

Steering Committee Meeting Notes

Friday, November 30th, 2012, 10:00 am – 11:00 am

The Community Foundation of Mendocino County
204 S. Oak Street, Ukiah, CA 95482 (707) 468-9882

Dial In # (605) 477-2100 Participant access code: 565491#

Meeting cancelled for next week December 7th!

1. Call to Order: 10:00 am

- a. Attendees: Dan Hamburg, Jim Moorehead, John Goldsmith, John Kuhry, Susanne Norgard, Trish Steel
- b. Call-in: Greg Jirak, Mike Nicholls, Brian Churm
- c. Guest: Paul Tichinin (County Superintendent of Schools)
- d. Changes to agenda: none

2. Golden Bear Broadband NCRMMI / R1CP – update

- a. Jim shared some highlights from yesterday's conference call on the R1CP with Tom West and Mitch Drake; The CASF application is progressing, Mitch is optimistic, and everything appears on track. After spending three days driving the route, it was obvious that radios towers for Last Mile would not work with the terrain and trees, so some of the funding was re-allocated for more "fiber to the curb".
- b. Meetings with PG&E to "hop on and off" PG&E transmission lines have given Mitch more flexibility with his budget.
- c. The first draft application deadline is December 15th.
- d. We would really like to get an endorsement from Senators Feinstein and Boxer, and Dan suggested going through Heidi Dickerson (Representative Thompson's District Representative and for Representative elect Huffman). Heidi is open to that and has asked us to send information and a list of endorsers. Jim and Trish will do this.
- e. Field representatives for Feinstein/Boxer have told Trish that they don't generally endorse projects unless they are federally funded; however, with recent developments to go after USDA/RUS funding (Steve Sharpe in Sonoma County has taken this on) then we may be able to get an endorsement. There is also a possibility of accessing FCC/CAF funding.
- f. Mike was talking to Efren Carillo (Sonoma County BOS) and he asked for suggestions on how to use the California State Association of Counties for broadband advocacy.

3. Board of Supervisor's 2013 Legislative Platform

- a. Last year the Alliance provided recommendations for the Mendocino County Legislative Platform in regards to broadband. Dan didn't think that there were any changes from last year.
- b. There is a BOS meeting on Dec. 10th for approval of the 2013 Legislative Platform.

- c. Tom West and Mitch Drake were invited to attend the R1CP presentation on the 10th for the BOS.

4. Vision Mendocino 2030

- a. The goal of Vision Mendocino 2030 is to create a regional blueprint plan that guides sustainable change in Mendocino County over the next 20 years. The project will integrate planning for housing, jobs, transportation, and the environment in both the cities and unincorporated areas. This is a project of the Mendocino Council of Governments, MCOG (from an article in The Laytonville Observer).
- b. On their website, there is no reference to broadband.
- c. Brian confirmed that MCOG is about transportation (pedestrian walkways, bike ways, etc) and that the organizing person is Phil Dow. Phil is a wealth of information and has been doing this work for many years. The Alliance tried to contact him in the summer of 2011 but was not successful.
- d. Brian suggested that for any transportation project, Mendocino County should be trying to get conduits into the project. These conduits can be revenue producing, ie, if the county owns the conduit, they can lease them out. The goal would be for all the transportation corridors to have conduit in them.
- e. John Kuhry knows Phil and will contact him, and will try to get him to come to one of our meetings.

5. Countywide Anchor Institution Inventory

- a. Jim has made contact with all five Chambers of Commerce; we are currently working on a letter and inventory spreadsheet to send to them to get an idea of broadband needs from the business community.
- b. Greg added that this information will be part of an ever-changing database that we will keep updated. We are covered along the R1CP and in pretty good shape with the exception of public safety. We will keep gathering the data, and then it's available to use for projects. We will also give the data to the CPUC.
- c. Our new website will have a portal so people can go on line to submit data. The new site is live, and will be presented at the BOS meeting on the 10th.
- d. When the county schools were discussed, the topic of Erate was brought up, and the question was asked, "Why do we want the expiration dates of the Erate contracts?"
- e. Brian answered that it's good policy to have the expiration dates and that as a matter of due diligence, six months prior to the expiration date, the county should put out a RFP. If there is no activity on a contract, then that contract "evergreens" or automatically renews.
- f. There are more vendors operating in Mendocino County than a year ago, and another company might come up with a different solution that also provides public access.

6. Community Foundation Challenge Grant

- a. Counting the \$7500 from the Tobacco settlement money, we only have \$6500 to go to meet our Challenge Grant goal. Greg reminded us that we do not have any check yet, and that we can't count on it until a check clears the bank!
- b. Regarding the Mendocino County Development Corporation (defunct) funds, Greg sent a presentation to Jim Mayfield, who forwarded it to Joe Mayfield with a personal note. Joe is on the MCDC board and it is hoped that this will spur some action once some of the board members see that the Alliance is a logical recipient of funds intended for economic development.
- c. This presentation is also available on our new website on the data and reports page. We will also have a page dedicated to volunteers, and another page that lists our supporters/endorsers.
- d. The Alliance hired a good web programmer, and she will eventually train Jim and Trish for simple updates. Our meetings will be treated as a blog, in that Jim will be able to post the agenda and Trish the notes, and then anyone who is interested will be automatically notified.

7. Opportunities

- a. No reports
- b. JK mentioned his new iPhone 5 with Verizon LTE technology is getting 23 MG down for \$50 with unlimited data plus \$39 for tethering to his computer. By June 2013 Verizon has announced that all of their locations will have the LTE technology.
- c. The Alliance is holding off on the CPUC mapping application for Android phones – limited resources are all focused now on the R1CP application.
- d. Google fiber was mentioned as being tested in Kansas City; you can google it if you are interested in learning more.

8. Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am

9. Informal meeting with Paul Tichinin

- a. Paul Tichinin had other scheduled meetings that morning, but made a point to stop by. Unfortunately the meeting had just adjourned, but those present still had an informal discussion. Paul spent a few minutes discussing MCOE's interest in working more closely with the Alliance on new state education initiatives that will need greater bandwidth in some of the schools and many of the residences in the county.
- b. Paul wanted to deliver the message that there were efforts happening with Tom West (CENIC) to develop two planning grants for Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake, Glen, and Colusa counties, with the idea being that they look at where critical need is and make the best partners that will sell connectivity. The next major area of redundancy of drop-off points is in Leggett, Laytonville, into Willits and down into Sonoma County. He feels that the only way to get vendors to release bandwidth is going to be through big infrastructure projects.
- c. All of this fits in with the conversation we had last meeting with Steve Turner about blended learning, where learning at school is complemented by on-line at home learning.

- d. Paul brought up that in regards to blended learning, it is an equity issue. All schools have to administer the Williams Settlement inspection once a year to make sure that all students have facilities that are clean and safe, that all teachers are credentialed, and that all students have state-aligned instructional materials. If there are students in downtown Santa Clara with access to 1 GB broadband, then theoretically you have to provide that same capacity to a student out in rural Mendocino County.
- e. Dane Jaspar is using the basis of Erate to expand the fiber infrastructure; Paul has to be careful that nothing he does at state level conflicts at federal level, since much of the school's money is federal. There is an effort to work on this with Representative Mike Thompson and Russ Sulkin, a state expert on Erate.

10. **Meeting cancelled for next week December 7th; next meeting to be held on December 14th.**