



**Brad Little**, Governor  
**Tom Kealey**, Director

## **Broadband Task Force Meeting**

Wednesday, August 28, 2019  
The Coeur d'Alene Resort  
115 S 2nd St, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

### **Broadband Task Force**

Dana Bassett, *Glanbia*  
Jaynie Bentz, *Assistant Port Manager*  
Doug Burnett, *Coeur d'Alene Resort*  
Guy Cherp, *Cox Communications*  
Sen. Carl Crabtree, *Idaho Legislator*  
Paul Desaulniers, *Century Link*  
Milt Doumit, *Verizon*  
Kevin England, *Association of Cities*  
Jessica Epley, *Frontier Communications*  
Rep. Matt Erpelding, *Idaho Legislator*  
Pat Felzien, *Micron*  
Mike Fitzgerald, *Shoshone County*  
Curtis Fryer, *Idaho Forest Group*  
Randy Gaines, *Idaho State University*  
Marian Jackson, *Charter Communications*  
Cheryl Goettsche, *Cable One*  
Chanel Tewalt, *Idaho Department of Agriculture*  
Dan Greig, *Farmers Mutual Telephone Company*  
Jerry Gwynn, *Idaho National Laboratory*  
Robert Hampton, *Robert Hampton*

Gordon Jones, *Boise State University*  
Tom Kealey, *Idaho Department of Commerce*  
Mike Kennedy, *Intermax Networks*  
Jacob Larsen, *Safelink Internet*  
Greg Lowe, *Syringa Networks*  
Michael Mattmiller, *Microsoft*  
Sen. David Nelson, *Idaho Legislator*  
Jon Hanian, *Idaho Office of Emergency Management*  
Kari Saccomanno, *Ting Internet*  
Ken Smith, *HP*  
Jaap Vos, *University of Idaho*  
Jeff Weak, *The State of Idaho*  
Danae Wilson, *Nez Perce Tribe*

### **Idaho Commerce Staff**

Matt Borud, *Marketing and Innovation Administrator*  
Jake Reynolds, *Business Development & Operations Administrator*  
Eric Forsch, *Business Retention and Expansion Manager*  
James Varner, *Community Development Analyst*

### **Goals and Objectives of the Task Force - Welcome and Housekeeping**

Director Tom Kealey welcomed the Broadband Task Force and gave a summary of the expectations of the Task Force meetings. He thanked Doug Burnette for hosting the Broadband Task Force meeting at the beautiful Coeur d'Alene Resort. The Governor has tasked the Broadband Task Force to come up with some recommendations on how to get broadband to underserved Idaho communities. The Director went over a sample overview of small-town broadband challenges and a middle mile project table. The task force members introduced themselves.

Session 1

## **Review of Goals**

Each subcommittee will go over their goal and talk about what recommendations they came up with.

### **Recommendations from Goal 7: Broadband Report**

**Chair: Jaap Vos**

**Co-Chair: Gordon Jones**

Jaap Vos and Gordon Jones asked the Task Force to think about who is being helped with this task force, what are the challenges, what opportunities can be utilized, how can cost be reduced, and try to make the report easier to understand through stories from the communities.

### **Recommendation Goal 1: Rural Idaho (A)**

**Chair: Greg Lowe**

**Co-chair: Danae Wilson**

ITD started to put fiber in the northern corridor but it still needs about 5 million to finish. However, the state is limiting the amount of connections the network can give. There is also a 7,000-9,000 entrance fee when going into a smaller community. Furthermore, consumers are not buying what their carriers are providing. The last point discussed was to find how to implement what worked in one small town into another.

### **Recommendation Goal 2: Rural Idaho (B)**

**Co-chair: Sen. David Nelson**

Senator Nelson's group recommended that the "Dig Once" policy should include the local highway districts. It was also recommended to have a state construction registry and to list funding options for future projects.

### **Recommendation Goal 3: Urban Idaho**

**Chair: Kevin England**

**Co-chair: Michael Mattmiller**

This group also recommended having policies in cities for "Dig once". For communities to have flexibility in who to choose for their providers, have a middle mile connection between communities and for larger areas to help smaller areas with those connections.

### **Discussion:**

Question: Why are consumers not buying the broadband that is being offered to them?

Answer: It is due to several factors, including not able to afford it, no accessibility and no option on providers. In addition, children in rural communities are unable to do school work and progress on their education due to no internet access. Even if it is not related to school work or education, rural communities still need access for other needs. The next step is to find how to incorporate those needs into recommendations.

#### **Recommendation Goal 4: INL Research and Universities**

**Chair: Jerry Gwynn**

**Co-chair: Randy Gaines**

Recommendation from Goal 4 INL Research and Universities:

Look at Idaho's industries including Agriculture and Forestry. They will need research and data from both universities and INL. Link up with Goals 1 and 2. Making sure we have collaboration between the Communities, Universities, INL, and the State with statuettes which would include easements. Co Op idea where providers and communities utilize IRON as their transport (mid mile).

#### **Recommendation Goal 5: Broadband Mapping**

**Chair: Guy Cherp**

**Co-chair: Brad Richy**

The FCC created the new Digital Opportunity Data Collection for better mapping. It will collect information by using polygon maps. The following is information that will be collected:

- Deployment data, such as Broadband Transmission Technologies
- Subscription data, such as the number of subscribers to a given data tier in a given demographic
- Experience or performance data, such as actual speed versus expected speed

It was also noted that 60% of people do not have \$400 for an emergency, which justifies why many of those people cannot afford a subscription.

