



THE STATE OF UTAH BROADBAND PROJECT

Utah Broadband Advisory Council

Thursday, July 18, 2013

2:00 p.m-4:00 p.m.

Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development

Attendees:

Tara Thue, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development
Kelleigh Cole, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development
Jessie Pechmann, Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center
John Harvey, Utah Public Service Commission
Ken Peterson, Utah Department of Technology Services
Lynne Yocom, Utah Department of Transportation
Amanda Rock, Utah Division of Indian Affairs
Bill Duncan, Utah Division of Public Utilities
Debra Meyer, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Jamie Welch Jaro, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Dennis Sampson, Utah Education Network
Sabrina Scott, Utah Education Network
Donna Jones Morris, Utah State Library

Steve Proctor, Utah Communications Agency Network
Roger Jones, Bear River Association of Governments
Brian Carver, Bear River Association of Governments
Wayne Parker, City of Provo
Guy Durrant, Daggett School District
Sharon Bertelsen, Ballard Spahr
Eric Isom, CenturyLink
Randy Kip, Comcast
Diane Bradshaw, Direct Communications
Pat Asbill, Myvocom
Tyler Rasmussen, Strata Networks (called in)
Todd Marriott, UTOPIA
Abraham Pollard, Webwave

Summary:

Brian Carver, with the Bear River Association of Governments, is coordinating the Regional Broadband Planning Council initiative by working with each of Utah's seven Association of Governments (AOGs) to form planning councils that will address broadband availability and use on a local level. Most of the Planning Councils have identified key council participants and the Bear River and Uintah Basin Association of Governments have held initial meetings. The Planning Councils plan to conduct community assessments and develop regional plans with suggestions on federal, state, local and private sector resources that will help to increase broadband deployment and adoption. The Councils will also focus on developing relationships with local broadband providers and encouraging investment in broadband infrastructure in underserved areas.

Steve Proctor, with the Utah Communications Agency Network (UCAN), gave the Advisory Council an update on the First Responder Network Authority's (FirstNet) efforts to establish the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). The Utah Department of Technology Services (DTS) submitted an application for the "State and Local Implementation Grant Program" (SLIGP) and is working with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to receive a final approval. Nationwide, \$135 million will be granted for the SLIGP and Utah is expected to receive approximately \$2.8 million. In Utah, FirstNet will be working with partners throughout the state to determine local needs and may coordinate with the Regional Broadband Planning Councils to conduct regional outreach. FirstNet also plans to work with BTOP grantees in Houston, Charlotte, San Francisco and Los Angeles to test the use of LTE technology for public safety.

Tara Thue, the Utah Broadband Project Manager, gave the Advisory Council an update on the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) recent announcement that broadband data collection will be shifted from the NTIA to the FCC. Data will be collected using a revised Form 477 and all broadband providers will be required to submit the form twice a year. Under the new process, broadband data will only be collected on a census block level rather than collecting road segment and address data on census blocks larger than two square miles. Broadband providers will also be asked to report maximum advertised speeds rather than reporting data within predetermined speed tiers and providers will be

asked to distinguish between residential and commercial services. Mobile broadband service providers will be required to submit separate shape files for each speed and technology type. The FCC also plans to develop an online platform where providers can review and submit data. State mapping entities will continue to collect data through September 2014, with one overlapping data submission, before all data collection authority is assumed by the FCC in 2015.

Jessie Pechmann, with the Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center (AGRC), gave the Advisory Council an overview of the Utah Broadband Project's Address Point Data Verification project. AGRC has worked with every county in Utah to map all known addresses, which will allow the Project Team to more accurately identify unserved households and work with providers to improve service to these areas.

Kelleigh Cole, the Utah Broadband Project Coordinator, gave the Advisory Council an update on the White House's new ConnectEd Initiative, which calls on the FCC to connect 99 percent of students with next-generation broadband, at speeds of at least 100 Mbps and ideally 1 Gbps and provide wireless service in schools and libraries within the next five years. The Initiative's main goals include improving access by updating connectivity, which may include updating the E-Rate Program; training teachers to keep pace with changing technology and to implement computer-based learning assessments; and encouraging private sector innovation by creating demand for educational devices and software. The White House has not announced specific milestones and deadlines so the Project Team will continue to keep the Advisory Council updated as more details are announced. The Utah Education Network (UEN) is following the progress of the ConnectEd Initiative to determine how consortium applications will be handled going forward. Utah's schools are highly connected and every school district except for Daggett County and San Juan County School Districts has a gigabit connection. The Utah State Library also hopes to encourage more libraries across Utah to better Utilize E-Rate funding. UEN recently met with representatives from the State of Wisconsin who are hoping to establish a similar model to reduce costs and increase connectivity to schools and libraries.

During the past few months, the Utah Broadband Project has been encouraging broadband providers to apply for the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Community Connect Grant program which provides funding to rural communities without sufficient broadband access. During the application period, the Project Team developed maps to identify areas of the State that could qualify for this funding and conducted provider outreach to encourage Utah broadband providers to apply.

USDA is accepting grant applications for the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Program which provides grants to help schools and health care providers invest in telecommunications facilities and equipment to meet the educational and medical needs of rural communities. Grants range from \$50,000 to \$500,000 and applications are due on August 12, 2013. The Utah Telehealth Network is currently working with rural health care facilities to decide if it will submit a grant application. If the network decides to proceed with the application, it will request funding to acquire high definition videoconferencing equipment for health care facilities in support of telemedicine and distance learning applications.

Jessie Pechmann gave the Advisory Council an overview of the June 2013 and July 2013 Maps of the Month. The June 2013 Map of the Month highlighted areas in Utah that potentially qualify for Community Connect funding. The July 2013 Map of the Month displayed subscribed download speeds at each of Utah's libraries including bookmobile stops. The map is interactive, allowing users to focus in on various areas of the state. AGRC also created an online map displaying rural telecom exchange boundaries that may be posted on the Utah Public Service Commission website.

The Utah Broadband Project announced that the 2013 Utah Broadband Tech Summit will be held on Thursday, October 24th in Provo, Utah. The Project Team would like Advisory Council members to submit ideas for topic sessions and the keynote speaker as soon as possible so that the final agenda can be announced.