

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, June 17, 2021

JRW Building- East Conference Room

700 W State Street, Boise, ID 83702

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Members

Idaho Commerce Staff

Chairman, Rep. John Vander Woude, *Idaho Legislator*

Tom Kealey, *Director Idaho Commerce*

Vice Chair Sen. Carl Crabtree, *Idaho Legislator (Z)*

Jake Reynolds, *Business Development & Operations Administrator*

Rep. Megan Blanksma, *Idaho Legislator*

Eric Forsch, *Broadband Development Manager*

Rep. Barbara Ehardt, *Idaho Legislator(Z)*

Ewa Szewczyk, *Grants and Contracts Manager*

Sen. Doug Ricks, *Idaho Legislator (Z)*

Andrea Vlassis-Zahn, *International Trade Specialist*

Mitch Watkins, *Watkins Distribution-(Z)*

Holly Stevenson, *Grants and Contracts Analyst (Z)*

Margie Watson, *JC Watson & Company*

Magaly Carrillo, *Community Development Analyst*

Andrew Amerson, *MH Solutions (Z)*

Not in attendance:

Sen. David Nelson, *Idaho Legislator*

(Z) denotes via Zoom

Call to Order

Chairman Rep. John Vander Woude called the meeting to order at 10:02 with a quorum present.

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Vander Woude noted that the minutes for June 7, 2021, Idaho Broadband Advisory Board meeting had been distributed.

Motion

If there are no corrections, move to approve the minutes as distributed.

Moved by: Margie

Seconded by: Blanksma

All in favor. Motion Approved.

Discussion about Public Comments:

Director Tom Kealey thanked all the people who took the time to comment.

He also referenced a packet that was provided to the board with the 20 comments received.

Key points included comments about the middle mile, last mile as well as private versus public ownership.

Approval of Broadband Grant Guidelines for \$10 million Cares Act Funds

Chairman Rep. John Vander Woude opened the discussion to any feedback or to propose changes.

Representative Blanksma proposed the following changes:

1. Eligible Projects (Page 1): The link provided under letter 2A is not user-friendly. Change it to (link provided by Rep. Blanksma in email)
2. Any mention of the Director/ Commerce should be changed to only reference the broadband office.

Board members discussed this point and concurred in changing the line to read "Idaho Broadband Advisory Board, the Idaho Office of Broadband, and Director of the Idaho Department of Commerce"

3. Additional Required Information (bullet 4): The number of households should not be required information.

For example, middle-mile projects do not necessarily serve households. If this question is required, some people will not be able to apply.

Commerce will rephrase the heading to read as follows: answer if applicable or if not applicable answer N/A. The heading reading "required information" will be removed.

4. Additional Required Information (bullet 12): Can applicants only use the Ookla Application, or can they use other applications?

Commerce will change the wording to allow for other vendors aside from Ookla to be used.

Motion

To accept the language as written except for the points that were discussed.

Moved by: Representative Blanksma

Seconded by: Senator Ricks

All in favor. Motion passed.

The broadband grant guidelines will be posted by 5:00 p.m. tomorrow (June 17, 2021).

New Business

Director Kealey mentioned that the portal can be used to solicit ideas on projects. As well as to allow people to submit proposals, such as a letter or paragraph of the projects that they would like to see done in their area.

Discussion by board members included making it clear that the proposals are to inform on ideas for projects and the proposals are not tied to any money.

Motion

To use the main broadband website as the place to receive the proposals and for the proposals to be separate from the portal.

Moved by: Representative Blanksma

Seconded by: Margie Watson.

All in favor. Motion passed.

Board members are preoccupied with issues affecting schools and children's learning. They asked Commerce if it would be possible to know what type of technology is available to schools. Eric Forsh will contact Chris Campbell and the Department of Education to collect information. He will also ask Mr. Campbell to come to a meeting and speak to the board.

Next Meeting

Due to the procurement laws of the state, there should be three weeks allowed for public comments. Therefore, the applications will close on July 9th.

Motion

To move the meeting from July 8, 2021 to July 26, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.

Moved by: Representative Blanksma

Seconded by: Margie Watson

All in favor. Motion passed.

Chairman Rep. John Vander Woude adjourned the meeting at 11:13