

**Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority**  
**Data & Mapping Sub-Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 10, 2024**  
**1:00 PM – 2:00 PM**  
Virtual Meeting  
Dial-In: +1 267-332-8737  
Phone Conference ID: 926 070 153# \*

**Guests in Attendance**

**Sub-committee members and voting designees in attendance:**

- Bill Kiger, Pa One Call, Vice Chair
- Julie Tritt Schell, PA E-Rate Coordinator
- Gary Zingaretti, Zingaretti Enterprises
- Steve Schwerbel, Wireless Internet Service Provider Association

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

- Gregory Alliger
- Pam Frontino
- Kyle Snyder

**Guests in Attendance**

- Tom Beresnyak, Penn State Extension
- Harry Crissy, Penn State Extension

**I. Call to Order**

Vice Chair Kiger called meeting to order and asked Kyle Snyder to take roll call. Kyle noted that Ed Mooney is no longer with the CWA and the committee will be looking into a replacement for him.

**II. Approval of December 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Vice-Chair Kiger called for a motion to approve the December 13, 2023 minutes. Motion was made by Julie Tritt Schell and seconded by Gary Zingaretti. Motion passed.

**III. BEAD Challenge Process Overview**

Vice-Chair Kiger called on Kyle to provide an overview of the BEAD Challenge Process. Kyle proceeded to discuss the tentative registration process opening on Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> with a one-week period to review the publicly accessible BEAD Challenge Map and pre-register for the challenge process. Kyle noted that communications regarding the challenge process would be sent out through the Authority's distribution list. He noted that the initial challenge submission window would run for 30 calendar days until May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The challenge process is the opportunity to correct the map by

submitting evidence and reasons for updating the FCC's National Broadband Map. Kyle then described that after the initial challenge window is completed, then there will be a rebuttal phase. This is the opportunity for any entities that received a challenge to respond with refuting evidence. He noted that the challenging evidence and rebuttal evidence would be compared and adjudicated to determine the final outcome of those locations.

Julie Tritt Schell asked for clarification on who would be adjudicating challenges. Kyle noted that it would be a number of PBDA staff that would be adjudicating the challenges. He also noted that after PBDA adjudicates the challenges, the NTIA will review and cure the PBDA's challenge submission.

Bill Kiger asked if this information is on the PBDA website. Kyle noted that the information pertaining to the challenge process is planned to go live on Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Bill asked if the schedule of the challenge process was going onto the website. Kyle noted that the schedule will be sent through our distribution list and be made available. He also said that the Authority will be hosting various Office Hour sessions that are open for prospective challenge participants to ask questions regarding the challenge process.

Julie Tritt Schell asked when the adjudication process would be completed and when funds would have to be obligated to sub-grantees. Kyle stated that the challenge process would be completed in late July. He then outlined the BEAD challenge process, NTIA curing and the sub-grantee selection process. He noted that the sub-grantee selection process would run until spring of 2025 which is when the Final Proposal would be completed. Julie asked when the National Broadband Map for Pennsylvania would look different. Kyle states that ideally that construction would begin at the earliest of 2025 or 2026. Kyle asked Pam Frontino to clarify the period of performance for BEAD. Pam noted that it's a 4-year period of performance for sub-grantees. Julie asked if there is any sort of consideration given to speed to deployment. Kyle noted that speed to deployment is part of the scoring criteria as outlined in Volume 2 of the Initial Proposal but was unsure what the weighting of that criteria is.

Julie asked a question regarding the impacts of the sunseting of the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program on the work that the PBDA is doing. Kyle noted that the Authority is monitoring the ACP draw down and potential impacts to the PBDA's programs. Pam noted that there are still affordability requirements outlined in the BEAD program that awardees must abide by. Additionally, the PBDA wrote BEAD requirements with the possibility of ACP not being renewed. Gary Zingaretti sought clarification on the affordability requirements outlined in BEAD and the impacts that will have on providers who are participating in the BEAD program. Kyle noted that they would follow up.

Gary confirmed that the PBDA is using BDC data as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 for the BEAD challenge.

#### **IV. Public Comment**

Vice-Chair Kiger called for public comment. There were none.

#### **V. Adjournment**

Vice-Chair Kiger asked for a motion to adjourned the **meeting**. Motion made by Julie Tritt Schell. Motion seconded by Gary Zingaretti.