



THE STATE OF UTAH BROADBAND PROJECT

Utah Broadband Advisory Council

Wednesday, October 13, 2011

12:00-1:30 p.m.

Utah Education Network Offices

Attendees:

Tara Thue, Governor's Office of Economic Development
Kelleigh Cole, Governor's Office of Economic Development
Chris Conabee, Governor's Office of Economic Development
Zachary Derr, Governor's Office of Economic Development
Bert Granberg, Automated Geographic Reference Center
Jessie Pechmann, Automated Geographic Reference Center
Christy Heaton, Automated Geographic Reference Center
Ken Petersen, Department of Technology Services
Donna Jones Morris, Utah State Library
Craig Neilson, Utah State Library
Shirlee Silversmith, Utah Division of Indian Affairs
Deb LaMarche, Utah Telehealth
Mike Peterson, Utah Education Network
Jeff Egly, Utah Education Network
Lincoln Shurtz, Utah League of Cities and Towns
Justin Stewart, Utah League of Cities and Towns

Brent Gardner, Utah Association of Counties
Steve Corbato, University of Utah
Jared Anderson, Emery Telcom
Eric Isom, CenturyLink
Steve Taylor, All West Communications
Matt Weller, All West Communications
Scott Dansie, Comcast
Theresa Foxley, Ballard Spahr
Don Albrecht, Western Rural Development Center, USU
Royce Van Tassell, Utah Taxpayers Association
Dave Ryan, Strata Networks
Tyler Rasmussen, Strata Networks
Josef Wavra, Enterprise Technologies
David Gray, Comcast
Scott Dansie, Comcast
Greg Wagner, AT&T (teleconference)

Summary:

Mike Peterson with the Utah Education Network (UEN), gave the council an overview their efforts to partner with broadband providers to provide connections to community anchor institutions. UEN's network hosts 45,000 live events each year and Governor Herbert recently demonstrated the network's capabilities by holding a live interactive broadcast from the College of Eastern Utah in Blanding that was broadcast to every Utah high school. The Governor also used the UEN system to broadcast a live press conference from Grouse Creek High School to the Eccles Broadcast Center. UEN has lost \$4 million in state appropriations in the last 4 years (dropping its budget to \$17 million) and is concerned that future budget cuts could decrease its ability to leverage state appropriations to receive federal funding to expand and sustain its network.

Donna Jones Morris, the Utah State Librarian, discussed the libraries' role as community anchor institutions and as providers of public broadband access through traditional and mobile library sites. The library also offers online materials such as audio and e-books, as well as extensive services for the blind and disabled. Utah recently lost 20% of its library budget and had to eliminate five full-time positions. The State Library is working with UEN to assist local libraries in qualifying for E-Rate funding but feels that many libraries need to be educated on the importance of broadband access and online services.

Lincoln Shurtz led a discussion on preparing for the Advisory Council's October 19 presentation to the Public Utilities and Technology Interim Committee. The presentation was an opportunity to educate the Utah Legislature on the role and mission of the Utah Broadband Advisory Council and the public/private partnerships that are helping state entities

(UDOT, UEN and DTS) and private providers to increase broadband deployment. Issues addressed by members of the Council that may be discussed in further detail are:

- Officially supporting H.R. 1695 “Broadband Conduit Deployment Act of 2011,” which mandates that conduit be laid in all federal highway projects
- Collecting data on existing backbone infrastructure that would include networks operated by UDOT, UEN, and DTS for economic development purposes (a subgroup was formed at the August 18 meeting to address this issue)
- Identifying a mutually beneficial way for public and private entities to share information on existing infrastructure
- Creating opportunities for providers to coordinate with cities and counties during construction projects. Blue Stakes of Utah may be a potential partner for this effort.
- Developing a strategy to encourage cities and counties to adopt a standard unified permitting process
- Deciding whether to recommend that the Utah State Legislature make the Utah Broadband Advisory Council a statutory body
- Continuing to educate Utah Legislators on the role state appropriations have in leveraging federal funds to connect and maintain community anchor institutions maintained by UEN, the Utah Telehealth Network and the Utah State Library
- Potentially partnering with organizations such as the Utah State Library and the Western Rural Development Center to establish a digital literacy program