

Broadband Alliance Public Outreach Meeting

Friday, August 7th, 2015 10 am - 11:30 am

Conference Room #2 at the EDFC building

New Call in Number: 641-715-3341 - Access code: 108 1131#

I. Call to Order

- A. Introductions: **John Kuhry**, Economic Development and Finance Corporation ED, BAMC Executive Committee, **Tom Woodhouse**, Supervisor, 3rd District, **Katie Gibbs**, BAMC Executive Committee, **Brooke Clark**, community member, **David Pai**, Mendocino College Faculty, Computer Science, **Heather Gurewitz**, Field Representative Congressman Huffman, **Brian Churm**, BAMC Technical Chair, **Howard Egan**, North Bay Association of Realtors, **Ray Gifford**, Ukiah Wireless, **Warren Galletti**, MCOE Superintendent of Schools, **Dave Smith**, MCOE Director of IT Services, **Mike Nicholls**, NBNCBC Management Team Member, Sonoma, **Dan Hamburg**, Supervisor, 5th District, BAMC Executive Committee, **Trish Steel**, BAMC Chair, **Diann Simmons**, BAMC Administrative Coordinator

By phone: **Scott Dietz**, Fort Bragg City Council, **Jenna Burrell**, Associate Professor, UC Berkeley

B. Approval of the agenda

- 1) Add legislative update after IV. G.
- 2) The update call from Mitch Drake is cancelled due to an emergency on his projects. We'll reschedule.

II. Call-in Guests/update

- A. Scott Dietz, Fort Bragg City Council Chair - *10 minutes*

1) Fort Bragg municipal Wi-Fi update

For about 4 years the Fort Bragg City Council has had a tech committee to look at the possibility of drawing high tech jobs to the mill site. The 2 year lawsuit with Georgia Pacific is now resolved, so they are continuing their process of how to replace the many multigenerational jobs lost by the closing of the mill. Young adults are leaving because of lack of jobs and older parents are leaving to be close to their kids. If the Manchester Transpacific fiber-optic cable is ever available, combined with the quality of life and amenities FB has that the Silicon Valley doesn't have, and the trend to work away from office, FB has the potential to draw these people to live and work in a greener environment.

The Committee passed free downtown Wi-Fi, which they plan to have running in 2 months. They hope businesses put the barcode on their window to let the public know they support tech. They are considering bus directories, events listings, a flash page, possibly advertising etc.

A survey showed a 20 to 6 support of the project by local businesses. They did a lot of research on the health issues and saw nothing serious. The cost is \$10,000, partnering with MCN who will install and maintain the system. It will be off at night, so only available when the stores are open. It will be 100 Mb down and 5Mb up and available year round.

John - Has this model worked before in CA?

Brian – Yes, in Mt. View. It can trigger incumbent resistance. It’s important to show no signs of the government sponsoring a specific vendor. Mike mentioned monkeybrains in San Francisco and the downtown Santa Rosa area that Sonic partially runs, which works well. Guerneville had a downtown network under a grant with 1,000 users, but businesses didn’t want to foot the small monthly cost when the grant ended, although the equipment is still in place.

Scott – It’s good to hear of other successes. We’ll start downtown and may expand further.

Brian – It can be used by businesses to harvest user information for easy marketing if people are willing to give up their cell numbers for free Wi-Fi when they walk past a business.

Trish – This is great news. We didn’t know about your Tech Committee. BAMC is interested in keeping in touch and supporting you. We can start by updating the rest of county about your efforts.

Dan – The Board of Supervisors wasn’t familiar with this activity. Is it translatable to Ukiah etc.?

Ray – I talked with people at the City about doing it in Ukiah, but they didn’t seem interested. Possibly they would do it themselves.

Trish – I’ll follow up with Maureen Mulheren (City Council).

John - The Economic Restructuring Committee of the Ukiah Main Street Program is the best place to hatch this (www.ukiahmainstreetprogram.org) Talk with them about this project. There could be a cross representation of the school district and the Main Street corridor.

