

Ohio Broadband Council



MEETING MINUTES:

From the meeting on December 4, 2007

Attending: Stan Ahalt, Co-Chair; Steve Edmonson, Co-Chair; Katrina Flory, Executive Director; Mark Forni, Rod Houpe, Norman Chagnon, Steve Burigana, Bruce Hotte, John Wanchick, Jeffrey Clouse, Ronnie Fergus, Dave Barber, Fred Deel, Karen Hardie, Representative David Daniels, Brady Oxenrider (Senator Joy Padgett), Ken Engstrom (Congressman Zack Space), Justin Fallon, Mark Ansboury, Shawn Clemmons, Stephen Hedges, Chris Henney, Gary Little, Rob Luikart, Frank Mathews, Brian Phillips, LaMar Wyse, Ed Kozelek, Sharon Mitchell, Connie Browning, Scott Teters.

Handouts: (1) meeting agenda; (2) draft Council charter; (3) draft Council bylaws, (4) presentation slides; (5) Executive Order 2007-24S; (6) Council membership; (7) Broadband Ohio benefits; (8) OIT/OSC Broadband Team list

I. OPENING

Katrina Flory, OBC Executive Director, welcomed the Council to the meeting and introduced herself and Council co-chairs, Steve Edmonson and Stan Ahalt. Ms. Flory reviewed the handouts and meeting agenda.

Co-Chair Steve Edmonson, Director of Ohio Information Technology, called the meeting to order and expressed his appreciation for everyone's support of the Ohio Broadband initiative.

Co-Chair Stan Ahalt, Executive Director of the Ohio Supercomputer Center, thanked everyone for taking on this important roll in strengthening the economy and utilizing Broadband.

II. ROLL CALL

Executive Director Katrina Flory suggested that each council member introduce themselves and give a brief background summation of their connection/interest in broadband.

Ms. Flory also recognized First Lady Frances Strickland as a special guest at today's meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Waived

IV. REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE

A. Broadband Ohio Overview

Governor Strickland's Vision

Co-Chair Edmonson spoke about the vision of Governor Strickland's Turnaround Ohio Plan as relates to Broadband: making Ohio a world-class competitor, developing jobs of the future, creating cost savings, closing the digital divide and full participation in the digital society.

Once fully implemented, the Broadband Ohio initiative will ensure that all Ohio's citizens, businesses, governments, educational institutions, non-profits and healthcare facilities have viable access to superior broadband service. The state is not looking to become a telecommunications company but to leverage the state's current investment and work with private entities to expand their broadband footprint to underserved areas.

Governor Strickland signed Executive Order 2007-24S in July to establish the Ohio Broadband Council and create the Broadband Ohio Network, comprised of the new NextGen Network and OSCnet. Co-chair Edmonson reiterated the importance of Broadband to economic growth and opportunity and the vital role of the Council in meeting the Governor's goals.

Co-Chair Edmonson then welcomed Governor Ted Strickland. Governor Strickland thanked everyone for their willingness to serve on the Council. The Governor discussed Broadband in terms of his vision for Turnaround Ohio. He discussed the digital divide and how we cannot tolerate it in the future. A couple reasons to abolish the divide: 2,100 courses are offered online each semester. Eight out of ten employers use the web as a recruiting and hiring tool. We want to ensure that opportunity is equally distributed throughout Ohio.

Broadband Ohio Structure

Co-Chair Ahalt provided background information on Broadband Ohio and the activities that have brought us to today. OARnet started in 1987 and was designed specifically for higher education. In 2004, The Third Frontier Network which is now OSCnet was launched. This was a fiber optic network designed for higher education. In 1996 the Ohio.gov network was implemented for state agency traffic. However, in 2006 the primary contract for high bandwidth service expired. Therefore a plan to replace Ohio.gov network with OH*1 Next-Generation Network was proposed. In February 2007, the Broadband Ohio Tiger Team was put into operation. The team made recommendations for statewide networking in March, 2007.

He also introduced the concept of each network: OSCnet which was developed by the Ohio Supercomputer Center formerly the Third Frontier Network. This network focuses on innovation, research, education and economic competitiveness. The NextGen network is managed by the Office of Information Technology. This network provides broadband services to all state agencies, executive agencies, boards and commissions. Application Innovation is the key opportunity to make use of the network in full efficient fashion. Long term savings is another benefit of the networks merging.

Co-Chair Edmonson provided more detail on both the NextGen and OSCnet. He indicated that the state has assets that should be leveraged. Over 2,500 fiber optic lines

and the MARCS towers utilized properly would be cost effective. Combine all state agencies to a single network.

Phase One Funding

Deb Daugherty, Business Manager for the Office of Information Technology, reviewed Phase One Funding. The current budget includes \$4 million of existing capital funds and \$20 million of Third Frontier Funds. These funds will: let OSCnet continue to fully serve current clients, leverage the state's current investment in OSCnet to use available capacity for other state functions; establish a network offering expanded bandwidth usage for state agencies while avoiding future cost increases; establish a foundation upon which access can be extended across the state and support advanced IP technologies and support outreach activities to articulate plans, services and offerings as well as demonstrate options and share case studies. Future investment will fund additional network activities.

A question was asked about how much of the phase one budget is still available. Response was that we are looking to leverage our assets: MARCS, networks and Federal pending regulations. We do believe there will be funding for local outreach type activities but have a few factors that have to be decided before we can determine exactly how much.

Federal Broadband Activities

Sarah Saccany, Legislative Liaison for the Office of Information Technology, reviewed Broadband activities on the Federal level. The Connect the Nation Act has passed the House and is now in the Senate. Connect the Nation is closely modeled after the Connect Kentucky program and will provide states for similar projects. \$35.4 million was awarded to four Telehealth networks using OSCnet for in-state and national connections. Ohio has also taken advantage of the USDA Rural Development Utilities Program on three projects since 2003.

Broadband Ohio Benefits

Dwayne Sattler, OSC Senior Director of Public Affairs & Policy reviewed the benefits of Broadband Ohio for citizens, business/workforce, education and government/communities. He also provided the Ohio Broadband Council web address for additional information: www.ohiobroadbandcouncil.org.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Waived

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Accomplishments

Pankaj Shah, OSC Senior Director of Technology Infrastructure and George Hess, OIT Interim Deputy Director on accomplishments thus far. Broadband community hubs have been established in Cleveland, Columbus and Dayton and are pending in Akron, Youngstown, Cincinnati, and Toledo with more to come as funding and locations are

determined. These hubs are designed to reduce the cost of broadband services while facilitating community participation.

B. Review and Approval of draft By Laws and Charter

Ms. Flory reviewed the draft By Laws which include basic information on how the Council will run. The Charter outlines the guiding principles for the Council – the scope, strategy, responsibilities, etc.

Motion: To accept the draft bylaws and charter	Co-chair Ahalt called for a motion to accept the bylaws and charter as drafted. None opposed. Motion passed.
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C. Subcommittee Establishment

Ms. Flory discussed the need to establish Policy and Outreach subcommittees to further the work of the Council. The Policy Subcommittee will develop policies for key OBC objectives such as the relationship of Broadband Ohio to other government and non-government entities. The Outreach Subcommittee will promote economic growth through availability of superior broadband service. Each subcommittee will be supported by a workgroup staffed by OIT and OSC. Subcommittees will meet approximately once per month. A sheet was sent around for those who are interested in participating to sign up.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the December 4 meeting of the OBC	Co-chair Ahalt called for a motion adjourn the meeting. None opposed. Motion passed.
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Approved: March 3, 2008