#### **Recommendation Goal 6: State Broadband Office**

**Chair: Tara Thue**

**Co-chair: Jessica Epley**

Goal 6 recommended that the Broadband Office would be an Ambassador for goal connectivity. It would also work with the State legislature and Tribal leaders. In addition, they recommended that there should be support for local and regional mapping and to be considerate with the places that do not want to have connectivity. Lastly, there should be support and coordinate efforts to create public awareness and to find resources that are available.

#### **ITD**

What is it ITD can do to help?

- Collaborate and share the road projects with Commerce and providers and do it as fast as possible.
- The state can be divided into sections and the projects would begin where there is greater need.
- Fast approvals to get conduit in the ground.
- Share 7-year program that shows where the ground breaking will be.
- Scope of the project and the timing of the ITD projects.

Session 2: Working Lunch

### **Breakout Session with Different Requests and Teams**

Session 3

### **USDA and Federal Funding Opportunities (Joe Bradley-USDA)**

The USDA gave an overview of the Telecommunication Programs. It stated that over 6 billion dollars have gone to Idaho since 2010. They also focused on the available funding, program updates, and rural access loans. The USDA also reviewed highlights from the Farm Bill, SUTA (for all telecommunication loan programs), Community Connect Program and the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) program.

#### **USDA Q&A (Joe Bradley-USDA)**

Question: When does the Fiscal Year start for the USDA?

Answer: It begins on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Question: What can we do to help others get this funding?

Answer: Streamline the information that is needed to apply.

### **Satellite Technology Overview – RS&I Inc (Brian DeRusha and Tyson Walker VP of Operations)**

Tyson Walker started with a brief introduction of RS&I. He stated that HughsNet wants to serve the rural underserved communities. They have been able to do so by delivering above the advertised speeds at a low price. For example, in the standard pricing there is no hard data limit and consumers are able to choose between leasing or purchasing the equipment. In addition, they explained how satellite technology works. They stated that HughsNet consumers need to have a clear view of the southern sky. The drawback to this is that trees block satellite connections. Furthermore, they explained that low orbiting satellites drops latency to the seconds. It will be a few years before the low orbiting satellites will be ready for use. They need to send out hundreds of satellites to make it work.

#### **RS&I Q&A (Tyson Walker)**

Question: Can mountains affect the satellite connection like trees do? And if they do, how can rural places get service?

Answer: The main qualifier for satellite is to have a clear view of southern sky. If people have a clear view, then mountains do not cause as much of a problem.

Session 4

### **Recommendations from Breakouts**

#### **Goal 1: Rural Idaho (A)**

**Chair: Greg Lowe**

**Co-chair: Danae Wilson**

Goal 1 made several recommendations, which included:

- Someone should be hired for broadband position.
- Add broadband to the ITD guidance manuals
- Establish a data bank at the broad office
- Include what are the rights of rights of way

- Change the definition of library to open addition of resource centers to be able to qualify for E-rate funding
- Address census blocks size and boundary definition
- Document barriers that exist

**Goal 2: Rural Idaho (B)**

**Chair: Mike Kennedy**

**Co-chair: Sen. David Nelson**

Recommendations from Breakouts:

- Support for accessing state programs
- Still discussing better utilization of State land for towers and to what extent should the state be involved.
- The group is still discussing if funding from the state should be utilized in areas that have no infrastructure.

**Goal 3: Urban Idaho**

**Chair: Kevin England**

**Co-chair: Michael Mattmiller**

Recommendations from Breakouts

- Last mile: talk to communities to see what will work for them.
- Talking to communities to find their needs and expectations
- Education process
- Funding
- Policies and procedures to streamline the process
- Technology sharing

**Goal 4: INL Research and Universities**

**Chair: Jerry Gwynn**

**Co-chair: Randy Gaines**

Recommendations from Breakouts

- Get statute clarity from cities and state

**Goal 5: Broadband Mapping**

**Chair: Guy Cherp**

**Co-chair: Brad Richy**

Recommendations from Breakouts:

- Use simple language for reporting
- Better mapping to keep track of places that have received government funds.
- Breaking down communication barriers.

## **Goal 6: State Broadband Office**

**Chair: Tara Thue**

**Co-chair: Jessica Epley**

### Recommendations from Breakouts

- Broadband office
- Annual report for the legislature and public. This report would list each goal, what was done to achieve it, what still needs to be done and a strategic plan going forward.
- It is important to have an office for consumers to call if they have questions about broadband or if they do not have broadband available.
- Before the office is established, there needs to be an analysis of other departments to make sure there is no overlap.

## **Goal 7: Broadband Report**

**Chair: Jaap Vos**

**Co-Chair: Gordon Jones**

### Recommendations from Breakouts

#### Follow up Assignments

The six groups will answer these questions in a 3-5-page report:

- Why is this important?
  - Deep and strong thinking
  - Articulate why this is important because the person reading the report may not have the background knowledge on broadband.
- 3 most important recommendation
- 1 to 2 case studies or illustrations on what would happen if those recommendations were not followed.
- After the report is complete the Chairs and Co-Chairs of the sub committees will meet to go over the report.
- The 3 to 5-page report from the sub committees will be due in two weeks, on September 11<sup>th</sup>. It will also be put into a draft report to be presented to Governor Little for September 25<sup>th</sup>.