

Steering Committee Meeting Notes

Friday, August 9th, 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: **Dan Hamburg** (Supervisor, Mendocino County), **Jim Moorehead** (Broadband Alliance Chair), **John Kuhry** (ED Economic Development and Financing Corporation), **John Goldsmith** (Financial Advisor), **Mike Nicholls** (Co-Chair, Access Sonoma Broadband), Steve Oliff (Olyoptics, Point Arena)
- b. Call-in: **Cathy Emerson** (Manager, NECCC & UCCC Consortia), **Dennis Garton** (Supervisor, Tehama County), **Greg Jirak** (Strategic Chair, Broadband Alliance), **Susanne Norgard** (ED, Community Foundation), **Trish Steel** (Administrative Coordinator, Broadband Alliance), **Mitch Drake** (Network Architect, Golden Bear Broadband)
- c. Changes to agenda: none

2. Broadband Coalition of Northern California Counties

- a. Trish gave an update on the letters of support from county leaders that the Coalition has received for the statement, “Substandard broadband damages our regional economy.”
 - i. The Alliance has “in hand” four letters from county Boards of Supervisors (Mendocino, Sonoma, Modoc, and Tehama)
 - ii. The Alliance has “in hand” letters from individual supervisors/superintendents/chancellors from three more counties: Butte, Siskiyou, and Yuba.
 - iii. This represents 55.8% of the northern county population (not including Yuba county)
 - iv. We expect to receive letters from five more counties: Lake, Shasta, Trinity, Glenn, and Plumas. Several of these counties have upcoming board meetings where a letter is expected to be approved. If these counties provide a letter of support, it would represent 72% of the northern counties population.
 - v. We hope to receive a letter of support from Humboldt and Yolo county.
 - vi. We have not received contact from Lassen, Del Norte, nor Colusa county.
- b. The Alliance media contact, Carole Brodsky, is asking that leaders from some of these other counties can provide her with media contacts for upcoming media releases/stories about the broadband issue. We would like to have a common “baseline” story to which local county interviews/stories are added.
- c. Supervisor Garton offered to get Carole the contact for the paper in Red Bluff and possibly other media outlets

3. Golden Bear Broadband

- a. Mitch arrived on the call late, so Cathy E gave a brief update.
- b. Mitch will be taking a field trip with the CASF review team on August 20th.
- c. Mendocino Supervisor Dan Hamburg is planning on attending the Mendocino meeting stop on this trip, and is looking forward to it.

4. SB740

- a. Cathy updated the group on SB740: the bill will be up for a vote in the State Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee on Monday, 8/12/13. There will be no testimony or discussion, and the vote will be final.
- b. It needs eight “yes” votes to pass, and if it passes it goes to the floor for a vote at the end of August or early September.
- c. The revised language includes \$90 million, with \$65 million for the CASF infrastructure grants, but this money is not available for current applications.
- d. What this means is that if this new money is available, the CASF staff is going to be required to assemble another round of applications. The statute and policy are not working in parallel; the statute identifies what money is available, and the PUC determines the guidelines.
- e. Mike wondered about the communication from Gladys Palpallatoc (CETF) asking that we be physically present for the vote on Monday in Sacramento if there is no testimony or input from the public allowed.
- f. Cathy agreed that it was confusing, as the committee members would have no idea what side you are there for, and suggested that Mike contact Gladys to get clarification on that point.
- g. IF elected officials could call Assembly members who voted “no” or were “absent” between now and August 12th, that would carry more weight than regular citizens making the calls. Trish will send out a list of Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee members with their contact information to Dan and Dennis, and cc everyone in attendance at the meeting.
- h. The Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC, an association of thirty-one rural counties that advocates before the legislature, Congress and other government agencies on behalf of rural issues) has been in contact with Beth Gaines (Republican, District 6 who voted “no”) and her staff now understands how important it is that SB740 passes.
- i. Because of the amendments of 8/7/13, the cable lobby has removed its opposition to the bill, and moved into a neutral position in regards to it. This has made us hopeful that it will pass this time.
- j. (Update: on 8/12/13 SB740 did pass out of the Assembly Committee)
- k. Mitch pointed out that even if SB740 passes, if you do the math, there is still a shortfall of funds for fall applicants:
 - i. There is \$230 million in application requests pending
 - ii. \$158 million is scheduled to be collected by 2015
 - iii. \$10 million is requested for Digital 395 for over-runs
 - iv. If the request for \$10 million is approved, that leaves \$148 million

- v. If SB740 is approved, that adds \$65 million for a total of over \$200 million in funds up until 2020. This is still short of the \$230 million in pending requests.
- 5. **MCOE/MCOG/Alliance Caltrans Environmental Justice Grant application**
 - a. We hope to hear this month whether the grant is approved or not.
- 6. **Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 am**

Next meeting: August 23rd