WEST VIRGINIA BROADBAND ENHANCEMENT COUNCIL

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES: January 8, 2026

Regular Meeting	**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

	Council Member	Representing		Council Member	Representing
X	William D. (Bill) Bissett Chairman	Large Scale Broadband Users	X	The Honorable Scott Edwards	Rural Business User Congressional District 1
X	Michael J. Holstine Secretary-Treasurer	Rural Residential User Congressional District 1	_	Todd Hooker	WVDED Executive Director
X	Roger Calhoun	Urban Residential User (1 of 2)	X	Jeff Proctor	Vice Chairman Representing Director Hooker
_	Michele Blatt Superintendent	WV Dept. of Education	_	Robert Cole	Rural Residential User Congressional District 2
X	Tim Conzett, WVDE Office of Data Management	Representing Michele Blatt	X	Honorable Ron Pearson	Urban Residential User (2 of2)
_	Heather D. Abbott Chief Technology Officer	WV Office of Technology	_	Honorable Robert L. Morris, Jr.	WV Senate (R) (Ex-Officio/Advisory Member)
X	James Dixon Jeff Whitman	Representing Heather Abbott	_	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)
X	Steve White Director, WVNET	Representing Matt Turner	_		WV House (D) (Ex-Officio/Advisory Member)
_	**Representative**	**Agency**		**Representative**	**Agency**
_	**Kelly Workman** **Jim Kelsh,** **Peter Markham**	**WVDED - Office of** **Broadband Bowles Rice,** **Legal Counsel**	_	**Chris Campbell,** **Steffani Sanders** **Jeff Hartley** **Kaitlin Bolin**	**Aligned Broadband Partners** **The Thrasher Group** **ITG Communications**

COUNCIL 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	Chairman Bissett conducted a roll call, quorum met.

2. Approval of November 2025 Meeting Minutes, and Financial Statement	The minutes from November 2025 and the financial statement were approved following a motion by Michael Holstine, seconded by Judge Pearson, with no opposition reported.
3. Fiber Attachments & Appalachian Power Logan-Mingo Middle Mile Broadband Project Update	**Sammy L. Gray II, Director of Government Affairs, Appalachian Power** Sammy Gray introduced David Robinson, Director of Distribution Regional Operations, and Scott Osterholt, Managing Director of Federal Grants and Broadband. Mr. Gray explained that the project originated from the legislature passing Senate Bill 3 in 2019, directing incumbent electric utilities to study the feasibility of such projects. APCo filed its feasibility study in October 2019, which the council approved in December 2019, and the Public Service Commission (PSC) approved the project in June 2021. APCo selected Gigabeam as the last-mile provider. David Robinson highlighted that APCo serves half of West Virginia and works with various broadband providers. Robinson reported significant activity in 2023, including the replacement of 1,234 poles and the completion of 1,381 minor attachment works, far exceeding the typical 300-400 pole replacements for regular maintenance. They confirmed APCo is on target with goals for major customers like CityNet and Comcast in their various districts, despite minor delays from storm-related power restoration efforts. Jeffrey Proctor asked about the average cost of pole replacement, and David Robinson explained that the cost varies significantly, ranging from approximately $4,000 for a secondary pole to potentially $10,000 for a pole with a transformer bank. Robinson also noted that terrain issues in West Virginia can increase costs, citing an instance in the Logan area where flying in a pole cost approximately $9,000 to $10,000 just for the transportation. Scott Osterholt stated that the project aims to deliver high-speed internet access to substantially all people in Logan and Mingo counties. Osterholt reported that all make-ready work for APCo's portion of the fiber project in Logan and Mingo counties is completed, despite challenges such as needing to fly in numerous poles due to difficult terrain. As of the update, 275.3 miles of the total 367 miles of fiber had been installed (75% complete), with all fiber installed in Logan County but only six of 11 segments completed in Mingo County; full installation is projected for mid-April. Bill Bissett WVMA requested, and Osterholt agreed, to provide ongoing updates to the council on the project's progress, either monthly or quarterly.

