**Meeting Minutes**

**OKANOGAN COUNTY & CCT**

**BROADBAND ACTION TEAM MEETING**

**June 28, 2021**

**2-3:30 pm**

**Meeting started: 2:45 pm**

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

Roni Holder-Diefenbach (Executor Director Economic Alliance), Kayla Wells (WSU OK CO Ext.), Hanna Kliegman (retired Tech Director Tonasket School District), Kellie Conn (WSU OK CO Ext.), Susan Nielsen (DOC), Carlene Anders (Mayor of Pateros), Monica Babine (State Broadband Office), Scott Graham (CEO 3-Rivers Hospital) James Lightfoot (ACRS), Mike Worden (OKCO), Michael Oberg, Autumn Yoke (WA State Broadband Office), David Grooms (USEI), Aaron Kester (Economic Alliance Board and OK CO Tourism Council).

Meeting Minutes were approved for last month’s meeting.

Could not find an AG presenter for this meeting. Trevor Lane will be on the agenda for next month’s presentation.

**New Business:** We received the $40,000 grant from the USDA. Will continue to work with James Lightfoot from ACRS to figure out ‘fiber to the premise” so we will have accurate numbers. ACRS will also continuing working with John McDonald from the PUD. Moving forward, we will have more info on our plan on how to use these funds at our next meeting.

**Old Business:** Monica Babine spoke on Federal grant opportunities and upcoming webinars. Read more about these opportunities below:

**NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program Session webinars (This is the one that I forwarded the WA Commerce announcement about covered partners and WSBO’s RFI to express interest in submission.):**

July 14, 11:30 AM PT. Register at <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/events/latest-events/ntia-grant-program-broadband-infrastructure-webinar-session-4a>

July 15, 11:30 AM PT. Register at <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/events/latest-events/ntia-grant-program-broadband-infrastructure-webinar-session-4b>

Broadband Infrastructure Program FAQ <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2021-06/Broadband%20Infrastructure%20Program%202nd%20Set%20of%20FAQs_06.10.21.pdf>

**NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Session webinars:**

July 21, 11:30 AM PT. Register at <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/events/latest-events/ntia-grant-program-tribal-broadband-connectivity-webinar-session-4a>

July 22, 11:30 AM PT. Register at <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/events/latest-events/ntia-grant-program-tribal-broadband-connectivity-webinar-session-4b>

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program FAQ <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2021-06/TBCP%20FAQ%20Final%2006-09-2021.pdf> More information available at <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/tribal-broadband-connectivity-program>

**Article: Infrastructure Negotiators Agree to Framework for Package** <https://www.wsj.com/articles/infrastructure-negotiators-see-progress-in-senate-talks-11624465033?utm_campaign=Newsletters&utm_source=sendgrid&utm_medium=email>

**Autumn Yoke (WSBO)-** hired a grant writing contractor, should be working with communities in mid-July. WSBO posted an RFI last week asking for responses by July 7 to put together a federal funding request to NTIA. All information is on <www.Broadband.wa.gov>. Have hired new people, Mark Dietrich who will be our contracting specialist. Deputy director Dawn Eichner who will be running office operations and keeping us moving forward to our goals. And Devon our office assistant who will keep track of inquiries.

* Roni- Who are you looking for people to respond to the RFI?
* Autumn- We would like as many submissions as possible, the greater the diversity the better.
* Roni- Have you received applications for the OK CO area for the FCC emergency reimbursement program?
	+ Autumn- I have not seen any yet, will check with Yvonne.
	+ Monica- I believe Russ is checking on it.
* Roni- We are having challenges convincing RSP’s and ISP’s to participate, there are many hoops they need to get through and many are not willing to do that.

**Roni-** Each year Economic Alliance goes through an Okanogan County prioritization process where community and nonprofits can submit applications for project funding. Will be communicating with John McDonald with our PUD to see what BB projects we need to submit. Applications are on our Economic website. <http://www.economic-alliance.com/>

* **Hanna Kliegman**- What is the impact of the recent legislation that the governor signed?
* Monica is confused as to what happened. There were 2 bills introduced to expand eligibility of BB provisioned by public sector entities. Another was a restrictive senate bill, governor signed them both at the same time. A review by SOS and courts to determine which bill takes precedence. Should get sorted in the 2022 legislative session.
* Hanna- Didn’t Inslee veto something?
* Autumn- I think that is right, Dawn and Russell would know more.
* Roni- Regarding funding that the state received, is there a process to allocate the funds?
	+ Autumn- End of July or early August.

**Roni-** Any member updates?

* **Kayla Wells-** I have been working with the BOCC for about a year and a half on what we are calling our Capstone Project needs assessment. Working with a professor at WSU Vancouver and her students creating a needs assessment with Okanogan County which was finished last Friday. I will work with Kellie to get the surveys out through email and hard copies. We are asking the communities to complete the survey. The survey questions are regarding why people choose to live in our area. The professor and her students will then crunch numbers and do the data. I will then share with the BOCC, it will be our data to use as we please.
* Roni- is BB apart of this need’s assessment?
* Kayla- No the BOCC wanted it to be geared towards satisfaction of the area. We could possibly include BB in future discussions.
* Roni- I would like to know the new numbers compared to a year ago, how many are connected and what are they using.

Meeting ended at 2:37pm. Our next meeting is July 26 at 2 PM.