**Broadband Alliance**
*of Mendocino County*

## Steering Committee Meeting Notes
**Friday, October 11th, 2013 10:00 am – 11:05 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:  **Dan Hamburg** (Mendocino County 5th District Supervisor), **Doug McCorkle** (North Coast Railroad Authority), **Jim Moorehead** (Alliance Chairman), **Howard Egan** (NorBar Director), **John Kuhry** (ED, Economic Development and Financing Corporation), **Susanne Norgard** (ED, Community Foundation of Mendocino County), **Trish Steel** (Alliance Administrative Coordinator), **Ray Gifford, Jr**.(Ukiah Wireless)

   b. Call-in:  **John Viegas** (Glenn County Board of Supervisors), **Greg Jirak** (Alliance Strategic Planning Chair), **Cathy Emerson** (UCCC Manager, Center Economic Development, CSU Chico), **Russ Selkin** (Butte Co. Office of Education), **Mitch Drake** (CEO, Golden Bear Broadband)

   c. Changes to agenda:  Addition of the Cal Fire Cold Springs Tower after item #6

2. **Broadband Coalition of Northern California Counties update**

   a. Trish reported that the Coalition has received over twenty-five letters of support from nine counties.  Our outreach efforts are continuing.

   b. The Alliance thanks Mendocino County Office of Education Superintendent Paul Tichinin for sharing Coalition information/letter templates with his colleagues from other counties, as we have had responses from other county Offices of Education.

   c. Jim will be going to a CPUC meeting in Redding on the topic of rural broadband in northern California.  At that meeting, he will have a list of all the letters that we have received, and quotes from those letters which really express how lack of adequate broadband hurts people and businesses in very real ways.

3. **Golden Bear Broadband (GBB)**

   a. Mitch joined the call later, and provided an update at 11:00.

   b. Not much has transpired, but he is happy to report that Monday morning AT&T called, answering his email request for fiber pricing along the coast.  He is in the process of telling them precisely where GBB wants services, and asking them to give pricing quote.

   c. Staff is working diligently doing their job, making sure that "no stone is left unturned."

   d. Mitch drove the R1CP this week, and met with Jim, Greg and representatives of Joy Road.  He told them that the PUC wants to come to Joy Road with equipment to test the wireless signals and confirm statements that they have received about service.

e. Mitch sees this as a step in the right direction, as an example of how the CPUC is looking at how to better collect the data and to make sure it is accurate.

f. Golden Bear is in the last third of projects being reviewed, and Mitch doesn't expect to hear anything until November/December.

g. They are making progress, and are just going step-by-step and keeping going.

h. He is working with Redwood Coast Connect, and has modified routes in Trinity County. He is reaching out to ISPs to see where and if they would buy low cost internet to expand their services

i. He has a meeting with elected officials coming up on October 30th in Ukiah.

4. **Access Sonoma Broadband (ASB)**

a. Mike was not able to attend today's meeting, so we do not have an update.

5. **SB 740 (Padilla) – update**

a. Jim thanked Cathy Emerson for her analysis of SB740, which she sent to him via email this morning.

b. Some background/highlights from that analysis:

   i. Originally as codified, CASF was to collect 100 million over three years through ratepayer surcharges.

   ii. Through evolution of the program and recognition of the serious need within the state, it was modified.

   iii. In Sept, 2010, SB 1040 expanded the program to extend period of collection through 2015, with 100 million going to the infrastructure grant program.

   iv. With SB740, 65 million is to be added for infrastructure deployment through 2020.

   v. AB1299, Steven Bradford's broadband for public housing initiative, gets 25 million.

   vi. That makes a total of $265 Million available for infrastructure deployment monies.

c. The Alliance has not yet issued a media release on our reaction to the passage of SB740 because implications of the bill are not yet clear; we may decide not to release any press announcement at all, and if any media is interested they can come and have a more in-depth conversation about it.

d. Next week there is a meeting in Redding on the topic of rural broadband; it will be a great opportunity for Commissioner Sandoval to hear from all parties involved in closing the digital divide

6. **CPUC Mapping and *Validation of Broadband Mapping***

a. Jim attached the CPUC document *Validation of Broadband Mapping* to this week's agenda, and hopes everyone had the chance to look at it. It was signed by Robert Wullenjohn, the Program Manager for the Communications Division , Broadband, Policy, and Analysis Branch

b. Jim feels that this document is a big step in the right direction, and that the CPUC is recognizing that they need additional sources of information to add to the broadband availability maps. Currently, the only information in the broadband mapping database is provided by the carriers as their advertised coverage and "up-to" speeds.

c. Cathy agreed and is particularly excited about this document/survey, as there has been much CPUC internal discussion on how they can acquire data. Her sense is that there is a huge shift happening, and that the staff is taking a proactive outreach mentality. She said it's time to "celebrate" CPUC staff!

d. The consortiums have been asked to distribute this document as widely as they can.

e. At Lake County she held a meeting where the document/survey was presented, and it was well-received. It's an opportunity for residents to take a proactive stand and give feedback to the CPUC. They are tired of talk and want action, and here at least is a way for people to get involved.

f. There are three ways that people can input data, and there is no deadline as data will be collected and added on an on-going basis.

g. Jim wondered about the data being "user-generated", and if the CPUC will accept this data as valid as that has been a concern in the past. It looks like the answer here is "yes."