B. Mitch Drake, Network Design Consultant (Chief Architect of Golden Bear Broadband) to provide updates and Q&A - *25 minutes*

Mitch had an emergency and we will reschedule to have him with us another time.

III. MCOE update and introductions - 15 minutes

A. MCOE superintendent Warren Galletti

1) General update and Introduction of New IT hire - Dave Smith

Warren was excited to announce that Dave Smith, coming from Ukiah Unified, is the new IT Director. MCOE’s previously fragmented department can now take the lead, instead of relying on Ukiah Unified. Many school districts in the county are going to “one to one” devices for each student. In Ukiah all 3rd – 12th graders have their own Chrome Book. Pt. Arena and Anderson Valley also have “one to one”. There are challenges in some isolated areas where there is no/low connectivity - Spy Rock has low connectivity and needs seven easements before it can be improved. Whale Gulch in the Leggett district is only reachable through Humboldt County and has no connectivity.

2) Smarter Balance Assessment

The Spy Rock and Whale Gulch schools had to go to other places for the Smarter Balance Assessments. The only issue was students dealing with being in an unfamiliar environment during the tests, otherwise it went well.

3) How can we work together and support each other?

In areas such as Pt. Arena, Ukiah etc. students spend up to 2 hours a day on the bus,

Mike suggested an idea Sonoma is looking at - installing Wi-Fi on long-ride buses to allow kids to do homework (www.eyerideonline.com) at a cost of about \$1,100 per bus. The system uses cell reception so it works anywhere you have cell service.

Howard suggested appealing to local groups like Rotary to sponsor Internet on school buses. Ray brought up the monthly fee to continue access. He also suggested that Facebook etc. could be blocked on the buses to keep the kids focused on homework. This would also be a big plus for students taking sports buses to events, as their study time is even more limited.

Warren is interested. MCOE has just filled a new communications position to keep their web site updated with better information out to the public, etc. This person will be working with a Communications Committee with every MCOE dept. represented, with a focus on more transparency.

John mentioned Comcast's Internet Essentials program that Warren was not familiar with. It has become more flexible – with eligibility based on the whole district free and reduced lunch percentage, instead of individually qualified families. Judy James will present the program at our Nov. 6th meeting. BAMC will send out invitations to all the school districts.

Tom will contact Warren to discuss the Comcast program and connectivity issues at Spy Rock.

(1) Sharing of Dave's concerns and ideas

Dave is on board with anything that will help students. He's personally seen resource gaps in some districts. He's excited to work with Warren and feels they can do a lot of good with more collaboration. For now, kids who don't have internet access can work off-line in their Chrome books and synch when they are back at school.

John – We previously talked with Warren about different silos developing broadband and the need to communicate. E-rate could be applied beyond the school buildings – the systems could be built out to serve the community.

Dave agrees, but he thinks there is difficulty in opening up school Wi-Fi systems to guests and is not sure how to make it work. John suggested partnering with more districts for a stronger voice for change in the E-rate program. Currently each district applies for E-rate separately, with MCOE offering support if requested.

Brian said that Dane Jasper of Sonic says that the new E-rate rules mean you can couple facilities and have E-rate cover all, even mixing in non-E-rate traffic to get broader community benefit from E-rate. Dave will check with MCOE's E-rate consultant, as it is complicated to apply this. Dane Jasper and the SCOE IT Director are also good places to consult.

Dave hopes to come regularly to BAMC meetings. During his first 90 days he wants to learn what's going on at all the districts and get good communication in place. Warren and Dave agreed that Dave will become an active participant of BAMC to increase the MCOE's collaboration.

IV. BAMC/NBNCBC News

A. Verizon Sale to Frontier

Verizon has 4 exchanges in Northern Mendocino and is in the process of applying to transfer them to Frontier, which must be approved by the FCC and the CPUC. There is an on-going series of public hearings. Trish attended the one in Benbow and expressed concerns for BAMC, which received a lot of press. Yesterday she spoke with the Western President of Frontier and asked if Verizon has yet accepted Connect America funds. In order for Frontier to be able to use those funds to improve our local infrastructure, they must be accepted by Verizon before Aug. 27, but Verizon hasn't done it yet.

