

Steering Committee Meeting Notes

Friday, October 3rd, 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

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

1. Call to Order: 10:00 am

- a. Attendees: Brian Churm, Brandon Merritt, Dan Hamburg, Howard Egan, John Kuhry, Jim Moorehead, Mike Nicholls, Ray Gifford, Randy MacDonald, Richard Lampken, Susanne Norgard, Trish Steel
- b. Call-in: Mickie Zekley (Road 409 resident), Myron Curtis (Butte County, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office)
- c. Guests: David Grim (Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Mendocino County)
- d. Changes to the agenda – Richard will report on changes to E-rate and VIIG grant for schools.

2. Road 409 update – Mickie Zekley

- a. Mickie, a resident of Road 409, called in to provide an update on some activities from residents of their area. He and his neighborhood of about 75 homes have a high level of frustration due to their lack of broadband and dealing with regulatory agencies in trying to change this.
- b. He provided a brief history of their struggle; they have tried working with Comcast and ATT for years to get service but without success. Comcast wanted to charge a quarter of a million dollars to get service. Recently he tried to do the "CPUC broadband validation survey" but was not able to because his address would not locate on their map (the mapping database does not recognize his address). He wrote a letter to the CPUC both electronically and sent it through the US postal service. He received a response from Paul Harris from the CPUC saying that they have no jurisdiction over internet, nor authority to order a company to provide a service, and that his case is therefore closed and he should go fill out the CPUC survey. So clearly, the staffer did not read his letter about how he was not ABLE to fill out the survey. After five attempts to reach him, he was able to talk to him and asked for his supervisor. He then left five phone messages for this supervisor, and eventually moved his way up to a manager in San Francisco. He received a call back from Owen Rochte of the CPUC, and Owen said that Comcast has now classified that area as unserved. So theoretically a provider like MCN could apply for a CASF grant for providing services.
- c. We will check the maps to see what the Ca Broadband maps say for addresses in his area since his address doesn't locate. (*Update 10/7/14: 47 of 47 addresses tested on*

Road 409 will not locate so we will send in the survey via email; 10 of 19 addresses on Prairie Way say that Comcast provides service.) This information is in the process of being validated by residents, and if not correct we will provide feedback to the CPUC.

3. **North Bay/North Coast Broadband Consortium – Mike & Jim**

- a. Meeting with Providers
 - i. The consortium has met with providers with varying degrees of success. In Mendocino County we hope to still schedule a meeting with WillitsOnline, MCN and others.
 - ii. Sonoma County has met with some Wireless Service Providers, and is dealing with open space issues (antenna and repeater placement).
- b. First Oversight Committee Meeting – Oct. 3rd
 - i. The first scheduled oversight committee meeting is this afternoon with the appointed supervisors from Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, and Napa counties.
 - ii. The First Quarter report (July -Sept) on progress against our work plan will be presented to the committee. We are “on task” and are 69% complete with task one and two. The hard work is still in front of us.
 - iii. We will know by November 1st whether the incumbents plan to service any of our priority areas, and if not we will try to find a provider who is willing to apply for CASF funds to service these priority areas.

4. **CPUC Mapping - Trish**

- a. Trish provided an update on our CPUC mapping efforts. She had put much of her outreach efforts at Farmer’s markets on “hold” after finding that much of the time our rural addresses will not locate, or that the “send feedback” link was missing.
- b. She recently found a work-around for an address not locating (email the survey in a Word document to the CPUC) so will begin efforts again. There is also a solution to the missing “send feedback” link (bypass the cache by holding down the shift key and reloading the page).
- c. The survey data from public feedback expires after six months, so it’s important to keep up these efforts and find some way for regular submissions of data.
- d. Sonoma County is looking into including a link to the survey in all the county tax bills that are sent out
- e. We ask people to take the CPUC survey on a regular basis (every 6 months) to provide this important feedback about lack of broadband service in our rural areas - <http://www.broadbandmap.ca.gov/map/>

5. **Planning Commission Wireless Guidelines update – Trish**

- a. Trish attended the Planning Commission meeting held in Ukiah on Sept. 18th and provided an update.
- b. The meeting was well-attended with lots of good discussion during the three hours the meeting lasted. Local providers gave valuable input to staff during the public hearing portion of the meeting.

- c. Information about mesh network technology was presented to the commission (Ted Williams), along with various samples of wireless broadband technology (Mike Ireton). Some receivers/antennas are very small and unobtrusive (3" x 2" x 12")
- d. Supervisor Hamburg also attended the meeting and felt that government exemption discussion was good, and thought that the commission really wanted to help facilitate broadband deployment.
- e. Ray (Ukiah Wireless) also attended the Planning Commission meeting but is concerned that the process is not creating the change that he thinks is necessary. As one example, he still sees thousands of dollars' worth of engineering fees and inspection costs, and these expenses are still prohibitive for his business. He did not speak at the public hearing, but he will express his concerns to Dusty in an email.
- f. Both the Wireless Guidelines and Zoning ordinance (with the Alternative Permit Process, or APP) will go back to staff for revision, and come back before the Planning Commission at some point in the future.