h. Cathy said that the intent is to use the data as a counter-point to data that they already have; it asks for specific speeds using a standard speed test and a specific street address, so it has built-in assurance that everyone is using the same type of speed test to determine the speed at their residence. You can't use a PO Box address.

i. The irony is that people we need the data from most don't have necessary bandwidth to complete the survey online. Cathy envisions community training, and having neighbors with access to help capture this data. There was nothing specifically mentioned about this sort of training, and the CPUC is letting the consortiums deliver the surveys.

j. She suggested that we ask the CPUC for a public workshop on this.

k. JK brought up that the Alliance had an effort about two years ago to collect this exact sort of data from people without internet, and wondered if we could re-send that data. A lot of time and effort went into survey and collection, and so it would be great to be able to make use of the data.

l. Cathy thought so, but suggested that we ask the CPUC ourselves by emailing Owen Rochte, whose name and email is at the bottom of the survey.

m. Trish suggested that we make a flyer and distribute to all the places where people go to use the internet – libraries, family resource centers, senior centers, community labs, etc and that we keep them supplied with these flyers.

n. Cathy said that this is what she is already doing in her eleven counties…and that it is "social change in the making".

o. Jim suggested that we include commercial establishments as well, as at Starbucks you see kids doing homework, and people settled in with papers and computers doing work. Maybe even get the Chambers of Commerce involved.

p. JK said that there is a new Leadership Mendocino class, and that maybe someone would want to coordinate this as their project.

q. Cathy provided a little history of the national broadband mapping project.

    i. The maps are provided by the NTIA, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration housed within the Department of Commerce.

ii. The ARRA (American Recovery and Re-investment Act) provided the NTIA up to $50 million to the states to build their own broadband maps, and then they connected all the maps together to create the national broadband map.

iii. States went to the service providers to get this information, but the providers didn't want this information to be public data, claiming that the information was proprietary.

iv. A compromise was reached where the maps would show what service a particular carrier provided at the census block level; this would protect a carrier's proprietary information, along with consumer's addresses.

v. The result is maps that don't accurately reflect actual service at the ground level; a census block can be considered "served" and have houses in it that are not served.

vi. So now the CPUC is drilling down deeper to get more accurate information.

vii. Jim confirmed this, saying that when CPUC staff was on their field trip, everywhere they went they had their Android phones and were testing for wireless signals. The Android apps can't test for terrestrial service (non-wireless), so that's why this new survey is such a big deal.

7. **Facilitating Broadband Deployment and CalFire Collaboration**

a. The Alliance would like to tentatively schedule a special topic meeting for Nov. 1st, with the topic being "Facilitating broadband deployment and CalFire collaboration".

b. This topic was brought to our attention recently from John Kuhry, and Trish provided an update on the specifics of what precipitated the topic. These specifics were provided by Nathan Cook and James Farlow, of North Coast Internet.

c. The background situation and details are:

i. Four years ago, North Coast Internet (formerly AV Broadband) was told by Boonville Cal Fire that they could lease space on the CalFire Cold Springs Tower; Boonville CalFire needed more bandwidth, and was supportive of this idea.

ii. In addition to serving CalFire, North Coast Internet (NCI) would also provide internet services to KZYX and the coast.

iii. The tower was originally owned by KZYX, but sold to the State and purchased with Lease Bond Revenue (LBR).

iv. Towers with LBR have special restrictions, including that only 10% of the space can be used for private use; as far as we know, KZYX is the only private party on the tower, with 6 feet of space on the 120 foot tower (5%).

v. Another restriction of an LBR tower is that CalFire needs to receive approval from the Dept. of Finance (DoF) before the lease application can be approved.

vi. Unfortunately, the DoF has "unresolved issues", and an ongoing disagreement on current private party use utilizing the towers. This has resulted in no applications being approved in the last four years.

vii. CalFire elevated the issue to upper management to come to a resolution; NCI waited 6 months and then was told there was no resolution and they may have to wait until 2018 when the bonds expire.

viii.     NCI also tried communicating directly with the DoF, and their last communication received from them said, "We are working with Cal Fire on resolving the issues with private activity leases for this and other sites statewide. Cal Fire will get back to you once a final determination is made, which is anticipated in the next several months or so."

ix.     NCI has not heard anything back, and would willing and open to any help that the Alliance can give in helping to break through this situation.

d. Executive Order S-21-06, signed in 2007 by then Governor Schwarzenegger, is supposed to reduce barriers to broadband access. It specifically encourages public/private partnerships, with "cooperation expected" between state agencies and various groups, including non-profit organizations. Maybe there is something this Executive Order that we can leverage to help get access to CalFire towers for WISPs. For a one-page summary of this executive order, go here: [http://www.cio.ca.gov/broadband/pdf/onepagesummaryofeo.pdf](http://www.cio.ca.gov/broadband/pdf/onepagesummaryofeo.pdf). For the full text, go here: [http://gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=4818](http://gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=4818)

e. A desired outcome of the meeting would be to develop a game plan and talking points for gaining access to the CalFire Towers by ISPs, and to determine what leverage the Alliance has and how best to utilize it.

f. We are trying to determine who would be important to invite to this meeting. Contact Trish if anyone has suggestions and/or contacts.

8. **Meeting Adjourned at 11:05**

**Next meeting: Oct. 25th, Nov 1st (special topic), Nov 8th.**