

Date: November 13th, 2017

To: BAMC Executive Committee and Board of Supervisors

Subject: September and October 2017 Broadband Summary of Activities

From: Trish Steel

BAMC Outreach

- We had a good public outreach meeting on Sept. 8th. You can find the notes from that meeting [here](#). (we also had a good meeting on Nov. 3rd and notes are [here](#))
- I've been trying some new outreach efforts that could play a role in both our Broadband Plan and deployments. One was to contact the 47 different Homeowners Associations in the county via a postcard asking them to contact me. I have not had much luck with postcards in the past (maybe people think it's junk mail?) but thought I'd give it a try since the only contact info I could get for the Homeowners was a mailing address. The other idea was to reach out to ham radio operators and for possible co-location on some of their privately owned towers (assuming such towers really exist) in areas where providers want to deploy. I also attended a recent Ukiah Chamber of Commerce board meetings to try to at least make myself known to them in an effort to get more support for deployments from the business community.
- There are a couple of new deployments in the works, including one that is very ambitious and would involve a USDA grant application for a fiber-to-the-home network. There are some very big hurdles to overcome, and if you would like to find out more please give me a call and I can talk to you about it. The other is a wireless deployment in the north part of the county.
- TRAXYL - if you recall, this is an innovative technology which could reduce fiber install costs tremendously. It takes a tiny fiber and embeds it in a resin and basically paints it on a road surface (no trenching, reduced permitting, etc). I have been connecting various groups to contact the Traxyl CEO for a pilot project here, and so he has heard from me several times, the Hopland Field station, the UC Chief Innovation Officer, the General Manager from KZYX, and also Sonoma County - so we are definitely on his radar for when he is ready to take this technology west for any pilot projects.

Fires and telecommunications

- Because of the fires, several important meetings were cancelled and need to be rescheduled. This includes the next Broadband Working Group meeting, the NBNCBC Oversight Committee meeting, Access Sonoma Broadband meeting, several conference calls and the Global Tech Forum.

- The fires caused widespread telecommunications outages in not only Mendocino, but also Sonoma, Humboldt, and Napa counties. Because 3 or our 4 NBNCBC counties were affected, the consortium sponsored a survey, which we launched about a week after the fires to get data on “what services and which zip codes were affected” (focusing on residential losses). This data is really important, because otherwise there is no *public* record of it, and then when this survey data is combined with all the other data (public safety, schools, health centers, CalFIRE, etc) it gives a big picture view of the situation.
- This also fits in with the Board of Supervisors recently approved in July 2017 “Broadband Goals” where Goal 1 is that Telecommunications Services are reliable, and Strategy 4 is “Document any major telecommunication outages, and use such documentation to engage providers, CPUC and policy-makers at the local, state, and national level for corrective action.”
- I would really appreciate if you can help spread the word about this survey. The survey can be accessed online through this link - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/firestorm2017>, or on the home page of the Alliance website (www.MendocinoBroadband.org)
- As of Sunday 11/12/17, there are a total of 1,200 responses, of which 400 are from Mendocino County. I have a goal to get 1000 responses from Mendocino before the survey closes at the end of November but responses have slowed, so unless we have a renewed push we won't reach this goal. Partial results have already been requested from Congressman Huffman (and shared) and also The Utilities Reform Network. If you are interested, just let me know and I can share results thus far with you.
- The UDJ, Willits News, KZYX have all been helpful in getting the word out. In Sonoma they are using the survey results to re-structure their priorities for their strategic plan.

Correspondence with Government Agencies/Elected officials

- The NBNCBC submitted 2 letters ([here](#) and [here](#)) to Governor Brown from the OS committee requesting a veto on AB 1665, and a [letter to Senator McGuire](#) thanking him for his veto of this legislation.
- The Alliance signed onto 2 letters to the FCC from other broadband advocate groups. In Sept we joined with 12 other groups (including from Humboldt and Sonoma) in [formal comments](#) in their Inquiry Concerning Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications to all Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion (Docket 17-199). Basically, the 25-page letter said that the inquiry is not recognizing the differences between the different kinds of broadband and assessing the suitability of different technologies for future needs; In October we signed onto [formal comments in the matter of the Competitive Bidding Procedures](#) in the Connect America Fund Phase 2 auction (Docket 17-182) for CAF funding from 2020-2030. Basically in these comments we said that bidders should have to serve all the premises in the relevant census block, expressing concerns about satellite applicants and supporting requirements that they include info on maximum capacity, and expressing support for the participation of smaller providers in this auction.

