

Broadband Alliance Public Outreach Meeting

Friday, April 3rd 10 am-11:45 am

**TEMPORARY MEETING LOCATION: Arbor Youth Resource Center
810 N. State Street, Ukiah 98482 (west side)**

Call in Number: 1-760-569-7225 Access code: 108 1131#

I. Call to Order

- Introductions: **Mike Nichols**, NBNBCB Management Team member, Sonoma, **Maureen Mulheren**, Ukiah City Council, **Katie Gibbs**, Community Foundation Board, **Brooke Clark** county resident, **Dan Hamburg**, Supervisor 5th District,, **Wally Clark**, County Librarian, **Howard Egan**, North Bay Association of Realtors, **Bruce Vogen**, Marin County resident, **Tom Woodhouse**, Supervisor 3rd District, **Steve Dunicliff**, Director of Mendocino County Planning and Building, **Russ Ford**, Cartographer, Planner, Mendocino County Planning and Building, **Jacob Turner**, SeaKay, **Kim Remick**, SeaKay, **Judy James**, Comcast, **Ethan Rutherford**, county resident, **Heather Gurewitz**, Field Representative, Congressman Huffman, **Kerrie Lindecker**, District Representative, Senator McGuire, **Trish Steel**, BAMC Chair; **Diann Simmons**, BAMC Administrative Coordinator.
- Call-in: **Myron Curtis**, Deputy Sector Navigator ICT/DM for the Far North Regional Consortium, **Shirley Freriks**, Mendocino Coast Broadband Alliance, **Suzanne Norgard**, Community Foundation ED
- Approval of the agenda: Trish adding items later in the meeting under BAMC update

II. Items of interest “In the news”

Trish got many of these links at www.benton.org – it’s good reporting and you can sign up to get daily emails of their headlines.

- FCC rules publicly available - no surprises benton.org/headlines/fccs-net-neutrality-order-protects-internet-freedom-restoring-law
When voted on by the FCC, the text of their rule wasn’t publicly released. This is the released full text, with no surprises.
- First Lawsuits filed in Net Neutrality - benton.org/headlines/here-are-first-lawsuits-challenge-fccs-network-neutrality-rules | [Washington Post](http://WashingtonPost.com)
[By us telecom Alamo](http://Byus.com)
- BAMC signs onto Rural Assemblies FCC letter
<http://www.mendocinobroadband.org/data-and-reports/>

This month BAMC signed onto a letter by the Rural Broadband Assembly, addressed to the House subcommittee, Judiciary Committee, in support of the FCC Net Neutrality rule. [http://www.mendocinobroadband.org/wp-content/uploads/3-23-15-House-Subcommittee-letter.NN .pdf](http://www.mendocinobroadband.org/wp-content/uploads/3-23-15-House-Subcommittee-letter.NN.pdf). We previously signed onto a letter last April and again in August, so this was a continuation of our position. Be aware that there has been hacking of someone's email used to send a rant against net neutrality to Huffman's office. Pay attention to auto replies from your representatives, if you haven't contacted them yourself.

Heather stated that Congressman Huffman is very supportive of net neutrality

- President Obama forms Broadband Opportunity Council and plans Broadband Summit <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/03/23/fact-sheet-next-steps-delivering-fast-affordable-broadband>
- Communication Act re-write by lobbyists and lawmakers? benton.org/headlines/cable-lobby-eyes-opening-rewrite-telecommunications-law | Hill, The
- Comcast-Time Warner Merger decision delayed benton.org/headlines/california-public-utilities-commission-delays-vote-comcast-twc-deal
- Last round of NTIA data for the BB map - 98% of US has access to wireless broadband benton.org/headlines/national-broadband-map-has-helped-chart-broadband-evolution | National Telecommunications and Information Administration

III. FIXED WIRELESS TUTORIAL - Brian Churm

In the next 10 years in rural communities, fixed wireless technology will be a critical component for access. Technology Chair Brian Churm offered to do a tutorial because of questions that arose about wireless technology, such as, "Can fixed wireless support the new FCC definition of broadband at 25 Mbps down and 3 Mbps up"? Brian has a good ability to explain broadband technologies in a way that the lay person can understand. The text of the tutorial will be available soon on the BAMC website under "Data and Reports"/"Consumer Education": www.mendocinobroadband.org/topics/consumer-education/

IV. BAMC news

- Adoption Report released- <http://www.mendocinobroadband.org/data-and-reports/>

We completed the Adoption Report as required as part of our NBNBCB grant work plans and have it posted on our website. We will be updating the report as we get corrections and more information. Diann focused on an assessment of the availability of public access computers and basic computer classes. Please provide feedback to her if you have information that is not included in our report, so that we can update the report. The report is generating interest, and we plan to collaborate with non-profits and the libraries for adoption programs. A current estimate to buy computers for all interested organizations and offer computer classes throughout the county twice a year is \$57,000/year. We are looking for funding.

- Looking to partner with non-profits and organizations for digital literacy programs

It was suggested that BAMC consider paying for hotspots around the county. The Community Foundation recommended partnering with local organizations to implement adoption activities. Katie said it is important to clarify the goals of the Alliance. Is adoption one of them? Trish agreed and said that a review of the Alliance mission, goals, and priorities by the Steering Committee is being planned to guide our work.

