

PBDA Technical Sub-Committee
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**Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority
Technical Sub-Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 20, 2023
3:00 PM- 4:00 PM**

Virtual Meeting
Dial-In: +1 267-332-8737
Phone conference ID: 445 065 81

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of March 16, 2023 meeting minutes
- III. CPF-BIP application overview (Sarah Smith, DCED)
- IV. Legal updates (Britt Muniz, DCED)
- V. Authority updates
 - a. Staff updates
 - b. CPF-BIP Guidelines
 - c. BEAD/DE Consultant update
- VI. Sub-committee member updates/comments
- VII. Public comments

Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority
Technical Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 16, 2023
Virtual: Microsoft Teams

Sub-committee members in attendance:

- Barbara Burba-Filoreto, Pennsylvania Wireless Association
- Frank Baier, PA Office of Administration
- Jim Gardler, Communications Workers of America
- Bill Wiedenheft, PA Intermediate Units
- Steve Samara, PA Telephone Association
- Terry Fitzpatrick, Energy Association of Pennsylvania

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

- Pam Frontino

Guests in attendance:

- Nicole Ugarte, National Telecommunications and Information Administration

I. Call to Order

Barbara Burba-Filoreto called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

II. Approval of February 2, 2023 meeting minutes

Barb called for a motion to approve minutes from the February 2, 2023 meeting. Frank Baier moved to accept the minutes. Bill Wiedenheft seconded the motion.

III. “Internet for All” initiative (NTIA Blog)

Pam Frontino gave an overview of a recent blog post from NTIA that discussed the Biden Administration’s Internet for All initiative, and NTIA’s outlook on “Build America, Buy America”, which was distributed in the meeting packet.

Nicole Ugarte spoke on behalf of NTIA to reiterate that it is looking for sub-grantees to use American-made and manufactured materials. This is listed in the BEAD NOFO. NTIA is open to receiving feedback about the feasibility of this commitment, and to continuing the conversation about related concerns.

The sub-committee discussed the possibility of collaborating with the Workforce and Supply Chain Sub-Committee on this topic moving forward.

IV. Pole Attachment

This conversation will be organized for a future meeting.

V. Formulating the “Broadband Ready” certification checklist

This will be considered further once the BEAD consultant is on board. Bill mentioned that in two areas where he’s been involved, local governments are asking about next steps and ways to serve constituents. His impression is that this would be a helpful tool to share with municipalities and should be prioritized.

VI. Authority Updates

a. Special board meeting- Friday, March 10th at 11am

Pam gave an overview for what members should expect at the virtual meeting that was held on March 10th. That meeting included a recommendation for the consulting firm that will be contracted to assist with the 5-year Action Plan and Digital Equity plan.

b. Staffing update

Pam mentioned that a Broadband Project Manager, Greg Alliger, would be joining the Authority the following Monday. Greg will be introduced at the April meeting.

Barb asked how the Governor’s new Digital Service Office will work with the Authority. Pam responded that the new office is fairly un-related to broadband, but the two offices would collaborate where opportunity arises.

VII. Sub-committee member updates/comments

Bill shared an update from the Erie County Steering Committee, which wondered how ISPs could participate in funding opportunities, particularly BEAD, due to the “Homes Per Mile”. There is a concern that there are not enough homes per mile to apply for lines, due to concerns about maintaining service at those structures. He asked that the Authority consider this moving forward.

Barb asked Pam if the Authority had surveyed ISPs for input on standards. Pam responded that this would be part of the 5-year Action Plan. Nicole added that members should direct questions about sustainability or cost concerns directly to her.

VIII. Public comments

A member of the public asked a question about the special board meeting and whether guidelines would be confirmed at that time, and whether or not those guidelines would be final after the vote. Pam responded that the guidelines may or may not be voted on at that board meeting. If they are presented, they will be the final guidelines.

IX. Adjournment

Barb called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Samara made the motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Terry Fitzpatrick. The meeting ended at 3:51pm.