



Brad Little, Governor  
Tom Kealey, Director

## Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, August 5, 2021  
700 W Jefferson, Boise, ID 83702  
Room-WW53

### Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Members

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

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

Rep. Megan Blanksma, *Idaho Legislator*

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

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

Mitch Watkins, *Watkins Distribution (Z)*

Margie Watson, *JC Watson & Company*

Not in Attendance:

Andrew Emerson, *MH Solutions*

Sen. David Nelson, *Idaho Legislator*

### Idaho Commerce Staff

Jake Reynolds, *Business Development & Operations Administrator*

Eric Forsch, *Broadband Development Manager*

Andrea Vlassis-Zahn, *Broadband Development Coordinator*

Ewa Szewczyk, *Grants and Contracts Manager*

(Z) denotes via Zoom

### Call to Order

Chairman Rep. John Vander Woude called the meeting to order at 1:00 with a quorum present.

### Roll Call

### Approval of Minutes

Chairman Vander Woude noted that there are several corrections to be made to the minutes from last meeting. Hold approval of the minutes until next meeting.

### Discussion and Approval of Cares Act Broadband Grants

Council members discussed whether the libraries should be funded this round. Concerns regarding the bidding for the modem were brought up as well as the projects not being weather sensitive like other projects. Another concern discussed was the challenges to the projects. Council members wanted to make sure that the projects that received challenged could move forward. They mentioned that they are big library proponents but that the projects might be a better fit in the next round.

Commerce answered the questions by mentioning that the libraires had declared on their application that they had gone thru the correct procurement process. Therefore, Commerce has no concerns about the bidding process. In regard to the challenges, Commerce mentioned that they worked closely with the

Deputy Attorney General and had come to the conclusion that there was nothing preventing the projects from moving forward.

**Motion:**

To accept all projects, eliminate the library (1 million) and reduce every project proportionately to get down to the 10 million.

Motion by: Representative Blanksma

Second by: Margie Watson

Representative Ehardt: substitute motion to proceed as planned with the libraries included.

No second. Motion Fails

Original Motion Vote:

All aye

Nay from Barbara. 1:13pm

**New Business**

Chairman Vander Woude is working on grant guidelines and governance and statewide plan with Vice Chair Senator Crabtree. They will set a date for a meeting to discuss ideas on the statewide plan.

The board also discussed the possibility of writing letters of support for communities interested in grants from the National Telecommunications Information Association. Board members mentioned that the board should not provide a letter of support for National Telecommunications Information Association until the statewide plan is in place. They also concurred in that they would like to be informed on what other money is available to communities, such as ARPA. This would allow the board to make sure that the funds are not overlapping or that there is no overspending of resources. Commerce is working closely with the Idaho Association of Cities and Counties to stay informed on other funds available.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned 1:33