**Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority**
**Outreach & Education Sub-Committee Meeting**
**Thursday October 24, 2024**
**2:30 PM – 3:30 PM**

Virtual Meeting
Dial-In: +1 267-332-8737
Phone Conference ID: 369 407 287#

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of August 28, 2024, Meeting Minutes

III. New Members

IV. CPF: Multipurpose Facilities Program Approvals

V. Broadband Ready Communities Relaunch

VI. PA Broadband Map Feature Updates

VII. Public Comment

VIII. Adjournment

*We are recording this meeting and your participation is your consent to being recorded.*

**Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority**
Outreach & Education Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2024
Virtual - Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Sub-Committee members in attendance**

- Dan Alwine, Subcommittee Chair, Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce
- Lisa Davis, Director, Office of Rural Health, Penn State University
- Alex Tomasko for Maurice Cobb, Secretary/Treasurer PA AFL-CIO
- Carrie Cleary, Executive Assistant, Office of Commonwealth Libraries
- Joe Gerdes, Director of Government Relations, PA State Association of Township Supervisors

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

- Kalie Snyder, PBDA Outreach and Engagement Manager
- Greg Alliger, PBDA Infrastructure Project Manager
- Mary Markle, PBDA Executive Assistant
- Felicia Duger, PBDA Deputy Digital Director
- Kyle Snyder, PBDA Data & Mapping Specialist

**Guests in attendance**
- Phil Macres
- Roy Hoover
- Nina Riggle
- 516-806-7500
- 717-979-3986
- 717-687-0954

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:36pm. Mary Markle conducted roll call and provided housekeeping items. Quorum was not met.

**II. Approval of the August 28,2024 Meeting Minutes**

Roll will be taken again before the end of the meeting. If quorum is met, minutes will be voted on at that time. Without quorum, meeting minutes will be tabled until the next meeting. (See below)

**III. New member**

Chair Alwine welcomed new subcommittee members, Carrie Cleary and Maurice Cobb. Ms. Cleary is the Executive Assistant for the Office of Commonwealth Libraries. Alex Tomasko attended the meeting for Maurice Cobb. Mr. Cobb is the Secretary/Treasurer for the PA AFL-CIO. Chair Alwine noted that the committee is back to 100%.

## IV. Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Programs Update

Kalie Snyder stated that at its October 10th meeting, the PBDA Board approved 49 Multi-Purpose Community Facilities projects. She added that the approved projects cover 26 counties with awarded entities including schools, libraries, community health centers, government buildings, and non-profit organizations. Ms. Snyder added the link to the list of approved projects to the chat.

Lisa Davis commented that it was great to see so many projects in rural locations and commended the PBDA for their hard work.

Chair Alwine asked if an additional facilities funding opportunities in the future to which Ms. Snyder stated that there are no plans for additional facilities funding opportunities.

## V. Broadband Ready Communities (BBRC), Relaunch

Ms. Snyder reminded that the purpose of the BBRC was to provide an opportunity and incentive for communities and municipalities to show their readiness for broadband infrastructure deployment. With a low response to the program, the PBDA re-evaluated the criteria. The new worksheet is more streamlined, and the requirements have been simplified and, in some cases, eliminated. She added that since offering the new worksheet, there has been an uptick in responses. She asked subcommittee members to share information about the relaunch of the program.

Chair Alwine asked which subcommittee members represent municipalities. Ms. Snyder replied that Joe Gerdes from PA State Association of Township Supervisors and Amy Sturges, from the PA Municipal League both represent local government entities.

Joe Gerdes stated members of Warren County communities shared with him that several companies were interested in projects in that area but upon learning of the federal rules requiring an electrician, backed out except for one large provider. Ms. Snyder offered to arrange for Mr. Gerdes to continue that discussion with the PBDA infrastructure team.

Carrie Cleary added that she will reach out to libraries to ask that they share the BBRC program with their communities. Chair Alwine asked Mr. Gerdes to do the same with the Township Association and other municipal leagues.

At this time, subcommittee member, Joe Gerdes joined the meeting bringing the group to quorum. Chair Alwine asked for a motion to approve the August 28th minutes. Motion was made by Joe Gerdes and seconded by Carrie Cleary.

## VI. PA Broadband Map Features Update

Data and Mapping specialist, Kyle Snyder presented the map of Broadband Serviceable Areas, (BSAs). These are areas for which BEAD dollars can be applied for. Mr. Snyder demonstrated how community anchor institutions, (CAI's), broadband serviceable locations, (BSLs), cost to serve and other information can be accessed on this map.

Ms. Snyder reiterated how instrumental the map will be for applicants.

Lisa Davis asked if there will be any training on how to use the map. Mr. Snyder responded that there will be instruction on the PBDA website.

## VII. Public Comment

Chair Alwine asked Mary Markle to conduct public comment.

Phil Macres asked about the posting of guidelines. Ms. Snyder clarified that she was referring to the guidelines for the BBRC which is not funding related.

Ms. Snyder added that BEAD guidelines are posted and there is no pre-qualification.

### Adjournment

Chair Alwine asked if Ms. Snyder had any other requests of the committee before the December 18th meeting. Ms. Snyder mentioned that there will be a webinar regarding facilities and asked the committee to share out that information.

Motion to adjourn was made by Joe Gerdes and seconded by Alex Tomasko. Meeting adjourned at 3:09pm.