

Board Meeting Minutes
Special Meeting
October 18, 2022
In-Person: Desert Room, Keystone Building Meeting Center
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Board members and voting designees in attendance:

- Representative Pam Snyder, Chair
- Dr. Kyle Kopko, Center for Rural Pennsylvania
- Chairwoman Gladys Brown-Dutrieuille
- Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill, Secretary
- Senator John Kane
- Phil Kirchner, on behalf of 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
- Zach Reber, Office of the Budget, on behalf of Secretary Ben Lukens
- Secretary Neil Weaver, Department of Community and Economic Development

Designees in attendance:

- Chloe Mandara, Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill's Office
- Joe Witmer, Public Utility Commission
- David Screven, Public Utility Commission

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

- Brandon Carson
- Erin Wachter
- Kalie Snyder
- Lori A. Butler
- Leigh Walter
- Terri Wills
- Paul Opiyo
- Lori Irwin
- Rob Teplitz
- Pam Frontino
- Penny Ickes
- Britte Earp

Guests in attendance:

- Nate Regotti, Comcast
- Pablo Adam
- Nate Regatti, Comcast
- Jim Skjeveland, Rolka Loube
- Nicholas Bibby, Duquesne light
- Kristin Ritchey, Comcast

- Dane Higby, Delta One
- Pedro Romero, Verizon Wireless
- Jennifer McClellan, Verizon
- Jennifer Halaszynski, Comcast
- David Kerr, AT&T
- Kimberly Sokoloski, Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney
- Barrett Sheridan Office of Consumer Advocate

I. Call to Order

Chairwoman Snyder called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

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

II. Approval of September 15th Meeting Minutes

Chairwoman Snyder called for a motion to approve the minutes as presented to the board. Brandon Carson commented that Counselor Rob Teplitz was not included in the attendance for the meeting, so the minutes will be updated. Chairwoman Snyder made a motion to amend and approve the minutes as presented to the Board. Motion made by Senator Phillips-Hill. Motion was seconded by Senator Kane. Chairwoman Snyder asked for all Board members to approve or deny the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Penn State Extension Presentation Broadband Availability, Access, Equity and Utilization Proposal

Brandon Carson provided an introduction of the Penn State Extension team and the purpose for securing their assistance in our mapping efforts.

Jim Ladlee and Harry Crissy of Penn State Extension provided introductions and an overview of the proposal. Jim presented and explained the four categories outlined within the proposal, 1) Broadband Availability, Access, Equity, & Utilization 2) Prioritized Projects 3) Project Timeline 4) Budget Estimation. Harry Crissy provided a broad overview of their data collection process and how it's configured into different data sets that fit strategically into the map.

Chairwoman Snyder thanked and welcomed Penn State's involvement, addressing their work to date and how important their role will be in our success in securing the maximum amount of federal dollars.

Brandon Carson added that the Authority has requested the Fabric data from CostQuest, Rob Teplitz and Lori Irwin are working on how we can share this information with our counties. He also noted that Penn State Extension will be presenting to the joint sub-committee meeting taking place the following day.

Brandon Carson also touched on the timeline in the proposal aligns nicely with when we're required to submit our 5-Year Action Plan for funding. He closed by recognizing that this data will not be proprietary and will be publicly available.

Senator John Kane remarked on the proposed Broadband Vision & Objectives section of the proposal regarding the utilization of transdisciplinary public/private project teams. The Senator

asked for further details regarding what those teams are, why are they important, and can you provide examples of what the teams will look like. Jim and Harry responded by acknowledging the need to avoid silos and to engage several entities that have experience and understanding in areas they do not. They also explained that transdisciplinary can include internal Extension folks who can bring a plethora of information to support the mapping work. Chairwoman Snyder added in that she feels this will enhance the work, many of these entities have their own efforts in place that can help to avoid duplicating work already complete.

Chairwoman Brown-Dutrieuille remarked the Public Utility Commission partners with the Extension to assist with education. She also recognized the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) acknowledgement of the work Penn State Extension has done to date.

Phil Kirchner, on Behalf of Representative Metzger, requested resumes of all individuals on the Extension team, sub-contractors, as well legal counsel, to which Jim Ladlee agreed. Phil also asked if the Extension is involved in any litigation with the FCC regarding mapping, to which Harry confirmed they only provided presentations. Phil also asked for confirmation that they only do work in PA, to which Harry Crissy replied that the Extension offers free services within the Commonwealth, but Harry has worked on other mapping projects outside of Pennsylvania as a consultant. Phil questioned the recourse for resolving non-performance or compliance breach, to which Lori Irwin stated the contract could be terminated under certain conditions.

Dr. Kyle Kopko asked for confirmation on how this will facilitate the challenge process moving forward. Harry Crissy responded that ISPs would have to share very specific information and when the data is available from CostQuest.

Mark Critz asked how many individuals are on staff to help facilitate the project, to which Jim Ladlee mentioned 6 to 10 depending upon the need. Jim Ladlee thanked Mark for his partnership with Penn State Extension as they began the mapping work.

IV. Approval of Penn State Extension Scope of Work and Cost

Chairwoman Snyder asked for a motion to approve the Penn State Extension proposal as presented to the Board.

Phil Kirchner requested a motion to table the vote. Chairwoman Snyder asked for clarification on when this would be reconsidered and offered the idea of a special meeting. Phil Kirchner agreed to that, Chairwoman Snyder also agreed to entertain a motion to postpone to a special meeting.

Motion made by Phil Kirchner to postpone vote of the Penn State Extension proposal to a special meeting. Motion seconded by Senator Kristin Philips-Hill, who acknowledged the time constraints and the limited number of entities who operate in this space and cautioned against delaying the process much longer.

Dr. Kopko asked for a timeline of the next special meeting, to which Chairwoman Snyder stated the meeting will be schedule as soon as the requested information is provided from Penn State Extension.

Chairwoman Snyder called for a roll call vote. Kalie Snyder conducted a roll call vote, and the following votes were recorded:

- Mark Critz on behalf of Secretary Redding, No
- Secretary Neil Weaver, No
- Dr. David Volkman on behalf of Acting Secretary Hagarty, No
- Matt Bembenick on behalf of Acting Secretary Joe Lee, No
- Zack Reber on behalf of Acting Secretary Ben Lukens, Yes
- Dr. Kyle Kopko, Yes
- Chairman Brown-Dutrieuille, Yes
- Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill, Yes
- Senator John Kane, Yes
- Chairwoman Pam Snyder, Yes
- Phil Kirchner on behalf of Representative Carl Metzger, Yes

Motion carries.

V. Public Comment

Kalie Snyder called for public comment, there were none.

VI. Adjournment

Chairwoman Snyder asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Dr. Kopko motioned. Motion seconded by Phil Kirchner. Meeting Adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill
Secretary