

Ohio Broadband Council



MEETING MINUTES:

From the meeting March 3, 2008

Attendees: Stan Ahalt, Katrina Flory, Mark Forni, Alan Shellhause, Norman Chagnon, Steve Burigana, Bruce Hotte, John Wanchick, Jeffrey Clouse, Ronnie Fergus, Harry Andrist, Fred Deel, Karen Hardie, Senator Joy Padgett, Representative Jennifer Garrison Glenn Enslin, (for 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, Connie Browning, Scott Teters.

Handouts: (1) Agenda; (2) draft December 4 meeting minutes; (3) presentation slides; (4) updated Council membership listing; (5) Outreach Subcommittee documents; (6) OSC press release for Nationwide Children's Hospital telemedicine event; (7) Connect Ohio information packet

I. Opening

Katrina Flory, OBC Executive Director, welcomed the Council to the meeting and reviewed the handouts and meeting agenda.

Co-Chair Stan Ahalt , spoke briefly about recent examples of the benefits of broadband.

- In January Children's Hospital used high definition video conferencing to allow specialist to teleconference with Chillicothe's Adena Regional Medical Center. This has cut the transport rate of children in half allowing them to stay closer to home and family.
- Mega Conference Junior- A conference that was for kids and ran by kids on four continents and 12 countries.

Mr. Ahalt called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Flory introduced the three new members of the Council: Representative Jennifer Garrison (House Minority), Robert Stuart (Supreme Court of Ohio) and Alan Shellhause (Department of Commerce) and performed the roll call.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Flory reviewed the requested change to the meeting minutes reflected on page 3 regarding Federal Broadband Activities. The last sentence was clarified to read, "Ohio has taken advantage of the USDA Rural Development Utilities Program on three projects since 2003."

<p>Motion: To approve the December 4, 2007 meeting minutes</p>	<p>Fred Deel moved to accept the meeting minutes as amended. Steve Burigana seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion passed.</p>
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IV. REPORTS and ADMINISTRATIVE

- A. Policy Subcommittee Report – Steve Burigana reported that the Policy Subcommittee had their initial meeting directly preceding the Council meeting. The committee intends to meet once per month on Mondays for two hours. The goals of the subcommittee are to produce policy recommendations and strategies for approval of the OBC.
- B. Outreach Subcommittee Report - Fred Deel provided a report of the Outreach Subcommittee’s activities. The initial meeting was held February 21, 2008. The goals of the subcommittee are to increase broadband awareness, availability and utilization throughout the State, promote economic opportunities through the expansion of broadband services, recommend rural and urban broadband projects and potential resources and funding to OBC to extend broadband services throughout the State, support Connect Ohio generated eCommunities in their efforts to gain access to broadband services and project funding support.

Fred provided the charter, proposal form, proposal instructions and guidance approved by the subcommittee on February 21 for the OBC’s consideration.

Fred distributed a list of three projects that the subcommittee had recommended for action as a “pilot” effort for OBC Outreach efforts. Each project was given a \$75,000 cap. These funds will allow for the purchase and installation of a circuit as a community to access point in the City of Lancaster, University of Rio Grande, and Crawford County. Each entity will enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Office of Information Technology for use of the circuit. These projects were identified due to their need for limited funding, significant return on investment, and low risk.

Points of discussion:

- Concerns were expressed about voting to spend funds without more detail.
 - It was agreed that detail information would be sent before future meetings
- Questions were raised on the role of the providers in those areas.
 - It was noted that the communities and the state had worked with their provider community and that the providers are not cut out in this process – the circuit will be purchased and installed by a provider and the

internet service could be through a provider as well. We are using state contracts and funds for the circuit piece.

- Point was made that consideration should be made for prevailing wage and working with Ohio companies.
- How were these project received?
 - Many Ohio counties, local governments, and universities are in various stages of planning for broadband expansion. Many have been working for years to bring connectivity to their area and have reached out to the state for assistance.