4. Public Service Commission of West Virginia (Commission) Pole Attachment Orders **https://www.psc.state.wv.us/WebDocket/default.htm**	Peter Markham, Bowles Rice Pole Attachment Task Force, CASE NO. 24-0703-T-E-CTV-GI. Peter Markham provided a legal update, starting with the PSC's clarification order on November 24, 2025, regarding pole attachment rules, which reaffirmed that pole owners must cover replacement costs for red-tagged poles. The order also clarified cost allocation for poles requiring replacement due to pre-existing violations and lack of capacity, rejecting APCo's proposed cost division and emphasizing that a new attacher should only bear the incremental cost difference for a taller or larger pole needed for their attachment, as per Rule 10.4.4. Markham confirmed that the pole attachment task force case provides clarity as the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program commences, despite the variation in pole replacement costs. Citynet v. Monongahela Power Company and FirstEnergy Regarding make-ready invoices, the parties had negotiated a confidential settlement in principle. The PSC has scheduled a follow-up status conference for January 14th and extended the final decision deadline beyond January 20, as the resolution of these issues could impact the broader pole attachment process and state grant programs. The case is on track to be resolved, likely in the first half of the year. Verizon-Frontier Acquisition, CASE NO 24-0853-T-PC The Verizon acquisition of Frontier case is largely resolved, with Verizon filing a verified agreement on December 18, 2025, confirming its understanding and agreement to abide by the conditions imposed by the PSC. These conditions include continued focus on improving telephone service, allocating a minimum of $60 million to an escrow account for copper infrastructure upgrades, and filing quarterly reports on the fund's use and project status.
5. Review and Consideration to Purchase Ookla Speedtest Data	2026 Quote provided in meeting packet Kelly Workman presented the annual renewal quote for Ookla data, which covers speed test data for fixed and mobile networks, mobile coverage, and tower source data. The mobile and tower data will become crucial if the state receives guidance on BEAD non-deployment funding for expanded mobile service. The renewal quote covers all services for 2026, which is the final year of the current contract. Ookla offered to waive the year-over-year increase and provide the year-end performance report at no charge. A motion was made by Bill Bissett WVMA and seconded by Jeffrey Proctor to approve the Ookla service, which passed unanimously.
6. ARPA CPF and SLFRF Project Update: 2026 Look Ahead	**Progress Report: Jeffrey Hartley, The Thrasher Group** Jeffrey Hartley provided an update on the ARPA investment initiative, totaling approximately $274 million, including $67 million in private investment. As of the third quarter of 2025, over $20 million of State Local Physical Recovery Funds and more than $15 million of Capital Projects Funds had been disbursed to Internet Service Providers, and updated disbursement numbers will be provided at the next meeting after quarterly reports are received. Mr. Hartley reported that the remaining projects awaiting their initial conditional notice to proceed have submitted designs, and the remaining projects are expected to receive their notice to proceed by the end of Quarter 1, with most receiving it before the end of January. Significant progress is expected throughout the year, with a majority of projects having a period of performance ending on June 31st, 2026, and a

	final completion deadline for some projects set for December 31st, 2026. The Office of Broadband, with Jeffrey Hartley and Kelly Workman actively tracking these projects, and are excited for 2026, which is stated to be a huge year for broadband expansion, leading to many customers gaining broadband access.
7. IIJA NTIA BEAD Update	**Kelly Workman/Luke Peters, Office of Broadband, or Chris Campbell, Aligned Broadband Partners, LLC** Kelly Workman provided an updated on BEAD, noting that 2026 will be the year to finish ARPA-funded projects and launch BEAD-funded projects, following the Governor's BEAD approval announcement on November 21st. Ms. Workman noted that the agency continues to coordinate ARPA and BEAD efforts with all other federally funded broadband projects in West Virginia, including the Logan Mingo project, tracking investments from various sources like the FCC and USDA. It was noted that the council had approved the Logan Mingo project in 2019, illustrating that large infrastructure initiatives take time, but the goal is to move projects quickly while ensuring compliance and accountability so that West Virginians receive corner-to-corner broadband connectivity.
Public Comment	Sign-In for Public Comment
Next Meeting / Adjournment	Google Meet: February 12, 2026

