

Ohio Broadband Council



MEETING MINUTES:

From the meeting September 16, 2008

Attendees: Katrina Flory, Stan Ahalt, Mark Ansboury, David Barber, Bob Blazer, Norman Chagnon, Shawn Clemmons, Jeff Clouse, Fred Deel, Ronnie Fergus, Mark Forni, Karen Hardie, Stephen Hedges, Chris Henney, Bruce Hotte, Gary Little, Rob Luikart, Senator Joy Padgett, Tom Pelto, Alan Shellhause, Scott Teters, John Wanchick, LaMar Wyse

Handouts: (1) Agenda; (2) June 2 draft meeting minutes; (3) Presentation slides; (4) Subcommittee recommendation form; (5) Broadband definition recommendation; (6) MARCS tower maps and co-location information; Connect Ohio update

I. OPENING

Co-Chair Stan Ahalt welcomed and thanked the members for their participation in light of the recent storm and current power outage throughout Ohio.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Flory performed the roll call.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the June 2, 2008 meeting minutes as written.	Senator Joy Padgett moved to accept the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Stephen Hedges. None opposed. Motion passed.
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IV. REPORTS and ADMINISTRATIVE

Ms. Flory provided an update on how we are meeting the requirements of the executive order to fulfill the Governor's goal of ubiquitous broadband access in Ohio.

Requirements are being addressed by the OBC, Connect Ohio and OIT/OSC. OBC sets the strategic direction and policies; Connect Ohio is a state resource to work with communities including residents and businesses; and OIT/OSC provides technical support for the Broadband Ohio Network.

Specifically, the Policy Subcommittee is developing policy recommendations; Migration Subcommittee is working with the agencies to develop a plan for cabinet agencies to migrate to BON; Strategic Planning is developing a strategic plan for broadband in Ohio; Connect Ohio has established base line data for broadband availability and adoption in Ohio and kicked off a number of eCommunity Teams in Ohio counties; OIT/OSC has upgraded the network as a basis for agency migration.

- A. Policy Subcommittee Report – The Policy Subcommittee recommend that the term Broadband should be defined to help guide our other activities. The Subcommittee took into account definition adopted by other states as well as the current FCC definition in crafting its recommendation. Senator Padgett expressed that we should actually look at communications in general because the mission is bigger just Broadband communications, wireless etc. John Wanchick stated that the definition is parallel to take in consideration the FCC statement about transmission and standards. Tom Peltó asked whether “always on” is reasonable as it may be subject to power. Rob Luikart indicated that the subcommittee included this element to get at the essential nature of the service. Bob Blazer stated that the main purpose of OBC is to close the digital divide in Ohio and we should not lose sight of the 8% gap.

<p>Motion: To approve the definition of Broadband as recommended.</p>	<p>Chris Henney moved to accept the motion. John Wanchick seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion passed.</p>
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Ms. Flory reviewed upcoming agenda items on Policy’s plate including the question of affordability, essential service aspect, public/private relationship, and project/program standards for OBC.

- B. Outreach Subcommittee - Fred Deal from the Outreach Subcommittee gave a status report. The subcommittee met in July. There have been 3 proposals received so far. Hocking/Perry/Vinton counties are retooling their proposals with Connect Ohio input. Tuscarawas & Coshocton Counties have been reviewed by the work group. The role of Connect Ohio needs clarification in the proposal development and support as well as latitude of usage of Outreach monies. Upcoming activities are to review and refine current processes and requirements based on pilot lessons learned. Also to further integrate Connect Ohio into processes.

The Lancaster Pilot Project is coming along well. The state needs to draft a memorandum of agreement for the City to review.

The Galion Pilot Project main objective is the City plans to team with a local ISP to manage an existing fiber network to deliver service to area residents, businesses, Hospitals, City, County and State entities. Local businesses are investigating options for getting competitively priced broadband service to the area. Connect Ohio is getting engaged in this effort and will take over as lead from the state as we move forward. Mr. Wyse indicated that he felt they were back on track and had new momentum.

The University of Rio Grand has connectivity to OSCnet services and wants to support Gallia County's strategy to leverage that connection by providing last-mile distribution through existing county-owned fiber lines. This project is nearing completion with only Memorandum of Agreement and contract vehicle remaining as outstanding action items. Although this project is falling behind the other 2 projects, there are still several details that need to be worked out. [Note: this characterization is incorrect. The project is moving forward as expected.]