<p>Motion: To approve the charter, proposal form, proposal instructions and guidance</p>	<p>Chris Henney moved to accept the subcommittee documents. Frank Mathews seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion passed</p>
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<p>Motion: To approve the three projects for OBC funding</p>	<p>Joy Padgett moved to approve the three projects. Alan Shellhause seconded. Motion was passed with the following abstaining: Justin Fallon, Frank Mathews, LaMar Wyse, Ed Kozelek, Connie Browning, Fred Deel</p>
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- C. Communication statistics – Ms. Flory shared some statistics on the constituent communications received through the OBC website and 1-800 number. These tools have been available since the end of July and have received 35 emails and 12 voicemails to date. Samples of the messages were provided.
- D. Operational Update - Pankaj Shah provided an operational update. A number of new customers are utilizing Broadband Ohio or are in the process since it was formed. Higher education institutions such as Clark State Community College, Zane State University and John Carroll University as well as state agencies such as the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (Youngstown, Cleveland, Toledo) and Department of Transportation (Cleveland, Cincinnati). He also noted that 8 out of 9 gigabit Broadband Ohio aggregation points are operational. Additional information was provided on the recent approval of the MARCS Steering Committee for Coshocton County to collocate on the MARCS towers to implement their broadband plans.
- E. National Perspective – Pankaj Shah provided an update on the national front. California has recently released their broadband report, “The State of Connectivity - Building Innovation through Broadband.” Ohio is participating in Internet2

Strategic planning process. Ohio was also fortunate to receive approximately \$27M in FCC Healthcare grants.

Glenn Enslen addressed the OBC on behalf of Congressman Zack Space who was not able to attend at the last minute. Mr. Enslen highlighted the federal activities that are moving in support of broadband – Rural Broadband Improvement Act, Connect America Now, Broadband Census Act, and Connect the Nation Act.

Senator Padgett announced that Coshocton County signed a contract to bring wireless internet to the county last Friday. Part of the distribution effort involves a five year lease with DAS/OIT for collocation on the MARCS for towers. This is a ground breaking pilot program which may be a model for other counties.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Waived

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Subcommittee Establishment - Two new subcommittees were proposed for OBC approval. Strategic Planning Subcommittee – The Broadband Council is responsible for the development of a strategic plan for statewide broadband deployment. The Migration subcommittee – All state executive agencies, boards and commissions are directed to transition to the NextGen Network.

Motion: To establish the Strategic Planning Subcommittee	Frank Matthews called for a motion to establish the Strategic Planning subcommittee. Mark Ansboury seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion passed.
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Motion: To establish the Migration Subcommittee	John Wanchick called for a motion to establish the Migration Subcommittee. Mark Forni seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion passed.
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- B. Connect Ohio Initiative: Ms. Flory noted that Governor Strickland announced the launch of Connect Ohio on December 17. Connect Ohio will meet with OBC commitment to achieve Digital Inclusion in Ohio. Brian Mefford, CEO of Connected Nation addressed the OBC regarding this exciting initiative.

Mr. Mefford spoke about the unique opportunity to build a bridge between public and private sector with the help of Connect Ohio. Connect Ohio is a market based and research driven company.

From a supply perspective maps were created to gather service level data to know where service is available. Once the gaps on the maps have been identified the density of household usage is available. This helps providers see potential. From a demand perspective eCommunity leadership teams were formed with representatives from industry, education, healthcare, libraries to review market level analysis to help make informed decisions.

Connect Ohio implemented the “No Child Left Offline” program which is designed to put computers in the homes of disadvantaged children. This program was designed in response to data that was gathered on a local level. Mr. Mefford brought an Intel prototype used in this program. Intel is ready to work with Connect Ohio.

VII. Adjournment

Co-Chair Stan Ahalt thanked the Council for the informative discussions. He also challenged the Council to take the leadership role teaching California and New York about Ohio’s Broadband initiatives.

Meeting adjourned.

Approved: June 2, 2008