WEST VIRGINIA BROADBAND ENHANCEMENT COUNCIL

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

February 12, 2026

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

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

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X	Michael J. Holstine Secretary-Treasurer	Rural Residential User Congressional District 1	_	Todd Hooker	WVDED Executive Director
X	Roger Calhoun	Urban Residential User (1 of 2)	X	Jeff Proctor	Vice Chairman Representing Director Hooker
_	Michele Blatt Superintendent	WV Dept. of Education	_	Robert Cole	Rural Residential User Congressional District 2
_	Tim Conzett, WVDE Office of Data Management	Representing Michele Blatt	X	Honorable Ron Pearson	Urban Residential User (2 of2)
_	Heather D. Abbott Chief Technology Officer	WV Office of Technology	_	Honorable Robert L. Morris, Jr.	WV Senate (R) (Ex-Officio/Advisory Member)
_	James Dixon Jeff Whitman	Representing Heather Abbott	_	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)
X	Steve White Director, WVNET	Representing Matt Turner	_		WV House (D) (Ex-Officio/Advisory Member)
_	**Representative**	**Agency**		**Representative**	**Agency**
_	**Kelly Workman Jim Kelsh, Peter Markham**	**WVDED - Office of Broadband Bowles Rice, Legal Counsel**	_	**Chris Campbell, Steffani Sanders Jeff Hartley**	**Aligned Broadband Partners The Thrasher Group**

COUNCIL 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	Chairman Bill Bissett called the Broadband Enhancement Council meeting to order and conducted roll call. The council achieved quorum.
2. Approval of January 2025 Meeting Minutes, and Financial Statement	The minutes from January 25, 2026 were approved following a motion by Jeffrey Proctor, and a second by Roger Calhoun.

3. Public Service Commission of West Virginia (Commission) Pole Attachment Orders **https://www.psc.state.wv.us/WebDocket/default.htm**	Jim Kelsh, Bowles Rice ● Pole Attachment Task Force, CASE NO. 24-0703-T-E-CTV-GI. No activity on the pole attachment task force since November 2025. ● Citynet v. Monongahela Power Company and FirstEnergy Jim Kelsh detailed the Citynet complaint, which included five counts. The primary allegation was unreasonable charges for pre-existing pole attachment conditions, with Citynet claiming First Energy invoiced them approximately $11.9 million, of which $10 million was allegedly for correcting pre-existing errors. The major news from the January 14th PSC status conference was that Cynet and First Energy reached a confidential settlement agreement regarding counts one and two, which relate to the fee dispute over historical pole attachment payments and the lack of detailed invoices. The confidentiality of the agreement is a departure from typical PSC practices. ● Verizon-Frontier Acquisition, CASE NO 24-0853-T-PC The Verizon Frontier acquisition closed as of January 22nd, after Verizon obtained the necessary state and federal approvals. The formal complaint against Monpower and First Energy, filed by Citynet in July of the previous year concerning pole attachment practices, was discussed.
4. ARPA CPF and SLFRF **Project Update: 2026 Look Ahead**	Progress Report: Jeffrey Hartley, The Thrasher Group ● ARPA Update The targeted addresses considered passed and served now total 12,976, marking a 3,000 to 4,000 increase since the last meeting. The progress, primarily due to finishing construction and splicing, has been slowed by freezing winter temperatures which impede the splicing process. The number of projects yet to receive a notice to proceed with construction has decreased from 18 to 13, with designs received for 11 of those. Jeffrey Hartley expects the 11 projects to receive their notices by the end of the following week, leaving only two projects without a notice to proceed in Quarter one.

5. IIJA NTIA BEAD Non-Deployment Update	Kelly Workman/Luke Peters, WV Office of Broadband, or Chris Campbell, Aligned Broadband Partners, LLC ● BEAD Update Kelly Workman noted that with West Virginia's deployment plan approved, attention is turning to non-deployment, which is significant due to the state's savings from the benefit of the bargain round. NTIA is expected to release guidance on non-deployment around March 11th and has scheduled a second public listening session due to high interest. Ms. Workman confirmed that West Virginia intends to submit written comments to NTIA by February 18th and offered to coordinate the council's comments. West Virginia is exploring for non-deployment funding use, which align with BEAD infrastructure development and national priorities. These areas include mobile broadband service, AI supportive infrastructure and network resiliency (such as middle mile and localized data exchange), permitting reform with an emphasis on pole attachment, emergency services and related security, and workforce development. These priorities are subject to change based on forthcoming federal guidance.

Public Comment	No Public Comments
Next Meeting / Adjournment	Google Meet: March 12, 2026 (noted, this meeting was later cancelled due to the legislative session and travel.)

