DRAFT MINUTES NBNCBC OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

May 12, 2021

Committee Members and Alternates: County Supervisors-Dennis Rodoni Marin; Ted Williams, Mendocino; Diane Dillon Napa; Chris Coursey Sonoma.
NBNCBC Management: Tom West, Manager, Liza Massey and Javier Trujillo, Marin; Jeff Tyrrell, Mendocino; Anthony Halstead, Jon Gjestvang, Nelson Cortez, Napa; and, Calvin Sandeen, Joy Sterling, and Mike Nicholls, Sonoma.
Guests: Sheba Brown from the Office of Congressman Huffman, Dick Nielsen, Sam Ross, Tom Robinson, and Elise Weiland

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Roll Call of Members was taken by Nelson Cortez, and Chair Dillon noted the quorum. Introduction of the Management Team, and guests followed, as reflected in attendance recorded above.

II. 2021 Proposed State Legislation

• State Legislation—Comparison and Discussion Sterling
On behalf of Joy Sterling, Tom West summarized Exhibit #1:
AB 14 by Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry, entitled Communications: broadband services: California Advanced Services Fund. The bill would authorize local educational agencies to report to the department their pupils' estimated needs for computing devices and internet connectivity adequate for at-home learning. The bill would also require the department, in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, to compile and post that information.
SB 4 by Senator Gonzalez, entitled Communications: California Advanced Services Fund. The bill would require the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development to coordinate with other relevant state and local agencies and national organizations to explore ways to facilitate streamlining of local land use approvals and construction permit processes for projects related to broadband infrastructure deployment and connectivity.
Most importantly, these two bills would infuse additional monies into CASF and potentially add some new authority on bonding and other activities, as well as recommending new speed standards.

(Exhibit #1)

III. 2021 Proposed Federal Legislation

• Federal Legislation Tyrrell /Huffman Rep
Tyrrell indicated that the attached Exhibit #2 provides a good summary, and dollar amounts for many Federal bills that are active or pending, including $3.2 billion for the Emergency Conductivity Fund which establishes a $50 broadband subsidy for low-income households. There are an estimated 57 funding bills pending or active, across 18 different agencies. American Rescue Plan Act has a number of bills embedded within, providing as much $7.1 billion for broadband. Exhibit #2's Table of Contents, on pages 4-5 of the 34-page Congressional Research Service document, link to concise summaries of to dozens of broadband bills.
Also of note, change in FCC, and the direction that they're heading is promising regarding the amount of infrastructure dollars coming forward.
Supervisor Rodoni inquired about limitations on the use of Emergency Broadband Benefit Program. The program provides $50 to off-sets broadband costs for low-income households, as established by National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier or another approved metric, not limited to students.

Tom Robinson added that the Treasury Department announced the launch their Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds of $350 billion to state, local, territorial, and tribal governments.
(Exhibit #2)

IV. **Proposed NBNCBC Legislative Platform**
     *   Nelson Cortez
Management staff is requesting direction from the oversight committee to draft a consortia legislative platform, outline in draft exhibit #3. Broadband sections from each county legislative platform, or equivalent, are outlined in the attachment. By this action we seek direction from the Oversight Committee to create an integrated consortium platform and thereby provide guidance regarding which bills the collective may support.
Committee Action   Approved request to Cortez to proceed to develop NBNCBC Legislative Platform.

(Exhibit #3)

 V. **NBNCBC- Future Mission, Roles and Structure**
     * Calvin Sandeen and Nelson Cortez
The purpose of this item is to revisit the structure of the broadband consortium, and to make sure that the current structure is an effective approach to accomplish our long-term missions. And to get a scope of where we are now and where things are heading, especially regarding grant funding. We must consider things like fiscal responsibilities to make sure that we are operating this organization as effectively as possible. Today's review is just an open-ended discussion to see if anyone has any input on how things currently run and solicit comment regarding how operations can be streamlined or improved.
Member comment were supportive and expressed gratitude for the energetic staff involvement. Additionally, it was said that we may revisit any needed change to our structure during the expanded meeting calendar.
Committee Action   Requested Management Team to develop a proposal.
(Exhibit #4)

VI. **Other Business**
Management Team Reports:
The management team has resumed monthly meetings.
From Marin County, Liza Massey reported that Marin has been very focused on development of their digital infrastructure strategic plan called Digital Marin and wrapping up the Community outreach for the needs assessment. Consultant Magellan advisors are helping with an inventory of our physical assets. Public review and comments of our draft plan will occur later this summer.
From Mendocino County Supervisor Ted William commented on an important partnership which should be pursued with Adventist Health, underscoring the importance of telemedicine. Jeff Tyrrell reported that with consortium leadership Mendocino County has submitted $158 million CASF grant as one of three projects that are shovel ready. The three projects would connect the 9000 households in Mendocino County that currently lack broadband. The County is working on Emergency Broadband Benefit program outreach and setting up a crowd-sourced speed test to accurately map data to enhance documentation required in future grant applications.
From Napa County Anthony Halstead reported that Magellan Advisors have put forth some funding opportunities, and Napa is looking at different piece and parts start to building. We're working to create a roadmap and strategic plan. Some key tower locations have been identified, and funding for Cell-Towers on Wheels (or COWs) is being explored, in preparation for fire or other emergencies. It's kind of a giant puzzle right now and we are laying it all out on the table to start to put the piece together.

From Sonoma County Supervisor Coursey acknowledged that he has only just joined NBNCBC and appreciated the robust collaboration, before handing it over to Calvin Sandeen. Sonoma County will be launching (June 1) a crowdsourced broadband speed test initiative, where residents crowd-source their internet speeds at a granular hustle level. The plan is to run the program for about a year, with periotic publicity customized to provide regional data of statistical significance. The Sonoma County Broadband Action Plan will be going to the County Supervisors on June 8th, with some of the recommendations from our Broadband Strategic Plan, primarily the infrastructure based recommendations. The concept is that the county has existing assets in conduit, fiber and communication towers that can be leverage for broadband expansion to unserved communities.

VII. **Public Comments**
Chair Dillon asked if there were any public comment on non-agenda items and heard none.

VIII. **Adjournment of Meeting**
The meeting was adjourned on schedule at 3:30

The Agenda and Exhibits have been posted at:
http://www.mendocinobroadband.org/nbncbc-oversight-committee-meetings/

Exhibit #1   Proposed State Legislation
Exhibit #2   Proposed Federal Legislation
Exhibit #3   Proposed Legislative Platform
Exhibit #4   Current Oversight Committee Structure and Role