

Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority
Outreach & Education Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday December 22, 2022
Virtual - Microsoft Teams Meeting

Sub-Committee members in attendance:

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

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

- Kalie Snyder

Guests in attendance:

- Harry Crissy, Penn State Extension
- Jeanne Shearer, Windstream
- Leanne Doran, Michael Baker International
- Brent Jaueneau-Siegel, Ichor Strategies
- Courtney Accurti, Michael Baker International
- Kate Rivera, Technology Learning Collaborative
- Jim Ladlee, Penn State Extension
- Sue McCrossin

I. Call to Order

Chair Hammond called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM, and asked Kalie Snyder to conduct roll call and housekeeping items.

II. Approval of November 9, 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. Bailey Thumm motioned the approval. Joseph Gerdes seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Recurring Monthly Meeting Schedule

Chair Sunday proposed convening virtually and/or with an in-person hybrid option as needed, the second Thursday of each month from 10 AM – 11 AM and asked for comments or questions regarding this cadence.

Lisa Davis and Amy Sturges expressed a conflict for this time and consideration of an alternative option. After short discussion, the second Thursday from 8:30-9:30 AM was presented as the new option, and Chair Sunday asked for a motion to convene the committee at this time.

Motion was made by Bailey Thumm. Motion was seconded by Amy Sturges. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Municipal Survey Update

Chair Sunday asked Kalie Snyder to provide an update on the Municipal Survey.

Kalie Snyder provided a brief background on the purpose of the survey and who the Authority shared the survey with. Additionally, she provided some of the metrics to date on responses received, over 300 respondents are interested in learning more about the Authority and how to be involved in broadband expansion. Kalie asked this committee to start to brainstorm ideas on how to do further outreach to the municipalities and ways we can coordinate between the counties.

Chair Sunday asked for questions or comments on the information provided.

Carrie Nace asked if there is a performance metric in place to review the challenge maps based on speeds. Kalie Snyder provided a broad review of the bulk challenges and offered to send Carrie resources on those Bulk Challenges. Harry Crissy also added that the bulk challenge we are submitting for availability will not include speed concerns and speed test data.

V. Listening Session Overview

Chair Hammond provided a brief overview of the recent Listening Sessions and asked Kalie Snyder to provide an overview of the Listening Sessions. Kalie ran down the locations and attendance, as well as highlighted the resources available on the website from these sessions. She also introduced Kyle Snyder, Broadband Planning Specialist. Kyle provided an introduction and a quick overview of the data that is being collected and reviewed for the challenge process.

Chair Hammond called for questions or comments from the committee, there were none.

VI. Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Outreach Grant Program Overview

Chair Hammond provided a brief overview of the ACP and introduced Britte Earp to present on the outreach grant program.

Britte Earp provided a background on her role with the agency and efforts in place to promote the ACP. She provided some statistics on current enrollment, lack of enrollment across the commonwealth, and the process to apply for approval. She then provided a robust overview of the competitive outreach grant program and the two pilot programs, Your Home Your Internet and ACP Navigator Pilot Program. Britte asked the committee to reach out to her if they can think of entities that might benefit from one of these programs. She also shared those entities who have been communicated with to date.

Kalie Snyder shared that a lot of this information is on the website as well as a presentation on these programs.

Lisa Davis offered to include something in their magazine for the Spring addition on the ACP. She also mentioned some other organizations that send out bi-weekly/monthly newsletters.

VII. Penn State Extension Update

Chair Sunday asked for Kyle Snyder and Penn State Extension to provide an update on the work to date.

Kyle Snyder quickly ran down the data we're reviewing for the challenge process. He also mentioned our work with county and local governments to obtain any data they have and asked that they work with him to coordinate information and avoid duplication.

Harry Chrissy added that they are nearing completion of their statewide survey (spot testing) and they should be able to incorporate those results soon. Jim Ladlee confirmed that they are nearing the end and that they are working on the Digital Equity Innovation project and will evolve more post challenge period. Kyle closed that we are talking with other states to gain best practices in their challenge data collection efforts.

VIII. New Business

Chair Hammond presented the idea of hosting the next meeting, in January, at the Farm Show, and would have more details soon.

Chair Hammond asked for other new business or discussion among the committee members.

IX. Public Comment

Chair Sunday called for public comment.

Kate Rivera asked about the existing Request for Proposal (RFP) to procure a consultant for the 5-Year Action Plan and Digital Equity Statewide Plan and wants to ensure that local partners and communities are engaged in outreach efforts. Kalie Snyder confirmed that we

will be pulling together an outreach strategy and that stakeholder input is paramount to our success.

X. Adjournment

Chair Sunday provided closing remarks.

Carrie Nace made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Bailey Thumm.

Meeting adjourned at 2:17 PM.