WEST VIRGINIA BROADBAND ENHANCEMENT COUNCIL

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES: April 9, 2026

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

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X	Michael J. Holstine Secretary-Treasurer	Rural Residential User Congressional District 1	–	Todd Hooker	WVDED Executive Director
X	Roger Calhoun	Urban Residential User (1 of 2)	X	Jeff Proctor	Vice Chairman Representing Director Hooker
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–	Heather D. Abbott Chief Technology Officer	WV Office of Technology	_	Honorable Robert L. Morris, Jr.	WV Senate (R) (Ex-Officio/Advisory Member)
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–	Matt Turner Vice Chancellor	WV Higher Education Policy Commission HEPC	_		WV Senate (D) (Ex-Officio/Advisory Member)
X	Steve White Director, WVNET	Representing Matt Turner	_		WV House (D) (Ex-Officio/Advisory Member)
_	**Representative**	**Agency**		**Representative**	**Agency**
–	**Kelly Workman** **Jim Kelsh,** **Peter Markham**	**WVDED - Office of Broadband** **Bowles Rice, Legal Counsel**	_	**Chris Campbell,** **Steffani Sanders** **Jeff Hartley**	**Aligned Broadband Partners** **The Thrasher Group**

COUNCIL 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	Jeff Proctor called the meeting, and a quorum was established following the roll call. A motion to approve the minutes from the previous February meeting was made by Michael Holstine and seconded by James Dixon.
2. Approval of February 2025 Meeting Minutes, and Financial Statement	**Financial Statement And Minutes** Minutes have been reviewed and a motion was made by Michael

	Holstine and seconded by James Dixon. Approved. The council's ending balance as of March 31st to be $221,683.57. Motion to file the financials by Michael Holstine and seconded by Roger Calhoun.
3. WV Legislature Performance Evaluation and Research Division (PERD) Audit	PERD Audit Conference on April 13, 2026. The West Virginia Legislative Performance Evaluation and Research Division audit is underway, requiring 10 years of records and focusing on the Office of Broadband and the Broadband Enhancement Council.
4. Legislative Review	**Recap of 2026 Legislative Session:** Peter Markham, Bowles Rice The 2026 Regular Session was, for a change, quiet in terms of broadband legislation. I did identify five bills that were introduced during the 2026 Regular Session that relate to broadband expansion that may return in the future. 1. House Bill 4631, titled the "Internet Reliability Act." 2. Senate Bill 213, would have specifically required ISPs "to provide safe, adequate, and reliable service to customers under just, fair, and reasonable terms and conditions." 3. House Bill 5172 would have added a new article to the Broadband Enhancement Policies chapter of the Code. The proposed new article would have established the "Low Earth Orbit Broadband Internet Connection Fund" in the Department of Commerce. 4. House Bill 5634, "Last-Mile for Broadband for Coalfield Counties Act" 5. Senate Bill 1032, would have expanded the powers and duties of the Office of Broadband. Specifically, the bill would have amended W. Va. Code § 31G-1A-2 to authorize the Office to coordinate with the Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General on consumer complaints regarding the adequacy and reliability of service and the fairness/reasonableness of the terms and conditions of service. Review memo from Bowles Rice attached.
5. ARPA CPF and SLFRF Project Update	Progress Report: Jeffrey Hartley, The Thrasher Group ● **ARPA Update**: Jessica L Perry provided an update on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) projects, emphasizing that the numbers are based on the quarter 4 2025 reports. Of the 46 active projects, one is fully closed out, and three are in the closeout process. A total of 17,051 addresses have been served to date. ● **Review of Project Construction Status** The number of projects actively in construction has increased to 35, moving eight projects from the permitting

	and design phase. The majority of these construction projects are set to be completed by the end of June, with the remainder by the end of December of this year. There are eight projects set to receive their notice to proceed by the end of April, with five currently awaiting final review by the grantee.
6. IIJA NTIA BEAD Update	Kelly Workman/Luke Peters, WV Office of Broadband, or Chris Campbell, Aligned Broadband Partners, LLC ● **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program and Dig Once Policy**: Kelly Workman provided an update on the BEAD program, which included information previously shared with the Division of Highways (DOH). They reviewed the state's Dig Once policy, passed by the legislature to support telecommunications facilities in the DOH right of way, and noted its exemptions. From 2023 to 2025, the office processed over 200 Dig Once notifications, and the current pace suggests 2026 will exceed the 2025 total of 168. ● **BEAD and Permitting Roundtables**: The council's team is developing a web application to translate BEAD data for DOH district offices, enabling them to see funded locations and geographical summaries. The main focus of the team's work has been developing the grant agreements and exhibits for the BEAD awardees, with subgrant agreements expected to be executed toward the end of April and into May. The BEAD projects are subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), requiring the Division of Economic Development/Office of Broadband to serve as the joint lead agency with NTIA for the environmental review. ● **NEPA and Construction Timeline Concerns**: The NEPA process is a critical gating factor before bead projects can begin, with the first step being NEPA clearances. Senator Robbie Morris expressed concern that construction might not start until 2028, but Kelly A Workman indicated that 2027 is a more likely starting period, as some smaller or more straightforward projects may progress faster. They emphasized the need to work with pole owners and the Public Service Commission to navigate the complexities, especially regarding the pole attachment process and make-ready work that cannot begin until NEPA clearance is complete.