B. Wireless Guidelines/Inland Zoning revisions update

Both of these came before the Board of Supervisors on Aug. 4. There was some discussion about a delay, to discuss it more. Supervisor Dan Hamburg reminded the Board that the process has been on-going over 3 years and that there has been a lot of discussion already. With this clarification, the Board moved forward and voted to approve both. The Administrative Permit process creates a stream-lined permitting process by defining development standards for such projects. Now the big missing piece is the coastal zone revisions and Dan said that Planning Dept. staff understands its high priority.

John talked with Senator McGuire about the special coastal zone issues blocking simplified permitting and the need for a collaborative effort. McGuire will help to work state-wide with the coastal zoning issues.

C. Adoption program update

Diann is working with Gayle Greene of the Community Foundation Board and they have met with 2 large after-school program directors – Kris Wagner of the Willits Kids Club and Beth Pine of the Fort Bragg program. Both were very enthusiastic about working with us, and shared the needs they see for kids and families. We are planning to attend the next Mendocino County Afterschool Network (MCAN) meeting, held by MCOE, to talk with all of the youth programs in the county. Once we do that, we will call together a brainstorming group of BAMC members to begin to put together a proposal to approach the Bechtel Foundation and hopefully some other sources.

D. Mapping Update - http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/planning/pdf/EBroadband_Map-DRAFT_5-1-2015.pdf

Brooke gave an update about the question that has come up for the Planning Dept. about the legality of putting a map in the public domain that has the private information of providers included on it. They are consulting an attorney. (The map that is currently on the county website has this information removed and only shows the population density and contours [here](#)).

Brooke is trying to figure out how the CPUC decides that an area is served, as his area does not have any one who is served, but it is listed on the CPUC map as served. Trish discussed the process that BAMC/NBNCBC went through in dealing with this issue of census blocks that are incorrectly reported as served by the providers. The rule is if one house is connected, the whole census block is considered served. Because the CPUC doesn't check the actual sites, it is up to the public to report to them when it is incorrect (which must be re-reported every 6 months).

Brian - Cell towers are strategic assets, so companies don't have to disclose locations.

Jenna mentioned the on-going cutting of major fiber lines in San Francisco as one reason companies want to keep location information out of the public knowledge – it makes them more vulnerable.

E. Regional Planning efforts

(1) SMART/NBNCBC meeting on July 31st

The NBNCBC management teams and Oversight Committee had a meeting with SMART to discuss common interests and possible collaboration for regional planning efforts. Trish, Steve Dunncliff, and Dan all attended, and felt that the meeting went well. There are 4 conduits in the SMART Right of Way, and SMART has leased one conduit to Sonic for county connectivity. NBNCBC is considering forming a JPA so as to be a legal entity to work with SMART. Currently, the four counties in the consortium are united by a MOU, but they are not a legal entity.

(2) Sonoma County/NBNCBC meeting on August 10th

Trish, Steve, Dan and Mike will be in the NBNCBC group that is meeting with Sonoma County on Monday to discuss the need for a regional Middle-Mile Infrastructure, a potential route, and what existing resources are already in the possession of counties from which to start to build such an infrastructure (such as the SMART conduit, Wil-Tel conduit, and the NCRA Right of Way). The Marin team will talk about potential models and the importance of an open access, multi-carrier network, and what each county strategy may be. Hopefully this discussion will lead to collaboration and a unified strategy to begin to tackle regional planning efforts.

F. 2nd AT&T meeting - August 18th

We'll be having our second meeting to work on improving communication. The first meeting seemed to be a good start but AT&T's follow up hasn't been great. Hopefully it will improve. *If anyone has specific questions/concerns for AT&T, please forward to Trish.* You may not be able to attend the meeting, but Trish can try to make sure that your question is asked.

