

Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority

Board Meeting Minutes

August 22, 2022

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Board members and voting designees in attendance:

- Greg Thall, Chairman
- Dr. Kyle Kopko, Center for Rural Pennsylvania
- Gladys Brown-Dutrieuille, Chairwoman of the PUC
- Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill
- Matt Franchak, on behalf of Senator John Kane
- Beth Rosentel, on behalf of Representative Pam Snyder
- Representative Carl Walker Metzgar
- Mark Critz, Department of Agriculture, on behalf of Secretary Russell Redding
- Dr. David Volkman, Department of Education, on behalf of Acting Secretary Eric Hagarty
- Matt Bembenick, Department of General Services, on behalf of Acting Secretary Joe Lee

Designees in attendance:

- Joe Witmer, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
- Chloe Mandara, Office of Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill
- Jon Hopcraft, Office of Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill
- Phil Kirchner, Office of Representative Carl Walker Metzgar
- Pam Frontino, Center for Rural PA

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

- Brandon Carson
- Erin Wachter
- Kalie Snyder
- Leigh Walter
- Teresa Wills
- Penny Ickes
- Paul Opiyo
- Lori Irwin

Guests in attendance:

- Nicole Ugarte, National Telecommunications and Information Administration
- Greg Gensemer, COPA Office of Administration
- Kevin Glatfelter, COPA Office of Administration
- Eric Epstein, Rock the Capital

I. Call to Order

Chairman Thall called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM.

Kalie Snyder conducted a roll call of the board members and confirmed quorum.

II. Approval of August 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Thall called for a motion to approve the minutes as presented to the board. Motion made by Representative Metzgar. Motion was seconded by Mark Critz. Chairman Thall asked for all Board members to approve or deny the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Sub-Committee Membership

Brandon Carson provided a refresher of the sub-committees and the work that was done to finalize the recommendation list. He also mentioned the establishment of roundtables, which will support the work of the sub-committees and allow additional input from valued stakeholders

Brandon also discussed the Board liaisons for each of the sub-committees. Acknowledging the expertise that Authority members bring and based on feedback from members, he identified the following individuals: Data & Mapping - Dr. Kyle Kopko, Technical - Joseph Witmer, Workforce & Supply Chain - Senator Kristin Philips-Hill, and Outreach & Education - Mark Critz.

Brandon outlined next steps for sub-committee engagement.

Chairman Thall thanked Brandon and team for the work done to finalize the sub-committee member lists. He then asked members of the Authority if there were any questions related to the sub-committee update. Matt Franchak agreed and shared similar sentiment as Chairman Thall.

Matt Bembenick asked if there are concerns regarding organizations represented and their potential interest in applying for funds or contracting with the Commonwealth moving forward. Brandon confirmed that all conversations with interested parties outlined the preclusion of applying for funds or contracting with the Commonwealth, should they agree to participate in sub-committees. He also acknowledged that a signed confidentiality form is required for each of the members.

Mark Critz asked if a motion is required for the sub-committee liaisons. Brandon conferred with Lori Irwin and confirmed that motion would be favorable. Chairman Thall asked if motion could be made for sub-committee board liaisons simultaneously with committee members, Lori confirmed that could be done simultaneously.

Chairman Thall asked for a motion to approve sub-committee members and Board liaisons. Motion made by Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill. Motion was seconded by Chairwoman Brown-Dutrieuille. Chairman Thall asked for Kalie Snyder to do a roll call vote of each Board member for concurrence. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

Chairman Thall called for public comment.

Eric Epstein with Rock the Capital reiterated his request for sub-committee meetings to be sunshined. Chairman Thall commented that it is being considered and that inaction is not indicative of not sunshining but rather inability to discuss until sub-committees were established.

Mark Critz asked for confirmation on the deadline, September 1, 2022, for internet service providers to submit data to the FCC. Brandon Carson confirmed that is correct and confirmed if providers do not meet September 1, 2022 deadline, they are precluded from BEAD funds.

V. Meeting Adjournment

Chairman Thall called for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by Mark Critz. Motion seconded Dr. Kyle Kopko. Chairman Thall asked for all Board members to confirm adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 2:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill
Secretary