Public Comment	No one signed up for public comment
Next Meeting / Adjournment	Google Meet: May 14, 2026

WEST VIRGINIA BROADBAND ENHANCEMENT COUNCIL

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES: May 14, 2026

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

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	Kelly Workman Jim Kelsh, Peter Markham	**WVDED - Office of Broadband Bowles Rice, Legal Counsel**		**Chris Campbell, Steffani Sanders Jeff Hartley**	**Aligned Broadband Partners The Thrasher Group**

COUNCIL 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	Chairman Bissett called the meeting to order and conducted roll all, quorum met.
2. Approval of April 2025 Meeting Minutes, and Financial Statement	Minutes are to be filed. Michael Holstine approved, second by Jeff Proctor.

	Financial Statement: Sabrina Stollings, WVDED April 2026 ending balance is $220,594.61. Approved by Jeff Proctor, seconded by Michael Holstine.
3. WV Legislature Performance Evaluation and Research Division (PERD) Audit	Kelly Workman confirmed that the Council submitted all requested documents and a 10 year budget in mid April, no additional requests were made as of the meeting date.
5. ARPA CPF and SLFRF Project Update	Progress Report: Jeffrey Hartley, The Thrasher Group ● All ARPA Projects have reached notice to proceed with construction phase. 8 projects are now in the closeout period, many expected to close by June 30, 2026. Jeff with assistance from Jessica Perry, have analyzed project forecasts to ensure completion within performance periods. No state and local fiscal recovery fund projects were deemed at risk, Capital Projects Fund projects may now be extended through July 2027 for specific projects, the Office of Broadband are currently identifying which ones qualify for the extension. 14,382 targeted locations are currently served, representing 34% of the target of addresses. ● Field Reviews and Closeouts The Thrasher Group are driving to project sites, taking photographs to confirm the infrastructure meets the National Safety Code and state quality standards before a project is closed out. ● Manufactured and Energy Growth Summit The discussion focused on the role of broadband in the state's economic development strategy, alongside infrastructure construction and energy development.
6. IIJA NTIA BEAD Update	Kelly Workman/Luke Peters, WV Office of Broadband, or Chris Campbell, Aligned Broadband Partners, LLC **Deployment** ● April 30, 2026, BEAD Environmental, Historic Preservation (EHP) and NEPA Review The office conducted webinars on environmental and historic preservation requirements and held one on one meetings with seven wired companies and SpaceX regarding LEO satellite projects. ● 2nd Round BEAD Subgrantee One-on-One Meetings May 18 ● Executing Subgrant Agreements May 2026 Subgrant agreements are currently being executed, the goal is to complete the process between May and early June to meet federal mid-June deadlines. ● June - Mid-Late 2026: NEPA Clearances **BEAD Roundtables** ● To address deployment barriers and promote coordination between stakeholders. The state will conduct BEAD roundtables beginning in mid-July. ● Roundtable meetings will include WVDOH, SHPO, DEP, DNR, and county/municipal offices, RPDCs.

	● BEAD Roundtable Kickoff July 2026 ● Training for BEAD Subgrantees to include Build American Buy American (BABA), Monitoring and Performance **Non-Deployment** US Commerce Secretary stated in late April that Nondeployment guidance would be issued in two months, which places the expected timeline for an update around late June or July. The state is currently developing strategies to utilize this funding to complement BEAD deployment..

Public Comment	Sign-In for Public Comment, no public comments
Next Meeting / Adjournment	Google Meet: June 11, 2026 The meeting was adjourned.

WEST VIRGINIA BROADBAND ENHANCEMENT COUNCIL

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES: June 11, 2026

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

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COUNCIL 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	Chair Bill Bissett called the meeting to order and conducted the roll call. Quorum met.
2. Approval of April 2025 Meeting Minutes, and Financial Statement	Minutes approved by Michael Holstine, second by Jeff Proctor. Minutes will be filed. Financial Statement: Sabrina Stollings, WVDED Ending balance $218,416.69.

