole	Rural Residential User Congressional Dist. 1/(Now 2)
-	Tim Conzett, WVDE Office of Data Management	Representing Michele Blatt	P	Honorable Ron Pearson	Rural Residential User Cong. Dist. 2/ Now Urban Residential User (2 of 2)
-	Heather D. Abbott Chief Technology Officer	WV Office of Technology	-	The Honorable Robert L. Morris, Jr.	WV Senate (R) (Ex-Officio/Advisory Member)
P	James Dixon Jeff Whitman	Representing Heather Abbott	-	The Honorable Jarred Cannon	WV House (R) (Ex-Officio/Advisory Member)
-	Matt Turner Vice Chancellor	WV Higher Education Policy Commission HEPC	-		WV Senate (D) (Ex-Officio/Advisory Member)
P	Steve White Director, WVNET	Representing Matt Turner	-		WV House (D) (Ex-Officio/Advisory Member)
-	Representative	Agency		Representative	Agency
P	Kelly Workman, Jamie Hoffmann	WVDED - Office of Broadband	P	Steffani Sanders Chris Campbell Andrew Joseph	Tilson Technology Management
P	Jim Kelsh, Peter Markham	Bowles Rice Legal Counsel			

VACANCIES:

- Urban Business User (2 Members, Any District) and Rural Business User, District 2

Agenda Item	Details/Minutes
1. Call to Order; Roll Call; Opening Remarks	Welcome New Senate Ex-Officio Member, The Honorable Robert L. Morris, Jr.! We are very pleased he will remain involved with Broadband Council. If you see him, please congratulate him.
2. Approval of December 2024 Meeting,	Minutes: Motion to approve, Judge Ron Pearson - first, Roger Calhoun -

<p>Minutes, and Financial Statement</p>	<p>second. Minutes to be filed.</p> <p>Financial statement by Sabrina Stollings As of Dec. 1, beginning balance of \$806,941.31 Three invoices paid: Tilson \$6,075.00 Bowles Rice \$1,798.00 Commerce Communication \$48.15 Total December expenses \$7,921.15 Ending balance \$799,020.16</p> <p>As of Jan. 1 beginning balance of \$799,020.16 4 Invoices paid and a payroll allocation Tilson \$5,287.50 3 Bowles Rice Invoices 1st \$320.50 2nd \$1,674.00 3rd \$652.50 Payroll allocation \$1,278.81 Total January expenses \$9,213.31 Jan. 31 Ending balance \$789,806.85 Report to be filed for audit.</p>
<p>3. Public Service Commission of West Virginia Pole Attachment Task Force CASE NO. 24-0703-T-E-CTV-GI Designation of Council representative(s). https://www.psc.state.wv.us/WebDocket/default.htm</p>	<p>Peter Markham, Bowles Rice On August 23, 2024, in consultation with the Office of Broadband, the Commission created a task force to consider and recommend incorporating by General Order and/or rule modification to the Commission's Rules for the Government of Pole Attachments (Pole Attachment Rules), 150 C.S.R. 38.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Final Report Issued January 31, 2025 <p>1st - Recommends the establishment of a Rapid Response Team within the PSC. If an ISP has an issue with attaching to a pole, they can initiate mediation with the Rapid Response Team, to hopefully get on the pole quickly by resolving the dispute. We wanted the Office of Broadband to be included in these mediations as needed, representing the granting agency. The commission will consider that moving forward.</p> <p>2nd - Requiring utility pole owners to share their pole inspection reports to any potential attachers. Apparently not all utilities gather the same information, so we suggested that the PSC adopt a uniform data pole information standard. The Office of Broadband is working to build a database for this type of information.</p> <p>3rd - Require Utility companies to report annually their compliance with applicable laws and regulations.</p> <p>4th - The main pole owner utilities compiled a list of engineers to perform changes for attachments. The final report recommends that these changes go into effect immediately. The Council and Office have also requested to continue a working group to ensure the rules are being implemented and additional issues are handled moving forward. They agreed.</p>

<p>4. Verizon to Acquire Frontier CASE NO 24-0853-T-PC; Council consideration of Petition to Intervene</p>	<p>Jim Kelsh, Bowles Rice Verizon and Frontier jointly filed a petition with the WV Public Service Commission for approval of the transfer of Frontier to Verizon on October 31, 2024. The Commission recommends a decision by May 29, 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update on Council’s Petition to Intervene The commissioners of the PSC are keeping this case, will not be referred to the Division of Administrative Law of Judges. The joint applicants are scheduled to file testimony by March 3rd. For the interveners, which includes the BEC, testimony is due by April 3rd. Rebuttal testimony by May 15th, Public comment Hearing June 11, Evidentiary Hearing at the PSC June 12th and 13th. In the process of preparing Discovery, mostly to Verizon regarding its pole attachment practices, hoping to have that in by the end of week, then have 20 days to respond to that. We intend to file testimony by April 3rd.
<p>5. ARPA Project Update by Jamie Hoffman</p>	<p>ARPA Progress Report Active Grant Overview. Projects are moving forward. 24 in Permitting and Design, 3 in Close Out, 1 Complete. The majority are delayed in Permitting and design due to the pole attachment issues, which is why the task force is so important.</p> <p>ARPA Dashboard www.wvbroadband.maps.arcgis.com Search by Funding, Availability, and Statewide Statistics Maps. Also County Maps, current projects, even by Provider, who is served and who is underserved.</p>
<p>8. IJJA NTIA: Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) by Andrew Joseph</p>	<p>B.E.A.D Progress Report Key Milestones Five year Action Plan, approved 9/2023, Initial Proposal Vol. 1, approved 01/2024, Initial Proposal Vol. 2 Approved 4/2024, State Challenge Process approved 8/2024, Project Selection in process that is projected to be complete Q1 2025, then the final proposal due to NTIA by 4/16/2025 and Project implementation occurs from 2025-2029.</p> <p>What is included in the Final Proposal? Results of Deployment Project Selection, Completed and Planned Subgrantee Selection Process and the Status of Compliance with Requirements.</p> <p>Public Comment period should occur Mid-March</p>
<p>9. Public Comment</p>	<p>Sign-In for Public Comment, no public comments.</p>
<p>10. Next Meeting / Adjournment</p>	<p>Google Meet: March 13, 2025</p>