



Brad Little, Governor
Tom Kealey, Director

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 16, 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 (Z)	Jake Reynolds, Business Development & Operations Administrator
Sen. James Ruchti, Idaho Legislator (Z)	Kim Glineski, State Broadband Project Manager
Sen. Treg Bernt, Idaho Legislator (Z)	Krista Baker, State Broadband Project Manager
Rep. Megan Blanksma, Idaho Legislator (A)	Alexis Malcomb, Grants Specialist
Rep. Barbara Ehardt, Idaho Legislator (A)	Sarah Lawrence, Seven Petal Solutions (Z)
Andrew Emerson, MH Solutions /	Jackie Reader, Bespoke GIS Solutions (Z)
Mitch Watkins, Watkins Distribution (A)	Jeremy Collier, Idaho Department of Commerce
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 10:01 a.m. with a quorum present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes August 21, 2024

Motion by: Sen. James Ruchti.
To approve meeting minutes.

Seconded by: ?

All in favor: Motion passes

Idaho Broadband Fund (IBF) Update

Krista Baker, Idaho Office of Broadband Project Manager, presented an update on the Idaho State Broadband Fund. She reviewed the Port of Lewiston’s IBF, noting there were multiple sources of funding for the project including the U.S. Economic Development Administration. She advised the project has re-routed from the original design, which originally crossed reservation land. She advised the design and permitting phase has reached 98% completion and all Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) permits have been acquired. Ms. Baker gave a review of the route taken by the project and explained to the Board the various local and tribal government boundaries that intersected within the Port of Lewiston Project Area. Ms. Baker continued, reviewing the IIG/IRON Project’s IBF. She reviewed the design, permitting and construction had been segmented into three sections running South to North. She advised one segment would run from Star to Cascade, the other from Cascade to New Meadows and the

third from New Meadows to Grangeville. She stated the permitting phase has necessitated rerouting various parts of the project, noting it is currently working through permitting challenges.

In response to questions from the Board, Ms. Baker advised that segmenting out the project to take one section at a time, rather than waiting for 100% of the route to be completed, was done as a result of the permitting requirements in particular project areas. She advised procedural bottle necks are occurring across the country, and the Idaho Broadband Office has been able to confirm that other Broadband Offices are experiencing the same delays. Chairman Vander Woude stressed the critical importance of expertise and processing Broadband Projects in a timely manner.

Idaho CPF Update

Idaho Office of Broadband Project Managers Krista Baker updated the Board on the Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Programs in Northern Idaho. Starting with Idaho County, she noted the project was 100% on tribal land and had completed the cultural review finding no adverse effects. She noted the project has submitted their documentation to the State Historic Preservation Office. Construction for the project is set to begin in November 2024.

Ms. Baker continued, reviewing the Ziplly projects in Valley County and Aberdeen County. She advised construction had started on both projects. She advised the Intermax 7, 8, and 9, project had reached 200 passings, with 58 customers installed and 232 sales closed. She noted these customers had signed up for service pending the installation of drop or completion of passing. She noted there were no significant changes on the remaining North Idaho CPF Projects.

Kim Glineski, Broadband Project Manager, updated the Board on the CPF Programs in Southern Idaho. She advised members the Owyhee County project by Whitecloud Communications had experienced delays due to permitting and pole usage changes, but that construction was due to begin in Murphy after some engineering redesign work. She advised the Camas County Project had finished all engineering, permitting, and have secured all their bonds. Gooding County, Jerome County and Lincoln County had completed their high-level planning and were actively engaged in community and open access partnerships outreach. She noted the Magic Valley has done a good job reaching out to local stakeholders.

Ms. Glineski continued, stating the City of Preston's project was still in the permitting and engineering design phase. She added they were continuing to verify all Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs). The Taylor/Basalt Fiber project has laid approximately 70% of fiber, passing over 300 homes and is expected to have most of these homes connected by the next reporting cycle. She added that Madison County is progressing smoothly, providing access to just over 1000 homes on their route and expecting to be done by the end of the Calendar year or the first part of next year. The Salmon ID HWYs has started construction on the 93 North corridor in Salmon and has received positive feedback from the local community.

In response to questions from the Board, Ms. Glineski advised money is disbursed and paid as a reimbursement, upon receipt of invoices and evidence and upon completion. Ms. Glineski advised she has not seen or heard any issues with supply chain cost at this time.

Idaho BEAD Program Update

Ramón Hobdey-Sánchez, State Broadband Program Manager presented an overview of the Challenge Process for the Idaho BEAD Program.

He noted the importance of the permitting process and commended the Idaho Department of Transportation for their efforts throughout the permitting process. He explained the timeline of the BEAD

Program, noting the work completed in since 2023. He advised members of the Challenge Process Timeline, the publication of the Idaho BEAD Map, the Challenge phase and the rebuttal phase timelines. He noted the formal engagement process was initiated on June 3rd, leading to robust engagement with challengers and stakeholders. He added that July and August were used for the rebuttal phase of the process. He explained the adjudication process to the board, reviewing the extent of the challenges received. He stated none of the rebuttals were successful in triggering an area challenge. He advised the Board of an increase in the total number of BEAD Eligible locations post-challenge process. He noted the data had been submitted to NTIA, but the final NTIA review was still pending. Adding that streamlining at the NTIA level would benefit Idaho's processing times.

Sarah Lawrence, Bespoke GIS Solutions, updated the Board on the Final Determination Dashboard. She shared the Dashboard webpage with the Board, noting where area challenges were triggered. She described the user interface to Board members, pointing out where different types of challenges could be filtered and viewed across the state. She advised members on how they can specifically search for challenges through the map or by using the challenge ID to review the specific details of each challenge. This dashboard also provides access to the evidence files for the public and challenge entities to review. She explained how challenges could be filtered based on who submitted them, who received them, and what determination was made on the challenge. She reviewed the challenge type selector used to filter each type for users: Challenged Provider, Challenger, Challenge Type, and Challenge Status.

Jackie Reader, Bespoke GIS Solutions, updated the Board on the BEAD Eligibility Map. She explained the user interface, which included resources available. She added the BEAD Challenge Process User Guide included a rubric for criteria, evidence determination, and acceptability for challenge. She noted challenges which received a rebuttal would have the date of rebuttal listed on the website. She noted the BEAD Eligibility Map reflected what was submitted to the NTIA, and featured means of filtering the map by underserved communities.

Ramón Hobdey-Sánchez updated the Board on the IP Volume II Overview (sub-grantee selection process). He summarized the updates to Link Up Idaho. Volume II relates to the sub-grantee selection process. He advised members Volume II is available online at linkup.idaho.gov. He reviewed update 2.4.02 Scoring Rubric and Prioritization. He advised members the top goals to finish out the calendar year were to publish the application project areas and hold a public comment period, and to open, and administer, the pre-qualification process. He stressed the importance of public-private partnerships to the BEAD Program, noting that it was imperative for local communities to partner with ISPs.

In response to questions from Board Members, Mr. Hobdey-Sánchez reviewed the amendment process to the board, noting the importance of complying with NTIA guidelines and structures.

Ms. Glineski then updated the Board on BEAD Planning Grants. She noted the objectives and priorities of the BEAD Regional Coordination and Planning Grant. She reviewed the Magic Valley's positive work in their community outreach and feedback efforts.

New Business: Replacement for Board Members Megan Blanksma, Mitch Watkins, internet exchange points ownership types.

Next IBAB Meeting: One more meeting before the end of the year, December.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:36 AM.