

Steering Committee Meeting Notes - Corrected

Friday, August 2nd, 2013 10:00 am – 11:30 am

The Community Foundation of Mendocino County

204 S. Oak Street, Ukiah, CA 95482 (707) 468-9882

New Dial in number: (760) 569-7225 Participant Access Code: 108 1131#

(If you have problems dialing in, try dialing 951-262-7373 first,
then the regular number, then #, and then access code and # again)

1. Call to Order: 10:00 am

- a. Attendees: Brian Churm, Carole Brodsky, Dan Hamburg, Jim Moorehead, Mike Nicholls, Susanne Norgard, Trish Steel
- b. Call-in: None due to phone problems; at least three callers, Greg Jirak, Cathy Emerson, and an unknown person tried to call in but were unable to join the call.
- c. Please note: We now have a new call in number, so please use the current agenda/notes for the new call-in number and access code.
- d. Changes to agenda: none

2. Broadband Coalition of Northern California Counties

- a. Jim made a correction to the today's agenda: Item 2.a. and item 4.a. should be reversed. The "State of Broadband" report should be under SB740, and the letter sent to Coalition partners should be under the Broadband Coalition section.
- b. Trish has been contacting people from the various counties, and provided an update on participation in the Coalition.
 - i. We have a support letter in hand from at least one leader in these five counties: Mendocino, Sonoma, Tehama, Yuba, and Siskiyou.
 - ii. We should receive a letter from at least five other counties: Shasta, Lake, Butte, Modoc, and Glenn.
 - iii. We are hopeful to receive a support letter from Trinity, Plumas, Humboldt, and Yolo.
 - iv. We have not heard anything back or contact with leaders in Lassen, Colusa, and Del Norte counties.
- c. We hope to reach out to regional media through our coalition contacts; Carole is drafting a letter that will go out.

3. Golden Bear Broadband

- a. Mitch Drake (CEO, Golden Bear Broadband) was not on the call to give an update.
- b. **Jim reported that Mitch requested that the CPUC application review team, who are responsible to review the GBB application, have the chance to see the actual physical route and meet with representatives from affected communities to hear their input.**
- c. **This trip has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 20th.**
- d. In Mendocino County, they will stop in Point Arena and Mendocino only, as the Albion and Laytonville stops have been deleted. Sea Ranch will be in the Point Arena meeting

and Albion will participate in the Mendocino meeting. In Sonoma County, they will meet with the “Connect Joy Road” association.

- e. The same review team drove the route last week with representatives from AT&T so that AT&T could show them where their fiber exists. The review team is gathering other pertinent information (available capacity, age of fiber, etc...). We do not have any information about that trip or where they went or what they saw.
- f. Brian suggested that at each point along the route where ATT probably has said that they have fiber, we ask these three important questions to the CPUC staff:
 - i. Did AT&T tell you if there is fiber to this building/pole/community?
 - ii. Did AT&T say if there were any available fiber pairs on this fiber? If yes, how many did they tell you were free?
 - iii. Did AT&T give any indication as to if they would allow a CLEC or other CPCN provider access to those fiber pairs?
- g. Mitch has indicated before that the review team, as part of the challenge process, is obtaining answers to these questions, and many more.
- h. Possibly, we could get ATT to commit to opening up access to some of their fiber if these questions are asked at the right time and place, and the staffers see how the regulations that look only at the “existence” of fiber doesn’t solve the problem for our communities.

4. Senate Bill 740

- a. There are a lot of unknowns at this point.
- b. We don’t know what was the impetus for reconsideration of the bill. The Assembly goes back into session on Monday (8/5) and the Senate on the 11th. Then they both shut down on the 16th.
- c. If it is voted on and goes back, we don’t know if they have time or political will to do anything.
- d. Jim Leddy said that he was under the impression that the new language was detrimental to us, and we don’t know if the bill under reconsideration has any changes in language, or if the bill is gutted. Assemblyman Chesbro thinks that it is still possible to get funding for CASF in the bill. It was suggested that we contact Gladys directly to try to find out some of these answers. Mike will contact her and ask for an update.
- e. Gladys is putting together a package for Sunne to take to Sacramento with “ground truth” examples, including Joy Road and Rancho Navarro. She even wanted more photographs. The thinking is that legislators are in a bubble and they need real-life examples.
- f. Dan suggested a conference call between Sunne, Access Sonoma Broadband and the Alliance to find out where things are in the legislature, and what we can do to help. He is available anytime to do this.

5. Opportunities

- a. Mike updated the group about the Sonoma project to provide free Wi-Fi in Guernville.
- b. The system should be “up and going” next week, and it will be a good deal for everyone and it is getting a lot of press. Mike will send Trish the info, and she will make sure that

Dave Turner (Fort Bragg Mayor) and Scott Deitz (Fort Bragg City Council) get the info as it may be something Fort Bragg wants to explore.

- c. The project uses a system of twelve routers installed on building to provide free broadband access to tourists and local folks. Two of the routers are placed on affordable housing units.
- d. Backhaul is provided by AT&T through a DSL line. The Transit Occupancy Tax (or “bed tax”) paid for their first year’s connectivity fees.

6. MCOE/MCOG/Alliance Transportation Planning Grant

- a. We hope to hear whether our grant application is funded sometime in August. The last time Jim spoke with Phil Dow, ED for MCOG, the state budget was approved, so as long as the budget is approved, Phil expects that Caltrans will make their announcements in August.

7. Meeting Adjourned at 11:30

Next meeting: Friday, August 9th