G. Executive Committee meeting-August 21st

We'll get an update from Planning and Building about the coastal zone revision progress, and work on the Vision, Mission, Goals and Strategies.

H. Legislative Update

- 1) AB 806 – the BAMC decided not to support it because there were too many unanswered questions. It was originally about re-development districts; then it was completely gutted and turned into a bill about permitting of strand antennas.
- 2) AB 238 – revision of the definition of broadband speeds to match the new federal definition – status unknown (later info: Author Stone seeking to make a 2 yr. bill and working with stakeholders on technical specifications to ensure it better serves all)
- 3) AB 1262 – would move \$5 million to the CASF Broadband Consortia Grant Account from the Broadband Infrastructure Revolving Loan account – sent back to the State Senate due to a typo.
- 4) SB 486 – McGuire has a meeting on this bill on Monday. It would change reporting standards for 911 outages to the CPUC by lowering the amount of user minutes for rural areas that would trigger mandatory reporting of an outage by the provider.

V. Area updates

A. Ukiah

B. Albion

The consultant is working on the CASF application for Further Reach

C. Sherwood Road

SeaKay showed interested in serving this area and BAMC hopes to hear more from them.

D. Gualala

Central Valley Cable reports that they upgraded to 6 Mbps down - the minimum standard. Brian confused by why they upgraded to so low a level.

E. Rancho Navarro

North Coast Internet is getting a few customers and starting to build relays in this difficult to serve terrain.

Ray – Update for Ukiah Wireless: They are serving Pt. Arena, Manchester and Elk and competing with Further Reach. They are talking with the Coast Community Library about providing back-up.

VI. County Updates

A. Executive Office

B. Libraries

Trish has asked Wally Clark to make a presentation at our October meeting.

C. Public Safety

D. EDFC

John said that they are actively fund raising for their new direct public offering that can be used for social impact money and investors, potentially including broadband infrastructure.

E. Technical Chair

Brian had nothing to add

F. Mendocino College

David is working with his Committee to develop a better computer science curriculum.

VII. Access Sonoma Broadband Update - Mike Nicholls

Although the AT&T staff at our July meeting told Mike that they would give Sonoma County Public Safety their cell tower locations, they later clarified that this information cannot be released to the public. PRMD has the info, but can't access it because of the way their system is set up.

Comcast was scheduled for a meeting, but canceled and they are working on another date.

Mike wants to push Sonoma County to help form a 4-county JPA for broadband infrastructure development.

VIII. Outreach and future agenda items

A. **Our next meeting on Sept 11th will be a Special One-Topic meeting for the**

California TeleHealth Network to make a presentation (confirmed) that will include information about tele-health and tele-medicine. This meeting will be our first to be held in the newly-renovated *Community Foundation meeting room*. The CTN is sending their top-level folks for this presentation.

We invited all Health Care Facilities and are requesting an RSVP -

www.mendocinobroadband.org/links/

B. Possible library presentation **Oct. 2nd** (unconfirmed)

C. Judy James with Comcast will make a presentation on their Internet Essential program **Nov. 6th** (confirmed). The BAMC will be working with MCOE to invite all school districts to this presentation.

IX. Final comments

Jenna – we are finalizing our survey with measurable answers to see how people cope with inadequate access. It will go out to Further Reach customers and we are interested in working with Ray (Ukiah Wireless) to send to his customers. Ray is interested.

Heather just learned that the FCC is moving forward to require that the Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs) maintain the copper networks. They can't legally abandon them as they have been doing.

Mike – a House bill has been put forth by Congressman Nolan from MN to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to include broadband – H.R. 3152. Mike would like Huffman to consider co-signing the bill.

X. Meeting adjourned – 11:40

Next meeting: Friday, Sept. 11, 2015, 10:00-11:30
Special Topic: California Telehealth Network
We will meet at the newly renovated Community Foundation
204 S. Oak St., Ukiah

Next dates:
October 2nd
November 6th