



Brad Little, Governor
Tom Kealey, Director

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Meeting

Monday, March 4, 2024
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	Ewa Szewczyk, Grants and Contracts Manager
Sen. Treg Bernt, Idaho Legislator	Kim Glineski, State Broadband Project Manager
Rep. Megan Blanksma, Idaho Legislator	Krista Baker, State Broadband Project Manager
Rep. Barbara Ehardt, Idaho Legislator	
Andrew Emerson, MH Solutions	Mindy Peper, Meeting Support (Z)
Mitch Watkins, Watkins Distribution (Z)	
Margie Watson, JC Watson & Company	
(Z) denotes via Zoom	
(A) denotes absent	

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

Call to order:

Chairman Vander Woude called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM with a quorum present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes December 18, 2023

Motion by: Senator Bernt

To approve meeting minutes.

Seconded by: Andy Emerson

All in favor: Motion passes

State Broadband Update

IIG/Iron project and Port of Lewiston project have both been signed and executed.

All 18 Capital Idaho projects have been executed.

Regarding BEAD, 2-24 will be spent implementing Volume 1 and Volume 2, opening the preview time, going through the challenge process, identifying project areas, pre-qualification, application process, and awards.

BEAD Regional Coordination and Planning Grant

IBAB set aside \$500,000 in grant funds to create subject matter experts, build broadband coalitions, and engage tribal and rural communities. This grant will open March 6th for 21 days with approval of IBAB. Would like to bring applications in front of IBAB early April. Each grant will have a maximum of \$50,000. ISPs cannot submit an application unilaterally but can act as a partnership.

The process was created in house based on direction of IBAB in summer of 2022. Draft was published on February 23, 2024. Communication plan includes meetings with all 44 counties and tapping other resources amongst partners. If the application turnout is low, a second round will open.

Been focused on the need and application of broadband action teams and the utilization of technical assistance. This panning grant will allow for these as well as creating subject matter experts.

Motion by: Sen. Ricks

Move that IBAB approves the BEAD Regional Coordination and Planning Grant to remain open for 21 days.

Seconded by: Sen. Bernt

All in Favor: Motion Passes

Upcoming Board Meetings

Idaho Commerce proposes next meeting for Wednesday, April 10, 2024 to review the applications of the BEAD Regional Coordination and Planning Grant.

Idaho Commerce would like to propose a standing meeting every 3rd Wednesday of the month, starting after April. Will schedule and see if that works—may change depending on elections.

New Business: None.

Next IBAB Meeting: April 10, 2024, tentative

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:34 PM.