	Motion made by Jeff Proctor, Michael Holstine seconded. Financials will be filed.
3. Bill Woodrum, Senior Program Officer, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation	**High Speed Hope – Locally Driven Rural Broadband Solutions** https://online.flippingbook.com/view/790387883/ Please reach out to bwoodrum@benedum.org for any follow up questions. ● The program, which ran from 2019 to 2025, focused on strengthening resilient communities by helping them organize projects and secure federal funding. Initially they focused on regions with transitioning tourism economies, such as the Hatfield-McCoy area, before expanding statewide. A key component was the development of preliminary fiber routes, which provided communities with technical readiness and cost estimates. ● Over five years, the initiative supported 19 projects across 27 counties, leveraging $51 million in direct funding and $72 million in total project funding. These projects are projected to provide broadband access to over 33,000 households. ● The foundation continues to invest in digital equity, literacy, and adoption efforts. They are supporting a grant from Mountain Camp to work with the American Connection Corps, providing personnel to assist rural libraries. Future efforts will remain focused on strategic partnerships and helping communities find their voice in ongoing broadband development.
4. WV Legislature Performance Evaluation and Research Division (PERD) Audit	● Chairman Bissett and Kelly Workman met with legislative auditors regarding the Council's operations and the Office of Broadband. This meeting was part of a regular 15-year state agency review cycle and the Governor's good government initiative. Consultation is ongoing and the auditors are currently drafting a report for the Council to detail its structure and mission and future work.
5. ARPA CPF and SLFRF Project Update	Jessica Kirk-Perry, Program Manager, WV Office of Broadband **ARPA Progress Report:** As of Quarter 1 2026: ● 2 Projects are fully closed ● 1 entered closeout in May ● As of Quarter 1 2026, more than 14,300 targeted addresses served. Total of 20,127 addresses to date. ● All projects are currently within budget

6. FCC Data	Caleb Bryant, GIS Analyst, WV Office of Broadband **Fiber and Cable Growth Since 2022** ● Caleb presented an update using the Federal Communications Commission fabric version 8 data. As of the start of 2025, 85.14% of locations are served with at least 100 megabits per second download and 20 megabits per second upload, an increase from 65.3% in 2022. The team expects to process new data and update public dashboards in the coming months.
7. IIJA NTIA BEAD Update	Kelly Workman/Luke Peters, WV Office of Broadband, or Chris Campbell, Aligned Broadband Partners, LLC Alison Rogers, The Thrasher Group **Deployment** ● Build American Buy America Webinar June 4 ● Executing Subgrant Agreements, NTIA certification deadline June 18 ● June - Mid-Late 2026: NEPA Clearances **BEAD Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) Requirements** Alison Rogers, Environmental Project Manager, The Thrasher Group, provided an overview of the following items: ● Ongoing EHP training ● Outreach to state and federal agencies ● BEAD Roundtable Kickoff July 2026 ● The WV Division of Economic Development is acting as the lead agency, while the responsibility for environmental and historic preservation evaluations is delegated to subgrantees to ensure accuracy based on project-specific knowledge. ● The team is coordinating with various agencies, including the State Historic Preservation Office and the Department of Natural Resources, to streamline permitting. Specifically, the Department of Transportation has authorized companies to conduct pole replacements under existing maintenance agreements rather than requiring new permits, which provides cost and time savings for subgrantees. **Non-Deployment** No new information.

Public Comment	Sign-In for Public Comment. None offered.
Next Meeting / Adjournment	Google Meet: July 9, 2026

WEST VIRGINIA BROADBAND ENHANCEMENT COUNCIL

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES: July 9, 2026

Regular Meeting	**WV Broadband Enhancement Council**	**Time**	**10:00 a.m.**
Chair	**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

