



Brad Little, Governor
Tom Kealey, Director

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 10, 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 Gilinski, State Broadband Project Manager
Rep. Megan Blanksma, Idaho Legislator	
Rep. Barbara Ehardt, Idaho Legislator	Mindy Peper, Meeting Support (Z)
Andrew Emerson, MH Solutions	
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 10:00 a.m. with a quorum present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes March 4, 2024

Motion by: Sen. Bernt

To approve meeting minutes.

Seconded by: none

All in favor: Motion passes

State Broadband Update

Ramon Hobby-Sanchez, the state broadband program manager, provides an update on the Idaho Broadband Fund and Capital Projects Fund during the meeting. He mentions the progress on two large-scale middle mile projects and highlights the work being done by the Port of Lewiston. Ramon acknowledges the efforts of Jen Blood and Scott Corbett in managing the project and mentions the collaboration with Latah County and the city of Moscow. He also discusses the distribution of funds to various projects, including to Lincoln County. The focus of the update is on the progress, planning, and community outreach efforts within the broadband programs, with an emphasis on the ongoing projects and upcoming initiatives.

BEAD Regional Coordination and Planning Grant Awards

Ramon Hobby-Sanchez states that overall, the focus has been on aligning documentation and policies with the requirements set by NTIA for the Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Grants (BIDG) program. Although formal approval for the challenge process is pending, the timeline for its initiation has been outlined. Once started, there will be a two-week preview window for stakeholders to register and understand the data in the map and portal. The challenge process itself will span over several months, including a 28-day submission period, a 28-day rebuttal period, and a 64-day adjudication period. The state of Idaho will be working through this process predominantly throughout spring and summer. The team is also focusing on engaging with stakeholders, providing educational materials, and preparing project areas for publication. However, it's emphasized that there are several steps to complete before the program can move to the awarding of projects or opening up the grants.

Discussion Points:

- Presentation of a scoring matrix and analysis of scores for different entities.
- Dialogue about challenges, rebuttals, and the importance of working together in the Bead program.
- Consideration of different scoring methods and stakeholder understanding of program objectives.
- Reference to workforce development points allocation and recommendations for equitable distribution.

Substitute Motion by Sen. Ricks:

Motion to approve the numbers on the screen, adjusting the awarded amounts for most applicants to a lower amount than originally requested which allows for more applications to be included for funding.

Seconded by: None

All in Favor: Motion Passes

BEAD IP Volume II Scoring Matrix

Discussion Points:

- Reallocation of points for speed of deployment, open access, local and tribal coordination, and equitable workforce criteria
- Specific recommendations for distributing points to workforce and coordination aspects

Motion by Sen. Rutchi:

Motion to approve that redistribution of the points.

Seconded by: None

All in Favor: Motion Passes

New Business: None.

Next IBAB Meeting: June 18, 2024, tentative. Will meet July through December as needed.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:29 AM.