

Steering Committee Meeting Notes

Friday, Nov 7th, 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, Dan Hamburg, John McCowen, Heather Gurewitz, Katie Gibbs, John Goldsmith, Jim Moorehead, Mike Nicholls, Randy MacDonald, Richard Lampken, Susanne Norgard, Trish Steel
- b. Call-in: None
- c. Guests: Tom West, Project Manager for North Bay-North Coast Broadband Consortium, Jeffrey Parker, Brooke Clarke
- d. Changes to the agenda – none

2. North Bay/North Coast Broadband Consortium –

Tom West

- a. Tom West, NBNCBC project manager was up in Mendocino County for three days of meetings with community groups, broadband providers, county government/Supervisors, Anchor Institutions, and other stakeholders.
- b. Tom made three points from his observations:
 - i. Fixed Wireless is a big part of the broadband picture in Mendocino County, which is good news.
 - ii. We have a lot of eager and clever providers who are working hard, which is good news.
 - iii. There are some obstacles however:
 - 1. Lack of competitive middle mile fiber transport out of Mendocino County to the south and to the north that local providers use to connect to the bigger Internet universe. There are two major providers of back-haul: ATT and Level 3. ATT goes north-south along 101; L3 goes over Hwy 20 to Sacramento and to SF; costs to local providers for backhaul is quite high, and that makes costs to end user high and creates affordability problems.
 - 2. Technical obsolesce – some providers are currently using DSL and ADSL (copper), but when the copper is gone it will present problems.
 - 3. Discrepancy between CPUC and NBNCBC designation of some of our areas as “served” or “unserved”. The NBNCBC is undertaking a “ground truth” testing project, and we will test our priority areas for mobile and fixed wireless. We completed phase I of testing in

September, which included locations in Marin County and two locations in Mendocino County; We tested 112 sites in our counties, and all 13 areas (shown as “served” based on mobile only) turned out to be either underserved or unserved. We sent the report to the CPUC with a request that they officially change the designations. They have said that those areas are now officially eligible for grant funding.

- iv. There are also policy issues that need pursuing, such as getting CLEC (Competitive Local Exchange Carriers) qualifications for ISP providers

3. **Washington DC visit sponsored by Rural Broadband Policy Group – Mike Nicholls**

- a. Mike was invited to join Public Knowledge to travel to Washington DC to share “stories” with legislators about life in the “digital divide.” He brought photos and stories to share with legislators and their staff.
- b. He felt overall that legislators were supportive of their efforts, but there were at least a few who had the attitude that rural residents have a “choice” to move to urban areas with better broadband if we are not happy with the current services in our rural areas.

4. **CPUC Mapping - Trish**

- a. Trish has been working with the layers found on the CPUC broadband map, and would be happy to share what she has learned if anyone is interested.
- b. Put in your address and see what comes up for broadband services that are supposedly available for your address. From there, you can explore various map layers that provide census block boundaries, numbers, households, wired services, fixed wireless services, mobile broadband services, FCC cell tower locations, public feedback locations, etc.
- c. The link to the map is: <http://www.broadbandmap.ca.gov/map/>
- d. If you find that the map says that you have services that in reality you do not have, it is REALLY important that you provide this feedback to us and to the CPUC. Take the survey, and then email me with that same info (your address, and what services you actually have).
- e. You can find instructions and the survey link on our website: <http://www.mendocinobroadband.org/take-the-cpuc-broadband-survey/>
- f. We ask people to take the CPUC survey on a regular basis (every 6 months) because the information “expires” after that time, even if nothing has changed in your service.

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

- a. At last report, both the Wireless Guidelines and Zoning ordinance (with the Alternative Permit Process, or APP) went back to PC staff for revision, and will be scheduled to come back before the Planning Commission at some point in the future.
- b. Trish contacted the PC for a status report, and received this reply on Monday:
 - i. The matter was continued by the Planning Commission to allow staff time to complete environmental review for the ordinance amendment, what I have been calling the Alternative Permit Process. No date has been set. The

deadline to get reports together for the December meeting was last week, so we were looking at the beginning months of 2015.

6. AT&T Fiber outage report - Jim

- a. The final report is finished, and we are currently waiting on some procedural issues before the report is officially released to the public.

7. Access Sonoma Broadband – Mike

- a. Access Sonoma Broadband held its last meeting on Wednesday, October 15th in Santa Rosa.
- b. For more information, please see their website:
<http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/projects/access-sonoma-broadband/>

8. Adjourn

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.
- b. Our next meeting will be at the Riesling Room of the Ukiah Valley Conference Center (across the street from the Community Foundation) due to construction in the meeting room at the Community Foundation office.

Next meeting: Dec 5th –New location for this meeting only!

Riesling Room, Ukiah Valley Conference Center
200 South School Street, Ukiah, CA 95482
Office: 707-463-6701