	Council Member	Representing		Council Member	Representing
X	William D. (Bill) Bissett Chair	Large Scale Broadband Users	–	The Honorable Scott Edwards	Rural Business User Congressional District 1
X	Michael J. Holstine Secretary-Treasurer	Rural Residential User Congressional District 1	–	Todd Hooker	WVDED Executive Director
X	Roger Calhoun	Urban Residential User (1 of 2)	X	Jeff Proctor	Vice Chairman Representing Director Hooker
–	Michele Blatt Superintendent	WV Dept. of Education	–	Robert Cole	Rural Residential User Congressional District 2
X	Tim Conzett, WVDE Office of Data Management	Representing Michele Blatt	X	Honorable Ron Pearson	Urban Residential User (2 of2)
–	Heather D. Abbott Chief Technology Officer	WV Office of Technology	–	Honorable Robert L. Morris, Jr.	WV Senate (R) (Ex-Officio/Advisory Member)
X	James Dixon Jeff Whitman	Representing Heather Abbott	_	Honorable Jarred Cannon	WV House (R) (Ex-Officio/Advisory Member)
X	Matt Turner Vice Chancellor	WV Higher Education Policy Commission HEPC	_		WV Senate (D) (Ex-Officio/Advisory Member)
X	Steve White Director, WVNET	Representing Matt Turner	_		WV House (D) (Ex-Officio/Advisory Member)
–	**Representative**	**Agency**		**Representative**	**Agency**
–	**Kelly Workman Jim Kelsh, Peter Markham**	**WVDED - Office of Broadband Bowles Rice, Legal Counsel**	–	**Chris Campbell, Steffani Sanders Jeff Hartley**	**Aligned Broadband Partners The Thrasher Group**

COUNCIL 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	Chairman Bissett called the meeting to order, performed the roll call for council members and guests, and confirmed that a quorum was present.
2. Approval of June Meeting Minutes, and Financial Statement	The June Meeting Minutes were presented and approved. First, Michael Holstine, second by Roger Calhoun.

	Financial Statement: Sabrina Stollings, WVDED Beginning Balance, June 1, 2026 $218,416.69 June Expenses Bowles Rice $1,678.25 ESRI Inv $1,200.00 WVNET Inv $1,088.96 Total June Expenses $ 3,967.21 Ending Balance, June 30, 2026 $214,449.48 Financial statement, first Michael Holstine and second, Roger Calhoun. To be filed for audit.
3. Fiber Attachments & Appalachian Power Logan-Mingo Middle Mile Broadband Project Update	Kelly Workman informed the council that representatives for the Appalachian Power Logan-Mingo Middle Broadband Project had a scheduling conflict and requested to reschedule their presentation for the September meeting.
4. ARPA CPF and SLFRF Project Update	**ARPA Progress Report** **Jeffrey Hartley, Project Manager, The Thrasher Group** Seven projects are nearing the closeout stage. Actively reviewing quarterly reports, which were due on July 8, to track progress. The closeout process, which involves reviewing as-built documents, performing physical field reviews to verify that construction matches the plans and that service is available. This verification process ensures that, upon project closeout, a customer can receive service within 10 business days.
5. WV Broadband Esri Enterprise System	**Kaya Brown, GIS Specialist, The Thrasher Group** The Office of Broadband has partnered with the West Virginia GIS Technical Center (WVGISTC) at WVU to create the Enterprise System for West Virginia broadband data. Kaya provided a demo of the new Esri Enterprise System and explained that the system shifts the office from managing individual data sets to a unified statewide information system, utilizing an ESRI-based platform to improve data organization, transparency, and reporting accuracy. The system integrates data from various sources, including the NTIA and FCC, and supports internal users, as well as external stakeholders. Several applications are in production for internal use, such as ARPA closeout tools and engineering design reviews, and for public use, such as the public broadband map.
6. IIJA NTIA BEAD Update	**Kelly Workman/Luke Peters, WV Office of Broadband, or Chris Campbell, Aligned Broadband Partners, LLC** **Deployment** ● BEAD Grantee Kick-Off July 9 **Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) Requirements** ● NEPA Policy Review with NTIA June 24, confirming compliance with environmental and historic preservation requirements. ● BEAD Roundtable Kickoff July 16, featuring state and federal permitting agencies to discuss requirements and streamline the environmental review process.

	Luke Peters added that these roundtables were designed to provide tips and help ISPs fast-track reviews by preventing common mistakes. ● EHP Office Hours July 20 **Non-Deployment** ● Kelly Workman also noted that guidance regarding non-deployment BEAD funds is expected by the end of the summer, according to NTIA.

Public Comment	Sign-In for Public Comment, no public comments
Next Meeting / Adjournment	Google Meet: September 10, 2026 The meeting adjourned.

WEST VIRGINIA BROADBAND ENHANCEMENT COUNCIL

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES: September 9, 2026

Regular Meeting	**WV Broadband Enhancement Council**	**Time**	**10:00 a.m.**
Chair	**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.

