

**Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority**  
Outreach & Education Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes  
Thursday January 12, 2023  
PA Farm Show & Virtual - Microsoft Teams Meeting

Sub-Committee members in attendance:

- Lisa Davis
- Carrie Nace
- Sarah Hammond
- Joseph Gerdes
- Lily Guthrie on behalf of Bailey Thumm
- Kevin Sunday
- Amy Sturges
- Mark Critz, Board Liaison

Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) staff in attendance:

- Kalie Snyder
- Brandon Carson
- Erin Wachter

Guests in attendance:

- Nicole Ugarte, NTIA
- Kim Hannan
- Tom Beresnyak, Penn State Extension
- Kim Hannan, Pa Telephone Association
- Ria Pereira, PA Utility Law Project
- Byron Huyett
- Leanne Doran, Michael Baker International
- Tom Kreiner
- Wayne Campbell
- Tim Wentz, Northeast Equipment Dealers Association

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Sunday called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM, and asked Kalie Snyder to conduct roll call and housekeeping items.

**II. Approval of December 22, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

Chair Hammond called for questions or comments on the minutes as presented to the committee. There were none.

Chair Hammond asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented to the committee. Lisa Davis motioned the approval. Amy Sturges seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **III. Funding Timeline Overview**

Chair Hammond asked Kalie Snyder to lead timeline overview discussion, Kalie Snyder asked Pam Frontino, Grants Manager, to provide.

Pam offered an overview of the three competitive grant programs through the Capital Projects Fund and the anticipated release of two of those programs by the end of the first quarter of 2023. The third program is anticipated to be released towards the end of the third quarter of 2023. She closed by mentioning that BEAD and Digital Equity implementation dollars are not expected until 2024 but that we will be looking at similar priorities and requirements for those programs.

Lisa Davis asked if the Authority would provide training for counties and/or other applicants to apply for funds. Brandon Carson confirmed that there will be some technical assistance provided for these programs. Chair Sunday asked for confirmation if this would be only for local governments or for all, Brandon confirmed all.

Tim Wentz asked what the timeline is for applications to be submitted and if they would be submitted online. Pam noted that the application period is still being determined and that it will be an online application.

### **IV. Listening Session**

Chair Hammond provided a brief introduction of the Listening Session and Authority and asked Kalie to begin the presentation. Brandon Carson, Kalie Snyder, and Tom Beresnyak conducted the Listening Session presentation, which provided an overview of the Authority, the new FCC Broadband Maps, and the accompanying challenge processes. Nicole Ugarte, with NTIA, provided comments regarding the purpose for the challenge deadline and the funding requirements under the BEAD and Digital Equity programs.

Charlie White suggested we connect with domestic violence government entities and organizations to inquire about any useful data they may be able to share regarding broadband connectivity.

Tim Wentz asked if we are collecting data regarding affordability. Kalie Snyder confirmed that we will be inventorying the commonwealth for existing affordability data, programs, and efforts. She stated that federal guidance requires providers to participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Kalie introduced Julia Brinjac, Digital Equity Program Manager with the Authority. Tim asked for confirmation if a modem was included under the definition of "device". Authority staff offered to confirm and provide a follow-up answer on this question. Mark Critz added that providers often charge for the modems they provide. Tom Beresnyak suggested the PUC website for additional information and resources.

Wayne Campbell asked for confirmation on whether the DSL will be considered unserved. Kalie Snyder commented that it depends on the speeds but that most DSL does not offer 25/3 Mbps.

An individual shared her appreciation for the work that the Authority is doing and the focus on the rural communities and the need for access to telehealth.

An individual from Schuylkill County asked for confirmation if unserved areas will only consider wired or if satellite is considered served. Kalie confirmed that satellite is not considered served under federal guidance.

#### **V. New Business**

Chair Sunday asked if any members had new business to discuss. There was none.

#### **VI. Public Comment**

Chair Sunday called for public comment. There were none.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

Chair Hammond provided closing remarks.

Chair Sunday made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Amy Sturges.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 AM.