Legislation

- At the close of the last legislative session there was mixed news for broadband advocates - AB 1665 passed (bad for us), the privacy bill AB375 failed, and SB649 (small cell bill) also passed but was vetoed by Governor Brown. I am working with Assemblyman's Wood's office because he says that he wants to come to a location central between Sonoma and Mendo to provide more explanation for his position on this bill.
- There is some new legislation out (and update on older ones):
 - SB1988 - the Speed Act was introduced in October 2017 in the US Senate and would exempt a "communication facility installations" from federal environmental and historic reviews, if there's already infrastructure in place in the project area. There are additional exemptions, but *as yet*, no blanket preemption of local and state authority. The effect in CA would be limited because here CEQA (not NEPA) is more common. It is currently in committee (Environment and Public Works)
 - HR2930 - The Rural Reasonable and Comparable Wireless Act of 2017 was introduced into the House in June, and is currently in 2 committees. This bill would require the FCC to establish a standard for whether wireless and wired broadband services in rural areas are reasonably comparable to those in urban areas.
 - HB 800 - This is Congressman Huffman's New Deal Rural Broadband Act which has been in committee since February.
 - The FCC under Chairman Pai has issued a Report and Order, Declaratory Ruling, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Docket 17-84) for the retirement of copper infrastructure. I haven't read the entire 109 page document yet but I don't think this will be good news. Ideally you retire the copper because the infrastructure is replaced by modern networks. But unfortunately in rural areas the copper is retired before those new networks are completely in place to serve ALL the households.
- On Oct 30 the FCC issued the final approval for the CenturyLink-L3 deal in a divided vote. Advocates were hoping for more "public benefit" demands (such as when AT&T merged with DirectTV and there were requirements for low-cost internet provisions) This merger should not have any detrimental impacts on the L3 fiber that is leased by a least a few providers in our county (at least as far as I can tell or find out).

Rural Call Completion and CPUC

- The Rural Call Completion proceeding is now in Phase 2, and although we haven't heard much about it, I need to follow up on some things. For example, under the decision in the proceeding in Phase 1 telephone companies were required to provide local Office of Emergency Services with a 24/7 phone number in case of emergencies. During the fires, I received a call from someone at the OES asking me if I had a number for AT&T. I also asked the OES coordinator whether he knew if the OES had received such a number (yes from Frontier, "not to his

knowledge” from AT&T). I have not yet heard from our Sheriff whether he received such a number. There are about 20 items from that decision that need follow-up but which may not be easy for me to find out.

- I have also been following the Pole Access Proceeding at the PUC and wanted to submit some comments which might make access to pole infrastructure easier for smaller providers, but the whole proceeding got rather complicated, I had questions and wanted to collaborate with other advocates on comments, but was not able to do so in time.

Sept and Oct Meeting Summary

09/04/2017	Labor Day BBQ with Senator McGuire and Assemblymember Wood to ask broadband questions	Ukiah
09/12/2017	Magellen Strategic Advisory Committee meeting	Santa Rosa
09/22/2017	Meeting with WEST company re business Accelerator Program in Mendocino County	The Vault in SF
09/27/2017	Laytonville LMAC meeting	Laytonville
09/27/2017	Great Ukiah Chamber of Commerce Board meeting	Ukiah
10/02/2017	Fort Bragg Tech Committee meeting	Fort Bragg
10/05/2017	Gualala Municipal Advisory Meeting Presentation	Gualala
10/25/2017	Laytonville Municipal Advisory Meeting	Laytonville
10/26/2017	NTIA “supercluster” webinar on Rural Agriculture	Streamed
10/31/2017	Public Knowledge call on FCC Notice of Proposed Rule-making on retirement of copper infrastructure	Streamed