Idaho Broadband Task Force Meeting
Wednesday, June 19, 2019
Boise State University – Student Union Building
Jordan Ballroom - 1700 W University Dr, Boise, ID 83725

Attendees

Broadband Task Force	
Dana Bassett, *Glanbia*	Gordon Jones, *Boise State University*
Jaynie Bentz, *Assistant Port Manager*	Tom Kealey, *Idaho Department of Commerce*
Doug Burnett, *Coeur d'Alene Resort*	Mike Kennedy, *Intermax Networks*
Guy Cherp, *Cox Communications*	Jacob Larsen, *Safelink Internet*
Sen. Carl Crabtree, *Idaho Legislator*	Greg Lowe, *Syringa Networks*
Paul Desaulniers, *Century Link*	Michael Mattmiller, *Microsoft*
Milt Doumit, *Verizon*	Sen. David Nelson, *Idaho Legislator*
Steve Ehle, *Simplot*	Jon Hanian, *Idaho Office of Emergency Management*
Kevin England, *Association of Cities*	Kari Saccomanno, *Ting Internet*
Jessica Epley, *Frontier Communications*	Ken Smith, *HP*
Rep. Matt Erpelding, *Idaho Legislator*	Tara Thue, *AT&T*
Pat Felzien, *Micron*	Jaap Vos, *University of Idaho*
Mike Fitzgerald, *Shoshone County*	Jeff Weak, *The State of Idaho*
Curtis Fryer, *Idaho Forest Group*	Danae Wilson, *Nez Perce Tribe*
Randy Gaines, *Idaho State University*	
Steven Gerber, *Charter Communications*	**Idaho Commerce Staff**
Cheryl Goettsche, *Cable One*	Matt Borud, *Marketing and Innovation Administrator*
Chanel Tewalt, *Idaho Department of Agriculture*	Jake Reynolds, *Business Development & Operations Administrator*
Dan Greig, *Farmers Mutual Telephone Company*	Rylon Hofacer, *Senior Research Analyst*
Jerry Gwynn, *Idaho National Laboratory*	James Varner, *Administrative Assistant*
Robert Hampton, *Robert Hampton*	

Welcome and Housekeeping
Director Tom Kealey welcomed the Broadband Task Force and gave a summary of the expectations, goals and objectives of the task force meetings.

Introductions
Each member of the task force gave a summary of who they are and why they are here.

Session 1
Overview of Broadband Technologies
Moderator: Dean Gordon Jones – Boise State University

Idaho broadband providers gave an overview of their technology. Broadband Task Force members Cheryl Goettsche, Milt Doumit, Mike Kennedy, Paul Desaulniers, Steven Gerber, Tara Thue, Guy Cherp, Kari Saccomanno and Danae Wilson shared what their respective companies bring to Idaho regarding broadband. For the second discussion topic, Greg Lowe, Danae Wilson, Michael Mattmiller and Milt Doumit talked about limitations of broadband technology and how it might address a city's ability to advance.

Session 2
Preliminary Service Maps and Resources at Idaho Commerce and Elsewhere

Idaho Commerce give an overview of current resources and maps, including the Idaho Commerce broadband website, speed test, FCC mapping and BroadbandNow.com. data. Jake Reynolds walked the task force through the Broadband Task Force webpage and how to access the page through the Idaho Commerce website.

Rylon Hofacer presented Idaho broadband rankings, broadband availability in Idaho, FCC fixed broadband deployment map using data from FCC and BroadbandNow.com.

Michael Mattmiller of Microsoft gave an overview of the broadband gap in Idaho. Michael explained a problem with how the Census collects the information. He went over the FCC fixed broadband availability and broadband usage based on Microsoft data.

Director Kealey tasked broadband providers on the task force to review the BroadbandNow.com map and determine a way to test the accuracy.

Session 3
What Have Other States Done for Broadband? (e.g. Utah, Washington, Oregon, Pacific Northwest)
Moderator: Professor Jaap Vos – University of Idaho

Tara Thue with AT&T gave a presentation on what other Northwestern states have done for broadband including which states have a broadband office and what resources are being invested in Idaho. Established broadband offices have a dedicated team that continues to work on broadband monitoring and solutions due to the ever-changing technology. Although other states have been successful in their broadband approach, their tactics may not be the best for Idaho and it is at the discretion of the task force to decide what is best for this state.

Milt Doumit, Tara Thune, Steven Gerber, Jessica Epley and Jim Blundell continued to explain what other states are doing.

Danae Wilson, Milt Doumit, Tara Thune and Michael Mattmiller gave examples of what is most important to help grow broadband including faster permit time, dropping piping while roads are dug up, interlocking with current broadband, making broadband a sustained effort and finding partners in the Department of Education and the Department of Transportation.

Professor Jaap Vos asked the panel to explain what their company or service area is doing to improve broadband. Kevin England, Mike Fitzgerald, Danae Wilson, Senator Carl Crabtree, Jacob Larsen and Greg Lowe responded with explanations of what they are doing in their respective areas to improve broadband.

Session 4
What have other Cities, Counties, and Tribes done for Broadband
Moderator: Professor Jaap Vos – University of Idaho

Kevin England, Mike Fitzgerald, Danae Wilson, Jacob Larsen, Jaynie Bentz, Kari Saccomanno and Michael Mattmiller gave examples of what cities, counties and tribes have done to address broadband needs by identifying challenges, creating a fiber forum, getting their communities to work together, using state and federal grants to provide connections, partnering with providers, building fiber to the community and giving incentives to make broadband more affordable.

Session 5

Company, Consumer, and Legislative Perspectives
Moderator: CIO - Randy Gaines – Idaho State University

This session focused on a discussion led by company and legislative members of the task force. Sen. Carl Crabtree, Sen. David Nelsen, Steve Ehle, Curtis Fryer, Doug Burnett, Pat Felzien, Dana Bassett, Rep. Matt Erpelding, Kenneth Smith, Robert Hampton and Michael Mattmiller expressed that broadband is a fundamental economic development issue when it comes to infrastructure in rural communities. Broadband is needed to attract companies, sustain strong and vibrant schools, and have a healthy, diverse community. Corporate needs drive community needs and vice-versa. They stated that the problem with getting broadband to the rural communities is the lack of money and return on investment.

Director Kealey reviewed the agenda for the next meeting that will be held in Twin Falls on July 17 and closed the meeting.