



Brad Little, Governor  
Tom Kealey, Director

### Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 24, 2023  
Idaho Capitol Building  
Room WW53 and via Zoom

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Members	Idaho Commerce Staff
Chairman Rep. John Vander Woude, Idaho Legislator	Ramón Hobdey-Sánchez, State Broadband Program Manager
Vice-Chair Sen. Doug Ricks, Idaho Legislator	Jake Reynolds, Business Development & Operations Administrator
Sen. James Ruchti, Idaho Legislator (Z)	Ewa Szewczyk, Grants and Contracts Manager
Sen. Treg Bernt, Idaho Legislator	Kim Glineski, State Broadband Project Manager
Rep. Megan Blanksma, Idaho Legislator	
Rep. Barbara Ehardt, Idaho Legislator (Z)	
Andrew Emerson, MH Solutions	Mindy Peper (Z)
Mitch Watkins, Watkins Distribution	
Margie Watson, JC Watson & Company	
(Z) denotes via Zoom	
(A) denotes absent	

To view/hear entire meeting A/V, please click [here](#).

**Call to order:**

Chairman Vander Woude called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm with a quorum present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 16, 2023.

**Motion by:** Blanksma

To approve meeting minutes from June 16, 2023.

**Seconded by:** Watson

**All in favor:** Motion passes

**Idaho Office Broadband Update**

Meeting Minutes Summary:

Ramón Hobdey-Sánchez from the Idaho Department of Commerce provided an update on Idaho Broadband. Key points discussed in the meeting include:

1. Staff Updates
2. Grant Updates

3. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)
4. Project and Scoring Timelines

### **Idaho CPF Grant Discussion & Funding Decisions**

Hobdey-Sánchez reported on the evaluation process for broadband projects:

- Reviewed 105 projects submitted by 37 applicants.
  - Used three teams of three subject matter experts to grade each application.
  - Each application was reviewed by three individuals.
  - Some applications were scored out of 190, and others out of 210 due to a need to give them equal consideration.
  - The board discussed scoring and bonus points and adjusted the top scorers for award.
- All motions determined to be pending adjudication and recheck of formulas and funding.

**Motion by:** Ricks

To accept Madison County, Latah County, Ziplly - Valley County Fiber, and the Owyhee County projects.

**Substitute Motion:** Blanksma

No project be awarded more than \$15 million and that no project without a match.

**Seconded by:** Rutchi

Discussion on cost per household and match confirmed.

**Call to Question:** Margie Watson

**In Favor:** Vander Woude, Ricks, Ruchti, Bernt, Blanksma, Ehardt, Emerson, Watkins

**Opposed:** Watson

**Motion by:** Ricks

To accept Madison County, Latah County, Ziplly - Valley County Fiber, and the Owyhee County projects.

**Substitute Motion:** Rutchi

Use the method of scoring from highest to lowest until we hit \$120,000,000.

**Amended Substitute Motion:** Watkins

To approve all applications above line 17 on the spreadsheet minus Lincoln County based on cost per household.

**Call to Question:** Margie Watson

**Motion failed for call to question.**

Discussion on only allowing for one grant per applicant.

**All in favor:** Motion passes

Discussion to determine what to do with remaining funds.

**Motion by:** Ricks

Award the next two projects below the line.

**Substitute Motion:** Ruchti

Add Ziplly Fiber and Custer Telephone, lines 19 and 22 on spreadsheet, because it spreads the money out throughout the state without going too far down the scoring list and being closer to the total of \$120,000,000.

All in favor: Motion passes

**Adjournment:** Chairman adjourns the meeting at 5:26 pm.