- Comcast franchise fee re-imbursements update

Will discuss next month

V. North Bay-North Coast Broadband Consortium

- Revised phase 3 test results for mobile wireless

Dan (represents Mendocino on NBNBC Oversight Committee) gave highlights from the Oversight Committee Meeting held on 4/2. It was an interesting meeting. County managers gave a brief report on activities in their area and the status of possible CASF infrastructure grant applications. The fund still has 140 to 170 million. Sonoma already has an application submitted to the CPUC, and Marin should have one soon. We are encouraging providers to go after this money for Mendocino. Napa has just completed their ground testing, but is catching up with the other counties. There is new legislation proposed by Assembly members Jim Wood (2nd District) and Mark Stone (29th District – Monterey Bay area) that have to do with extending the life of CASF and with adoption by CPUC of new FCC broadband speed standard. It will be interesting to see how the new standard will affect areas that are currently served and underserved. At this point, the CPUC map is based on the old standard. It's important to continue CASF so the consortiums can continue to work to expand access.

Trish talked about some mistakes that the CPUC found in some of the ground testing calculations. The changes have affected mostly areas in Marin, but it also changed the Willits and Calpella areas in Mendocino County back to "served".

Brooke said that the new ground truth information will be put on the CPUC map as a new layer, not actually changing the original information.

Trish said that the NBNBC 3rd Quarter Report to CASF will be posted on our website in several weeks. She reminded everyone that the NBNBC Oversight Committee meetings are open to the public. The next one will be held on June 26, by phone or at the County Admin building.

- Priority Areas update

Trish provided some background to how our 17 "Priority Areas" came about. In 2013 when we were a part of Redwood Coast Consortium, we were asked to submit the areas in our county that we had identified as "priorities" for broadband deployment, a week after the deadline for submission to the CPUC had passed. We tried to call the entire county a priority area, but that wasn't accepted by the CPUC. We had already identified Sherwood Road, the Route 1 Corridor and Rancho Navarro as areas for our Notice of Opportunity program, so we submitted those areas. Sherwood Road and Rancho Navarro were accepted, but we were again told that the Route 1 Corridor Project was too large, so we

broke the coastal area into smaller clusters. It was hard to say one area was more important than another, and we realized that our listings were biased towards the coast but this is where we had the most data because we had been working on the Golden Bear Broadband project, which had a Mendocino County coastal component. Since that time, we have submitted additional “priority areas” to the CPUC. Having an area identified as a “priority area” does not provide any special funding, but it is taken into account should a CASF application be submitted for that area.

At this time, there are not any Mendocino County CASF applications submitted to the CPUC, but the Alliance continues to have discussions and encourage providers to consider a grant application for capital expenses for deployment of broadband. There have been positive changes in our priority areas - of the 17 areas, 6 already have service deployed or committed. We have decided that another 5 of the areas have too few households and to instead focus our energy on areas of higher density; We are actively working to get providers to step up in the other 6 areas. We are mailing out postcards this week to determine community interest in broadband service in the Sherwood Gates community, asking residents to fill out a survey that we have posted on our website <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/B5VBQGC>. The information will be used to try to get providers to take a closer look. In these last 6 areas, we have the best chance if there are community groups/associations already in place that we can work with. But, it is a slow and difficult piecemeal approach. Trish feels it is the role of the Alliance to work behind the scenes, and we are willing to help local providers deploy broadband in any way we can.

- Broadband policies and mapping update – Brooke

Brook brought in a population density map that he had made at the County GIS department for people to see. Brooke presented a large map that the county GIS cartographer (Russ Ford) created for him of population densities – a very professional job. This is just the start of an effort to map broadband infrastructure and create different data layers that would be helpful in broadband planning. The next step will be to put DSL and cable information on. Russ agreed to do a GIS mapping presentation in the future.

VI. County Updates

- Executive Office update

Dan reported that the County is still on track for the Planning Commission to approve a revision of wireless permitting that will make it easier for WISPS to be permitted. It will be before the Planning Commission in June, and then come right to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

- MCOE update

Not available

- Libraries update

Wally reported that they have signed a contract with Sonic.net for library service to all the county libraries. Wally submitted an E-rate application that will cover most of the costs. Service will start after July 1 with faster speeds at all the branches.

- Public Safety Update - were our Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) notified of the outage?)

Trish had previously asked Randy if he had been able to find out if AT&T notified the Public Safety Answering Points (the County Sheriff's office and CAL FIRE Mendocino Emergency Unit), of the August 2014 outage, which is a requirement of the FCC. Randy thought that the Supervisors should make the request to the Sheriff's office and CAL FIRE. Trish agreed to draft a letter with that request and send to Dan Hamburg. Dan is happy to receive the draft letter and move it forward.

- EDFC update

Not available

- Technical Chair update

Brian provided the tutorial on wireless technology today

VII. Access Sonoma Broadband - Mike Nicholls

Sea ranch submitted an application to CASF for a \$6 million project. Another application for Joy Road will be going in shortly. They are in negotiations with a prospective funder that was a contact from Dan. They are moving rapidly ahead with Joy Road. The coastal area around Jenner expects a wireless project soon but is still interested in other providers coming in also. In Dry Creek, ASB is just getting engaged with business and homeowners.

VIII. Outreach and future presentations

- Other suggestions welcome
- Give us ideas for future presentation and outreach.

IX. Final comments from attendees

X. Jacob – SeaKay will be lighting up Blue Lakes on Highway 20, soon! (near the border of Lake and Mendocino Counties)

XI. Next Meeting: Friday May 1st, 2015

The May meeting will be held back at EDFC - Conference Room 2

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