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	Council Member	Representing			Council Member	Representing
–	William D. (Bill) Bissett Chair	Large Scale Broadband Users		X	The Honorable Scott Edwards	Rural Business User Congressional District 1
X	Michael J. Holstine Secretary-Treasurer	Rural Residential User Congressional District 1		–	Todd Hooker	WVDED Executive Director
–	Roger Calhoun	Urban Residential User (1 of 2)		X	Jeff Proctor	Vice Chairman Representing Director Hooker
–	Michele Blatt Superintendent	WV Dept. of Education		_	Robert Cole	Rural Residential User Congressional District 2
–	Tim Conzett, WVDE Office of Data Management	Representing Michele Blatt		X	Honorable Ron Pearson	Urban Residential User (2 of2)
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_	**Representative**	**Agency**			**Representative**	**Agency**
–	**Kelly Workman Jim Kelsh, Peter Markham**	**WVDED - Office of Broadband Bowles Rice, Legal Counsel**		_	**Chris Campbell, Steffani Sanders Jeff Hartley**	**Aligned Broadband Partners The Thrasher Group**

COUNCIL 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	Chairman Bill Bissett called the meeting to order and conducted a roll call, quorum met.
2. Approval of July Meeting Minutes, and Financial Statement	July meeting minutes were approved by Jeffery Proctor and seconded by Ronald Pearson. Minutes to be filed. **Financial Statement: Sabrina Stollings, WVDED** Jessica Perry presented this information for Sabrina.

	Beginning balance for July, $214,449.48, three invoices were paid totaling $651.00, making the ending balance $213,798.48. No invoices paid in August.
3. AEP Fiber Attachments & Appalachian Power Logan-Mingo Middle Mile Broadband Project Update	**Sammy L. Gray II, Director of Government Affairs, Appalachian Power** **Scott Osterhold, VP Grants and Loans, American Electric Power** The update on the American Electric Power Logan Mingo project, detailed progress across fiber, splicing, points of presence, and optical line terminals, noting that fiber construction is at 99.9% completion with only a half-mile segment pending a seven-pole addition, verbal easement agreement, and October construction. The points of presence for Logan and Mingo sites are fully completed, and optical line terminal handoffs to Gigabeam stand at approximately 75% complete in Logan and 20% in Mingo, with about 6,500 customers ready for service and total handoffs expected to conclude by the end of October.
4. WV Legislature Performance Evaluation and Research Division (PERD) Audit	Additional documents provided August 7, 2026. Draft audit report anticipated November 2026. All questions have been answered and requested data submitted for the legislative performance evaluation and research division audit, leaving the council awaiting follow-up.
5. ARPA CPF and SLFRF Project Update	**ARPA Progress Report** **Jeffrey Hartley, Project Manager, The Thrasher Group** ● All ARPA Projects in Construction Phase Update 22,592 of 42,496 targeted locations now have broadband availability on poles (50% complete) enabling service within 10 business days, with quarter three address results arriving October 7. While three projects are fully closed out, many others have 100% complete construction but retain budget for customer premise equipment and marketing campaigns, with 35 projects still in construction and state-local funded projects required to submit final as-builts and pay requests in October for fund disbursement by December 31, 2026. ● Field Reviews and Closeouts Ongoing The October Meeting will feature a detailed breakout session on project field reviews.
6. IIJA NTIA BEAD Update-Detailed BEAD update will be scheduled at a future meeting.	**Kelly Workman/Luke Peters, WV Office of Broadband** **Trey Kublbock, KPMG, Broadband Infrastructure** The Office of Broadband will compare Fabric version 8 from December 2025 and version 9 from June 2026 to identify unserved locations, after which the office has 30 days to review and clean up reason codes upon receiving the list expected early next week. Following this, a 30-day challenge process and a subsequent 30-day adjudication period will occur, with funding utilizing average costs per location and program or challenge costs

	sitting outside the 2% limit, while initial planning funds remain restricted and must be closed by June 30, 2027. **Deployment** ● **September 3 BEAD Supplemental Deployment Policy Notice** With the tight timelines, state flexibility will be needed to expedite milestones. **Non-Deployment** NTIA indicated, “end of summer.” No new information.

Public Comment	Sign-In for Public Comment, No public comment
Next Meeting / Adjournment	Google Meet: October 8, 2026 Adjournment, after motion by Michael Holstinie and a second by Jeffrey Proctor.