

UTAH BROADBAND ADVISORY COUNCIL

Thursday December 5, 2013

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Utah's Office of Economic Development

Attendees:

Kelleigh Cole, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development
Amie Parker, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development
Heather Webster, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development
Adam McKay, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development
Bert Granberg, Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center
Jessie Pechmann, Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center
John Harvey, Utah Public Service Commission
Dennis Sampson, Utah Education Network
Amanda Rock, Utah Division of Indian Affairs (call in)
Deb LaMarche, Utah Telehealth Network
Sharon Bertelsen, Ballard Spahr
Donna Jones Morris, Utah State Library
Jamie Welch-Jaro, USDA
David Ream, US Forest Service

Steve Proctor, Utah Communications Agency Network (call in)
Brian Carver, Bear River Association of Governments
Eric Isom, CenturyLink
Mike Giles, Frontier Communications
Douglas Meredith, John Stauralakis, Inc.
Tyler Rasmussen, Strata Networks (call in)
Steve Bos, Vivint
Roger Timmerman, Vivint
Denise Villa Tully, Level 3 Communications
Glenn Ricart, US Ignite
Diane Bradshaw, Direct Communications
Dave Ryan, Strata Networks
Steve Taylor, All West Communications
Rod Tomkins, AmeriCom

Summary:

Kelleigh Cole, Manager of the Utah Broadband Project at the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED), began with an announcement of an SBI Workshop for the surrounding states to discuss key broadband topics. These points include, but are not limited to: states role in data collection, data verification, sustainability and adoption research. A request for input for agenda items went out to the group. A few ideas suggested as agenda items for the workshop discussions were: FirstNet, US Ignite and public safety, public and private relationships, publicity of libraries, E-Rate reform, Telehealth networks and dealing with public lands.

The project team is also developing ways to market the use and availability of public access to the Internet including Wi-Fi hotspots and public computer centers. A suggestion was made to include information about Internet safety, digital literacy education and providers who offer low-income options. The project team is considering developing a commercial broadband map and asked the advisory council for suggestions on how data should be displayed. Lastly, the council discussed the State Broadband Plan and the value it brings to the State of Utah. The strengths of the program include, but are not limited to: public and private sector meshing, helping rural communities strengthen broadband infrastructure, helping communities identify funding, knowing how to utilize resources better, creating a more informed marketplace and finding ways to help non-adopters of broadband access the Internet.

Bert Granberg, Director of the Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center (AGRC), spoke about the mobile drive test that was completed by Isotope. The AGRC office started receiving raw data but will have a better idea of what the results will be after a conference call early in the coming week. An expected result is to have better LTE service throughout the state. Once the results are collected, a comparison report will be completed between the 2011 and 2013 drive tests. Bert also gave an update of the "Map of the Month" effort, going over each of the maps from October, November and December. October's Map of the Month compared how advertised broadband speeds have increased from 2010 to 2013. The November map focused on school districts reporting student to computer ratios. December's map focused on address points and broadband verification.

Deb LaMarche, Associate Director of the Utah Telehealth Network, gave an update of her visit to the Navajo reservation with the head of the health care division of Universal Service Administration Company (USAC). They were able to visit a few of the medical clinics on the reservation. These clinics are using electronic charting and electronic pharmacies. It is an example of broadband utilization in remote areas of the state. Electrical backups need to be more robust to ensure that there are no clinics closures. The Monument Valley Clinic was full because the clinic offers free Wi-Fi service if you have your own device. Since Internet connections aren't readily available in many of the homes on the reservation, clinics are meeting this need in the community.

John Harvey, Utah Public Service Commission, gave an update on the Broadband Demand Survey. Realizing that Utah is a unique state in our adoption of broadband, the project team decided to change the focus of the demand survey. Since Utah only has pockets in the state of non-adopters, not broad areas, the focus of the demand survey has changed to identifying non-adopters. They will look at the entire state to develop a model, from which, they will determine variables to establish a correlation between the different populations of non-adopters. Secondly, the project team will look at whether non-adopters are accessing the Internet outside their home. Essentially, the focus is trying to find the truly unserved areas of the state.

Brian Carver, Bear River Association of Governments, gave an update of what the regional councils are doing. First, rural participation had been very successful. Most regions are now doing surveys and gathering data for both residential and commercial needs. Economic development is dependent on broadband deployment and what the people perceive as the biggest issue. The regions are developing plans for infrastructure, access to current infrastructure and broadband deployment. Dig-once policies are being promoted and the communities are encouraging empty conduit for all providers to have access. Dig-once policies are a challenge due to communicating with all parties and the need to plan ahead. A goal for all the regions is to have written policies for broadband deployment. The regions are looking for ways to harden infrastructure and build redundancy, as well as looking for ways to promote and provide public access to the community. Each area is developing a regional plan which will be incorporated into a statewide plan. The council will also identify areas where access should be available and expected, yet isn't. Also, tourism is another area for each region to look at and increase broadband access.