John Wanchick suggested that all projects be reviewed in light of the recently adopted broadband definition. Mr. Deel indicated that the Subcommittee would do so.

- C. Migration Subcommittee - Bruce Hotte gave the Migration Subcommittee status report. The approach is to gather lessons learned from early adopters; organize subcommittees – OBC & MAC; review network architecture with agencies in more detail; review agency existing architecture; gain better understanding of vendor products and services, availability, cost structure, etc.; and prioritize agencies for migration. Migration to begin Spring 2009. The next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2008.
- D. Strategic Planning Subcommittee – Senator Joy Padgett gave the Strategic Planning Subcommittee update. The Subcommittee accepted the charter with edits to reflect inclusion of emerging and developing technologies. The Subcommittee participated in a visioning exercise and are drafting a vision to include the following elements: equal access to affordable service; foster public and private partnerships; encourage economic development and community involvement. The plan approach is to refine the plan framework to outline elements for inclusion and fill in the detail; validate our work; draft a final plan and present to the full Ohio Broadband Council for consideration in December.
- E. Operational Update – Pankaj Shah informed the Council that there are eleven circuits up and running. Some of the Operational accomplishments were as follows: Contracted with AT&T and Time Warner Telecom for Ethernet services to support Higher Education and State Government early adopter migration. Established temporary aggregation points with both AT&T and TWTC in 7 and 4 POP's respectively. The Last Mile RFP was released.

Current activities include Fiber core network is being upgraded to support 10G on rings 0, 1, 2, and 3. Equipment is being deployed and configured to support early adopters such as: the Department of Transportation, Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN), Department of Natural Resources, Department of Taxation, all higher education universities, and K-12. Upcoming tasks: Transition the State's core network to BON. Award "Last Mile" RFP hoping to more forward the first of the year. Finally begin migration of Cabinet agencies.

- F. Connect Ohio – Tom Fitz was introduced as the new Executive Director of Connect Ohio. Connect Ohio is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization chartered to enable the closure of the digital divide. Connect Ohio will also develop strategies to ensure affordable broadband reaches every business and citizen in Ohio and increase the use/demand for broadband.

Connect Ohio's goals are to provide affordable broadband to every Ohioan; dramatically improve computer use and the internet; provide meaningful online presence for every local community and form eCommunity leadership teams with business plan and applications identified for each county.

Goals are reached by assessing the current situation to identify opportunities based on supply and demand. Connect Ohio will enlist enablers such as: Private providers, policy makers, partner companies and community organizers to develop strategies and implement change.

Mr. Fritz provided an overview of some of the availability and adoption data collected thus far.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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VI. NEW BUSINESS

OBC members Gary Little and Shawn Clemmons were invited to provide an overview of their organizations. This will be a new feature of the meetings in order for members to gain a better understanding of the resources and expertise that are working on the Broadband effort for Ohio.

Gary Little, President of the IT Alliance of Appalachian Ohio provided an overview of ITAAO and their activities including the federal WIRED initiative. WIRED is a mentoring program that develops the used of the internet highway to enhance workforce innovation and resource economic development. Six years ago the program began to create interactive digital technology. Ohio University is the largest virtual world campus in the country. They received national recognition for developing training with students in Science. On October 31st Shawnee State is hosting a conference with regards to computer game and simulation development. Broadband access is key to the success of these programs.

Shawn Clemmons, Director of the South Central Ohio Computer Association indicated that SCOCA is a nonprofit consortium that serves 55 public school districts in 11 Southern Ohio Counties. Through the consortium they are able to provide IT services for pennies on the dollar. SCOCA supports various applications including an application that parents can access for up to date information on their child's progress. Over 900,000 parent access accounts have been established. Of the 250 building served by SCOCA, 98% have broadband connectivity.

Dick Miller, the Executive Administrator from the Multi-Agency Radio Communication System provided an overview of the MARCS system and infrastructure. MARCS provides wireless, interoperable voice and data services to first responders and public safety personnel statewide. MARCS started as a 10 State agency that has now grown to over 600 agencies. The MARCS infrastructure includes 214 towers across the state. 126 towers are owned by the State/MARCS and may be available for co-location to support broadband initiatives. The Coshocton County "Model" is moving forward.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Co-chair Stan Ahalt adjourned the meeting.