

Steering Committee Meeting Notes

Friday, November 15th, 2013 10:00 am – 10:40 am

The Community Foundation of Mendocino County

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

New Dial In Number

Dial In # (760) 569-7225, Participant Access Code: 108 1131#

1. Call to Order: 10:00 am

- a. Attendees: **Dan Hamburg** (Mendocino County 5th District Supervisor), **Doug McCorkle** (North Coast Railroad Authority), **Jim Moorehead** (Alliance Chairman), **John Kuhry** (Economic Development and Financing Corporation), **Mike Nicholls** (Access Sonoma Broadband Co-chair), **Trish Steel** (Alliance Administrative Coordinator)
- b. Call-in: **Cathy Emerson** (UCCC Manager, Center Economic Development CSU Chico), **Mitch Drake** (CEO, Golden Bear Broadband)

2. Broadband Coalition of Northern California Counties

- a. The next push will be to encourage BCNCC participants to help distribute the new CPUC broadband validation survey (see #6 below) in their areas.
- b. The Alliance would be happy to share our distribution plan to anyone who might want ideas for their own distribution.

3. Golden Bear Broadband (GBB) - Mitch

- a. MD provided an update, although he didn't have much to report. Mainly, he is still waiting to hear back from CPUC staff.

4. Access Sonoma Broadband (ASB)

- a. Their next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 20th at the new Economic Development Business office in Santa Rosa, 10 am. This meeting is open to the public, and the address is 141 Stony Circle, Suite 110, the new Economic Development Board office.

5. CPUC mapping survey

- a. The big news is that last week the CPUC mapping group created the survey for broadband data input from residents. The survey was then customized so that it was single-page, and easily understandable and distributed.
- b. The survey and more information is available on the Alliance website: www.MendocinoBroadband.org. Cathy will have someone translate the survey into Spanish, and the Spanish version of the survey will be posted on the website as soon as it is available.
- c. The Alliance provided an update on their distribution plan for Mendocino County, and ASB shared an update on their efforts in Sonoma County.

- d. Mendocino County feels fortunate to have our county superintendent, Paul Tichinin, taking a leadership role in regards to broadband and school access. We are hoping to work with Paul in the distribution of this survey to all students, faculty and staff.
- e. JK suggested that the Alliance make a presentation to the Willits City Council, and that it is something that they would like. JK will set this up, and get us on their agenda calendar.
- f. Another good place for a presentation is the Willits Economic Localization Group (WELL), various Chambers of Commerce, Farmer's Markets, and the North Coast Opportunities (NCO).
- g. ASB is on the Sonoma County Board of Education agenda for Dec. 12th to make a presentation and to get the County Office of Education behind them for the widespread distribution of the survey.
- h. ASB has also asked the North Bay Association of Realtors (NorBAR) to place the information on their website also.
- i. CPUC Commissioner Sandoval is interested in obtaining data on the connectivity and bandwidth needs of K-12 school sites in CA, and Russ Selkin from the Butte County Office of Education is taking the lead in this effort.
- j. There is a woeful lack of infrastructure for schools, and with on-line testing coming soon, many schools will not be able to administer this testing.
- k. In Sonoma County they are maintaining a bandwidth inventory for each school, and they plan to update it. For one small school in particular with limited connectivity, they were told by the state that the school only needs 500 Kb down to conduct the test. This doesn't seem quite right...does it mean "per test?" or for the entire school? The CA minimum standard is 6 Mb down.
- l. We don't know what the state is advising as far as bandwidth required for schools to administer the on-line testing. This would be good information to find. Mitch said that he would follow up on this and report back to us.
- m. Trish has not heard back from her CalWorks contact yet; JK will talk to MPIC and that might be a better contact.
- n. The question was asked as to what the various broadband consortia are doing to promote the CPUC survey. Cathy doesn't have reports of what the other consortia are doing, but she has collected 72 surveys herself in the last two weeks, and is making headway.

6. Old Business

- a. The Alliance received a copy of a letter from Assemblyman Wesley Chesbro to Mr. Michael Cohen, Director of the California Director of Finance. Assemblyman Chesbro's letter was a follow-up to the issue of CalFire tower access (see notes from meeting on 11/1/13) and is attached to this email.

7. Meeting Adjourned at 10:40

Next meeting: December 6th