**Meeting Minutes**

**OKANOGAN COUNTY & CCT**

**BROADBAND ACTION TEAM MEETING**

**May 24, 2021**

**2-3:30 pm**

**Meeting started: 2:05 pm**

**Introductions: Attendees by Zoom/call in:**

Roni Holder-Diefenbach (Executor Director Economic Alliance), Kayla Wells (WSU OK CO Ext.), Lily Shangreaux (ACRS), Kellie Conn, (WSU OK CO Ext.), Brandi Schwerdtferger (ACRS, CAD Manager), Scott Graham (CEO 3 Rivers Hosp.), Monica Babine (WSU Extension Digital Initiatives), Christopher Freel, Aaron Kester (Economic Alliance Board and OK CO Tourism Council).

**Review Minutes-** No changes needed.

Roni Holder-Diefenbach

* Our Ag presentation is cancelled for today, working on the presentation for our June meeting.

**New Business**

* Grant update- May 31 is when we will be getting business grant updates from USDA. This grant will allow us to work more with ACRS for studies, surveys and supporting the team.
* Monica Babine- Spoke with Russ from the State Broadband office and there are no new updates. NTIA put out a NOFA which requires a partnership, either with the state or with some public entity within a state and then with providers. It is an infrastructure build.
  + Roni- Would you like to talk about the new EBB program?
  + Monica- this is the program where the FCC is providing funding to telecommunication providers to offset the cost of a very discounted service for broadband. The requirement is that you must have an ISP that wants to go through the hoops and paperwork with the FCC to be eligible for that. (This is a temporary Covid Response.) Need to have ISPs in the area to try for a permanent program.
  + Roni- Are there any other updates at the state or federal level?
  + Monica- Waiting for the 1 million dollars on the tribal broadband. There is going to be more funding, I think the message from Congress is to see the need for broadband and how it will be funded. Keep up the work you have been doing.
  + Aaron Kester- Can a town be an internet service provider?
  + Yes, the can. The PUD is working with the town of Brewster to become an RSP.
* **Monica Babine- Federal broadband updates links:**
* NTIA Infrastructure NOFO Executive Summary <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/NTIA%20Broadband%20Infrastructure%20Grant%20Program%20NOFO.Final_.pdf>    Due date: August 17th
* NTIA Tribal Broadband NOFO Executive Summary <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2021-06/NTIA.Tribal%20Broadband%20Connectivity%20Program.Final_.OMB%20Cleared_0.pdf>   Due date: Sept 1st
* Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers (CMR) American Broadband Act bill link: <https://republicans-energycommerce.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/SLW_1107_xml.pdf>
* $20B over 5 years; package, streamline permitting, etc. CMR press release <https://mcmorris.house.gov/mcmorris-rodgers-leads-american-broadband-act-to-close-the-digital-divide/>
* Sens. Patty Murray, D-Wash., and Rob Portman, R-Ohio, introduced the Digital Equity Act to spend $1.4 billion over five years for local internet projects, in addition to money for broadband expansion that may be included in an upcoming infrastructure bill. DEA article: <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/tech-news/broadband-bipartisanship-senators-introduce-digital-equity-push-rcna1160>
* Endless Frontier Act S 1260 bill link   <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1260/cosponsors?searchResultViewType=expanded>   Senator Cantwell news release: <https://www.commerce.senate.gov/2021/6/chair-cantwell-statement-on-senate-passage-of-the-u-s-innovation-and-competition-act-and-nasa-authorization>
* Being there is nothing more to discuss we will go ahead and adjourn.

Meeting ended at 2:25 pm.

Next meeting is June 28 @ 2:00 pm.