



Brad Little, Governor
Tom Kealey, Director

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 21, 2024
Idaho Capitol Building
Room WW53 and via Zoom

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Members	Idaho Commerce Staff
Chairman Rep. John Vander Woude, Idaho Legislator	Jake Reynolds, Business Development & Operations Administrator
Vice-Chair Sen. Doug Ricks, Idaho Legislator	Ramón Hobdey-Sánchez, State Broadband Program Manager
Sen. James Ruchti, Idaho Legislator	Ewa Szewczyk, Grants and Contracts Manger (Z)
Sen. Treg Bernt, Idaho Legislator (Z)	Kim Glineski, State Broadband Project Manager
Rep. Megan Blanksma, Idaho Legislator (Z)	Krista Baker, State Broadband Project Manager (Z)
Rep. Barbara Ehardt, Idaho Legislator (A)	Jackie Reader, Bespoke GIS Solutions (Z)
Andrew Emerson, MH Solutions	Sarah Lawrence, Bespoke GIS Solutions (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 10:00 a.m. with a quorum present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 10, 2024.

Motion by: Margie Watson

To approve meeting minutes from April 10, 2024.

Seconded by: Sen. Ricks

All in favor: Motion passes

Idaho Broadband Fund Update

Krista Baker, Idaho Office of Broadband Project Manager, presented an update on the Idaho State Broadband Fund. She reviewed the process prior to submitting a Grant Application. She explained the importance of providing engineered design to ensure cost accuracy, an initial plan, projected timeline, and the costs associated with an application. She described the design confirmation process which includes environmental, tribal (cultural) reviews and community outreach.

Ms. Baker continued, updating the Board on the Idaho Broadband Fund, a \$35million fund. She updated the Board on the Port of Lewiston Project, advising members permitting was 95% completed. She then

updated the Board on the IIG/IRON Project IBF, a \$20million project. She noted that approval was expected in Fall, 2024.

Idaho Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Update

Ms. Baker then updated the Committee on the Idaho Capitol Projects Fund, a \$120million fund. She noted she is Project Manager for 9 out of the 18 Capital Projects Fund projects. She reviewed her projects, beginning with those in the North. She described the status of all 9 of her projects to members, and the timelines of each project.

In response to questions from Board Members, Ms. Baker explained the geographic factors of the Valley County project, noting it being around the City of Donnelly. She explained funds were released through the Salesforce Portal through which grant applications are accepted and funds processed. She added the projects are set up on a milestone basis, and each project must reach milestones before being eligible to request funds. She noted a narrative of the project is also required as part of this process. Documentation is then checked by the Idaho Department of Commerce Fiscal Department and the U.S. Department of Treasuries.

Kim Glineski, Idaho Office of Broadband Project Manager, advised members the Jerome & Gooding projects were in the final planning and permitting stage. She noted Lincoln County was now permitted and underway. Madison County already has 116 activations, 716 are now pending. She concluded by stating Custer, Comcast, Owyhee counties are all still in the permitting and engineering stage and hoping to get to groundbreaking soon.

Idaho Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program Update

Ramón Hobdey-Sánchez and the Idaho Office of Broadband Team presented an update on the Idaho BEAD Program. He advised members of the timeline of the challenge process, noting the process went live at the beginning of June and that the adjudication phase had now begun. He noted the importance of stakeholder engagement to transparency and the challenge process.

Kim Glineski updated the Board on the Link Up Idaho Website. She noted the Idaho Office of Broadband had received an award for their transparency. She navigated through the web pages on the Link Up Idaho Website, noting the availability of information on grant guidelines, applications, and the Volume I and II BEAD proposals. She then explained the BEAD Challenge process, noting the availability of a user guide on submitting a challenge. She noted the availability of a timeline of meetings and decisions. Ms. Glineski noted the open-door office policy that have been utilized during the rebuttal process.

Mr. Hobdey-Sanchez noted the presence of a challenge rubric on the website. He advised members Link Up Idaho is using the FCC Version 4 Map. He introduced Jackie Reader and Sarah Lawrence, of Bespoke GIS Solutions, to the Committee. He advised members of their role in developing the BEAD mapping process. He described their technical and educational experience.

Jackie Reader, Bespoke GIS Solutions, updated the Board on the BEAD Eligibility Map. She noted the Broadband Locations and BEAD Eligibility web page to members of the Board. She explained the data was updated every 6 months. She advised the Board accessing the map requires no login. The map advises users of eligible locations based on county. She explained the user interface through which the map results can be filtered and customized. She demonstrated how eligible and ineligible Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) could be filtered in or out. She advised members of the ability to search by FCC Location ID, by address, or by place. She navigated to the Resources Tab which provided lists of Broadband providers in the state, Challenges that are being accepted, speed tests and other information.

She demonstrated the ability to create a speed test for specific locations and addresses. She stated there was a Spanish language version of the website.

In response to questions from the Board, she noted that speed tests take their results from the provider a user is currently connected to. She highlighted the availability to review the service options available in different areas, noting the speeds available to users. Mr. Hobdey-Sánchez advised the scale and geography of challenges. He added that Michael Baker international would aid in the adjudication phase.

Sarah Lawrence, Bespoke GIS Solutions, updated the Board on the Challenge Portal. She noted that Logins can be issued to provide access to the Challenge Portal. She added there was more data in the detail's sections on the Challenge Portal, and walked through the user interface, noting that users can filter information in the same way as the public BEAD Eligibility Map. She advised to submit a challenge you must be one of three eligible; tribal/local government, provider, non-profit. Challengers must provide a Verification Document and Contact Information. Challengers must be registered to ensure that all information is correct, and the organizations are legitimately represented to avoid fraudulent challenges. She advised members the Challenge process worked exactly as intended and noted she did not see any abuse of the process.

Ms. Reader and Ms. Lawrence then updated the Committee on the Challenge Dashboard, where all the Challenge Locations are displayed. They explained Registered Challengers and Organizations can submit rebuttals. They noted the consistent mapping to increase useability of the map. They noted if a provider had 6 or more challenges in a block group it would trigger an 'area challenge' wherein the provider must prove they are able to service the block group appropriately. They explained the fields through which Challenges can be filtered. When viewing a challenge, they noted the ability to submit a rebuttal.

In response to questions for the Committee, Mr. Hobdey-Sánchez noted the number of challenges differed greatly nationally, stating that Idaho was likely towards the lower end nationally. He noted the process for post-adjudication would entail. He stated they have received 116 rebuttals, noting the factors providers may consider when submitting a rebuttal. He advised members of concerns relating to the V3 vs. V4 analysis of the FCC Map, noting an increased number of BSLs that were considered served. He highlighted challenges brought forward in relation to fixed wireless infrastructure provision. Mr. Hobdey-Sánchez noted his optimism in achieving 100% connectivity for all unserved and underserved areas.

New Business: None.

Next IBAB Meeting: Wednesday, October 9th, 2024, tentative.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.