6. AT&T Fiber outage report – Brandon

- a. Brandon is currently our "lead" on the Broadband Incident Report on the outage that affected the county in early August.
- b. He received 741 responses to the original survey and from those responses our preliminary report was prepared.
- c. Trish and Karen did some follow-up to those responses, and Brandon created a second survey to get more targeted data for our full report. We have had at least 50 people complete this secondary survey; of those responses, 83% felt that the outage was a threat to their safety.
- d. Through Randy (as 2nd Assistant Chief, Comptche Volunteer Fire Dept) the Alliance was able to receive confirmation from Verizon that the fiber break was the cause of their cellular disruption inland near the Lodge Lightning Fire Complex in Laytonville.
- e. Brandon hopes to have this report completed by October 31st. Randy as our public safety liaison, feels strongly that we should push this on every front that we can, as it shows a huge vulnerability that we have in our county. Our plan is to route this report to all the appropriate agencies, such as the 911 Safety Commission, PUC, various Senate Committees, and FCC contacts. Randy, Brian, John Kuhry, Jim, Brandon, and Trish will create a list where we should send our final report to. We are currently hoping to do this through the Sheriff's department or the Office of Emergency Services but if that does not work we will send out from the Alliance.
- f. Brandon asked Randy if he knew of anyone who was injured or had medical complications because of this outage, and Randy said that he would do an informal poll, along with finding out if there were any "walk-ins" at the fire stations.
- g. Randy also reported on an interesting conversation with an ATT technician in the Bay Area, where everything is redundant and buried; they never do in urban areas what they are doing here in our rural area with aerial cables and lack of redundancy.
- h. It is unknown if there has been an official request for a "Reason for Outage" from the county to the various providers.

- i. The Alliance will also re-connect with Congressman Huffman’s field representative Heather, and find out what the Congressman is doing as follow-up to the meeting that Huffman had with ATT soon after the outage.
- j. Brian stated that the failure was a network configuration issue, as the fiber is there, the network is there, but ATT did not set up diverse pathways. There should be a back-up path up to Eureka. He provided such technical questions for Congressman Huffman to ask ATT, but he has not heard anything back yet.
- k. Sage, the manager of MCN, also wrote an article in the Beacon which said that there was a way for the network to be redundant, but that it wasn’t. See the article here - http://www.mendocinobeacon.com/ci_26423763/mcns-statham-explains-internet-outage
- l. MCN also provided an explanation to their customers on the “Single Point of Failure” which you can read here - <http://www.mcn.org/spof.html>

7. Verizon Plans for new tower near Ft. Bragg

- a. This item was not discussed due to lack of time.

8. Richard Lampken on E-rate

- a. Richard from Mendocino County Office of Education (MCOE) provided an update on status of their grant application.
- b. There was \$26 million put into the state budget for connecting schools with high speed broadband in CA; the MCOE nominated a number of schools in Round Valley and Leggett, but Richard found out that 265 other schools around the state were nominated, too. The state will have to prioritize the schools according to which are most impacted by their need, and hopefully Round Valley will have a strong case because when they do the required online testing, everything else has to be shut down so that there is enough bandwidth.
- c. The E-rate program guidelines have come out, and E-rate wants to get out of the voice service and use all the money for broadband connectivity and infrastructure. Currently, schools are getting a 90% subsidy for voice services, but next year that subsidy will drop to 70%, and the subsidy will continue to drop yearly.
- d. Currently, schools are required to provide one meg of service per student, but by 2018/19 that requirement grows to 10 megs/student. That means that a school with 1000 students would need to have a one Gig service, so this will create an outcry because of non-existent broadband infrastructure.
- e. Richard also reported that through the High Speed Network K-12 grant program, there will be available \$150/student for infrastructure needs such as routers, cabling, switches, and other network expenses.

9. Access Sonoma Broadband – Mike

- a. Mike did not provide an update due to lack of time.
- b. The next meeting of Access Sonoma Broadband is scheduled for Wednesday, October 15th in Santa Rosa.

- c. For more information, please see their website:
<http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/projects/access-sonoma-broadband/>

10. T-17443 Notice of Availability CASF New Timelines - (Issued May 27)

- a. This item was not discussed due to lack of time.
- b. However, the broadband infrastructure grant applications will be due starting on December 1st, 2014 and accepted on a rolling/first come-first serve basis.
- c. These funds are also open to organizations other than CLECS (Competitive Local Exchange Carrier).
- d. A PDF version (11 Mb) of the Resolution can be found online here:
<https://app.box.com/s/j2xnwuslb3ybygoqo1vf>
- e. Please contact the Alliance if you are interested in pursuing these grant funds.

11. Closing comments

- a. David Grim, Deputy Chief Executive Office for Mendocino County, said that he was happy to be here; he also stated that the North Bay-North Coast Broadband Consortium Memorandum of Understanding was passed by the Board of Supervisors, and that he is also liaison to the Department of Planning and Building, so he is happy to help in those conversations.

12. Adjourn

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Next meeting: Nov 7th, Dec 5th