![Broadband Alliance of Mendocino County logo]

Broadband Alliance Public Outreach Meeting

Friday, Sept. 9th, 2016   10 am – 11:45 am
Community Foundation of Mendocino County
Call-in Number: 641-715-3341 Access Code: 108 1131#

I. **Introductions**

    A. Attendees: Jenna Burell (Berkeley professor), David Pai (Mendocino College), Brooke Clark (narrow-band user), Katie Gibbs (Community Foundation), Rick Eller (Office of Emergency Services), Sarah Reith (Willits News), Jim Persky (Pacific Internet), John Goldsmith (BAMC), Mo Mulheron (Ukiah City Council), Jeff Parker (Point Arena), Trish Steel (BAMC)

    B. Call in: Heather Gurewitz (Congressman Huffman field rep)

II. **Additions to the agenda -** Trish added E-town info under Item 6.

III. **Handouts at meeting**

    A. Meeting agenda

    B. SMEDD "Call for projects" summary

    C. "Thoughts on AB2395" document

IV. **North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium (NBNCBC) update since last meeting on May 6th 2016**

    A. Grant application update - our 150-plus page application was submitted to the CPUC in January, and since that time we have been getting additional requests for information, which we have been providing. It has been a lot of work, and we have not heard whether the grant will be funded or not. The latest news is that we should know by January 2017.

    B. Consortia JPA update - NBNCBC has been working under a 4-county MOU, but we would like to formalize our 4-county relationship to continue regional broadband planning by creating a Joint Powers Authority (JPA). The Oversight Committee will discuss this at their next meeting in November.

    C. Volume 4 Newsletter is posted on our website.

V. **Broadband Alliance News**

    A. Executive Committee member Susanne Norgard is retiring, and resigning from the committee. She has been an very valuable member of the Alliance since the beginning, and she will be missed!

B. Phone that Work campaign (TURN) - Trish handed out a draft document "Thoughts on AB2395" and asked for feedback, as a background document for the TURN campaign for "Phones that Work."

C. Jim Persky was very involved in the fight against this bill, as the deregulation of copper would put smaller ISPs like himself who depend upon this infrastructure out of business. He added that the telcos try to cloak these bills in "environmental" terms to fight climate change, and that this is something to watch for.

D. The Alliance has a new menu on their website for "Legislation." Currently there is not much there, but the plan is to keep this updated with summaries of current broadband legislation.

VI. County News

A. Sonoma-Mendocino Economic Development District (SMEDD) has posted their final draft version of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) on their website for feedback. The CEDS will be submitted to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) as part of the SMEDD application. There has not been any new Economic Development District in California in 20 years.

(1) The SMEDD has put out a "Call for Projects" which would be included as well, as a way for the goals of the CEDS to be met. These selected projects would be "prioritized" by the SMEDD when EDA funding is eventually available, although it does not guarantee funding from the EDA.

(2) The deadline for submission of projects is now Sept. 30th (*the deadline has been extended since the meeting, so this is the new deadline)*; the project proposals are simple and a maximum of 2 pages. Trish encouraged everyone to share this information far and wide so that we can get as many proposals from Mendocino County as possible submitted.

B. The "Rural Call Completion" public participation hearing that was held in Ukiah on July 15th was a success. It was well-attended, with lots of public safety officials submitting their comments into the record on how the outages of 2014 and 2015 hindered their ability to perform their job. The hearing was scheduled for 2:30-4:30 pm, but lasted until well after 6 pm.

(1) Before the hearing, Commissioner Sandoval took a 5-hour tour out to the site of the 2014 fiber break in Comptche, to see for herself the terrain and circumstances that led to the break. The Comptche Volunteer Fire Department provided a Firehouse presentation, and tour of the site including traffic control.

(2) A video of the hearing and list of speakers with their time stamp is posted to the [Alliance website](#).

C. The Alliance was very impressed with Commissioner Sandoval; unfortunately, her term at the PUC is up in December. Both the Alliance and the NBNCBC sent letters to Governor Brown requesting that Commissioner Sandoval be re-appointed to the PUC. These [letters](#) have been posted to our website.

D. Coastal Permitting update - the wireless permitting revisions, to create a streamlined permitting process for small-scale wireless projects, passed the Planning Department in May, the Board of Supervisors in July, and are now awaiting approval from the Coastal Commission. No further update was available.

