



Utah Broadband Advisory Council

Thursday, March 16, 2017
10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Utah State Capitol

Attendees:

Kelleigh Cole, Governor's Office of Economic Development
Bert Granberg, Utah Automated Reference Center
Jessie Pechmann, Utah Automated Reference Center
Health Price, USDA Rural Development
Lynn Beecher, Go Fiber
Kira Slawson, Utah Rural Telecom Association
Chad Sundloff, T-Mobile
Jack Walkenhorst, All West Communications
Jennifer Somers, CenturyLink
Lynne Yocom, Utah Department of Transportation
Douglas Meredith, URTA

Bill Duncan, Division of Public Utilities
Beau Hancock, Strata Networks
Dave Ryan, Strata Networks
Ryan Marriott, Americom
Brock Johansen, Emery Telcom
Dave Edmunds, Utah Communications Authority

Phone:

John Harvey, Utah Public Service Commission
Dean Cox, Washington County
Ryan Leavitt, Senator Hatch's Office

Universal Service Fund

Kira Slawson from URTA gave the council an update on the Universal Service Fund and updates from the current legislative session. As customers are cancelling landline service, the fund has been in constant decline. The Public Service Commission discussed a per line charge system, but currently does not have the authority to do so. URTA members redrafted the bill to reflect more current technology language and reflect public policy. Senator Hinkins and CenturyLink have also been working on the draft, which went through five substitutes to address stakeholder concerns. The enacted legislation gives the Public Service Commission more authority to determine competitive neutral methods of contribution. The bill will go into effect July 1st and the Public Service Commission will begin a rulemaking process to determine the service fee collection formula.

UCA Update Introduction

Dave Edmunds, the Executive Director of Utah Communications Authority (UCA) gave the council an overview of SB 198. The 27 board members will be reduced to 9 and will be made up of mostly nonusers. He discussed the Operations Committee that will be made up of users as well as private sector representatives. There will also be a Regional Advisory Committee with representatives from 7 regions of the state. This will allow representatives to discuss what they want to see done for their public safety communications.

The fee to phone users will be increased from \$.76 to \$1.32. This increase will allow the agency to invest in upgrading the network. He stressed the importance of partnering with the private sector in order to make agreements that will assist the system to perform optimally, give more opportunities throughout the state and help the agency to get back up to speed. The agency utilize fiber installed by private sector partnership. UCA is also working with FirstNet and waiting to see what plan they use and if the Governor opts-in or out.

Highway Rights of Ways, Permitting Efficiency Act of 2017

Senator Hatch just introduced the Highway Rights of Way Permitting Efficiency Act. UDOT has been instrumental in working with Senator Hatch's department other rural providers on this issue. Ryan Leavitt and Ed Cox updated the board on its progress. SB 604 will allow states to sign agreements with the Federal Government to allow them to take over some permitting responsibilities. It allows a categorical exclusion of the broadband projects within existing areas of permitted right-of-ways, particularly disturbed

areas. This will also ensure that one agency will be a single point of contact for applicants. Senator Hatch is hoping to get it passed this Congressional session.

USDA Introduction

Health Price is the Community Director for Rural Utilities Service (RUS) as well as the Coordinator for broadband in Rural Utilities Service and gave the council an overview of USDA's programs. RUS's Community Connect is a grant program that provides funding for broadband projects. RUS's distance learning and telemedicine helps with education and medicine in remote areas to help providers and patients. The Farm Bill Broadband Telecommunications Infrastructure will further help with broadband infrastructure. UETN has been working to get Distance Learning with different colleges and getting new equipment and electronic records.

DTS Procurement Update

Ashley Alonzo with DTS is updated the council on their procurement process, particularly that they are now using locate.utah.gov to locate fiber within the state to make sole sourcing and other decisions. DTS has an upcoming solicitation due for the expiration of Data Communications contracts in early 2018 and are working and re-soliciting those. Those re-solicitations will keep them more available to telecom providers. The agency is trying to streamline contract requests. They requested that providers continue to submit data every 6 months.

Map of the Month:

February's Map of the Month featured the development of the point of the mountain area once the Utah Prison is relocated. The planning commission is looking into the infrastructure currently available at in the area. The location is between two universities and the hope is that residential and commercial development will go in. The map is color-coded by the number of providers available throughout the area. March's Map of the Month highlights special tax districts. These districts include sewer, water, mosquito abatement, etc. The map shows the density of different tax districts and data will be available for download.

The next two meetings will be on Thursday May 4, and Wednesday July 19th.