VII. Legislative Updates

A. Current legislation is constantly changing with amendments and committee actions, and it's very hard to follow the progress of a bill. Trish wants to make it easier for people to keep "up to date" on legislation with a new menu on the Alliance website, as discussed earlier. Please check the website for information which will *hopefully* be posted soon.

B. Assemblymember Wood's Broadband Map Act (AB 1549) passed both the house and senate recently (although it took a large hit in the senate and was watered down) and was presented to Governor Brown on 9/2 for signature. This bill requires Caltrans, under certain conditions, to notify companies or organizations of anticipated construction projects for the purpose of encouraging collaborative broadband installations.

C. Trish asked Mo how the Ukiah City council takes positions on various bills, and Mo explained that they go through the "League of Cities." Mo is going to an

annual conference soon, and will ask about broadband bills that the league supports.

VIII. Broadband Deployments updates

A. Pacific Internet reported that they now are serving Lake County, as a lot of small ISPs are shutting down and he is purchasing as many of these as he can afford. He would like to partner with the City of Ukiah for a local fiber network.

B. John Kuhry from the EDFC is very supportive of this idea, as well as the Alliance. It's hard to figure out the "next steps" and how to get the Ukiah leadership to support this idea. Mo suggested that a presentation to the city council be made, and that there is no need to wait until after elections since there were no contenders for city council seats.

C. The city of Ammon, Idaho is about the same size as Ukiah, and they have a very good story to share about how they were able to bring fiber to their town.

D. Jeffrey Parker lives in Point Arena, and is a journalist who has spent 20 years in China working with health advocacy/blindness prevention (where they have very good broadband infrastructure). He now lives on the coast, without broadband, and attended today's meeting because he has ideas on showcasing businesses that have been able to expand and market their business due to the availability of high-speed broadband, so people could understand the value in providing good service. He uses The Zen House as an example of such a business when they were able to obtain high-speed broadband through Further Reach Fixed Wireless service. Their service has allowed them to do things that just were not possible previously, like put up video.

E. Trish likes the idea of showcasing businesses that have been able to prosper and expand with the availability of high-speed broadband, and feels like this is an important piece that has been missing.

IX. Other Updates

A. Rick from the Office of Emergency Services reminded people to register for the Sheriff Emergency Alert System. This system will send email, text, or phone alerts to let you know of any emergencies in your areas. Landlines are

automatically entered into the system, but VoIP is not and you must register these phones yourself. The link is on the [Sheriff's homepage](.).

B. Rick also reported that AT&T's ESInet was supposed to be here in Mendocino County in September, but that it must be installed in a server in LA first. ESInet is an effort to make first responders more accessible to residents through an Emergency Services IP network (ESInet) , or next generation 911 services.

C. FirstNet was also discussed, but there is a lot of uncertainty around the program as to whether it will actually provide the services that are needed. The general feeling from Rick is that FirstNet will be better for the urban areas than the rural areas.

D. Jenna also briefly discussed her report, "The Value of the Internet to Rural Populations: a case study from Mendocino county, CA." This report principally describes results from an online survey of subscribers to a new fixed wireless ISP in the area. The survey results are contextualized by a set of ~50 interviews carried out between February 2015 and March 2016. In particular, this study seeks to develop a richer account of how Internet connectivity is experienced in underserved areas, particularly in rural USA. Once finalized, Trish will post this report on our website under "Data and Reports."

E. Diann provided an EDFC update by reporting that their ShareSpace Business Hub is opening Sept. 15th with a celebration from 5-7 pm; There will also be a workshop on Sunday Sept. 25, 2:00 - 4:00 pm – Align Your Investments with your Values. Location is 205 N. Bush St., #154. Cost is $30 in advance (call 707.234.5705 or stop by EDFC) or $40 at the door.

F. Katie pointed out that she recently received from Comcast a 4-page list of their services and products, as part of a required FCC yearly notification. However, their "Internet Essentials" low-cost broadband program is not mentioned in this list, and she wondered why. Trish will contact Comcast and see if we can get an answer to that question.

V. **Meeting adjourned at 11:45**

VI. **Next meeting - November 4th, 2016**