



OKLAHOMA BROADBAND EXPANSION COUNCIL

Minutes for Regular Meeting
10:00 a.m. on Monday, July 20, 2022
State Capitol, Room 206

1. Call to Order

- Mr. Mark Argenbright called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m., reminded all that the meeting is being recorded, and ordered the roll to be called.
- Present: Cliff Agee, Mike Berube, Darlene Brugnoli, Roger Neal, Daniel Webster, Brandy Wreath.
- Absent: Drew Beverage, Patrick Grace, Billy Staggs, Jerry Whisenhunt, Brian Whitacre.
- Acting Chair recognized a quorum of the Council to be present.

2. * Approval of Minutes of previous meeting(s)

- **Motion #1** by Mr. Agee to approve the minutes of the two previous meetings, as submitted; second by Mr. Webster. Chair declared motion approved without objection.

3. Opening Remarks

- Mr. Mark Argenbright appointed to Council by OCC, replacing Mr. Wreath.
- Jason Constable appointed to Council by Speaker, replacing Ms. Valentino.

4. * Election of new chair and vice-chair

- **Motion #2** by Ms. Brugnoli to elect Dr. Brian Whitacre as chair of this Council, effective after today's meeting; second by Mr. Webster. Roll call vote. Chair declared motion passed.
- **Motion #3** by Ms. Brugnoli to elect Roger Neal as vice-chair of this Council, effective after today's meeting; second by Mr. Webster. Roll call vote. Chair declared motion passed.

5. Presentations

- a. Oklahoma Universal Service Fund (OUSF) Updates – Mr. Brandy Wreath of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission – 10 min. (requested by Wreath in May)
 - I. Presentation.
 - Continually remind this group to collaborate on policy recommendations impact the OUSF. It is a nonstate fund managed by OCC-PUD that supports rural telecom & broadband bb access for schools, hospitals, & libraries across the state. The fund has already invested more than \$1 billion but needs still exist. In early November, PUD will propose legislative changes. Sign up for notifications via GovDelivery.
 - II. Discussion.
 - None.
- b. Role of Cooperatives in Broadband Deployment and Adoption in Oklahoma – Mr. Sachin Gupta of CentraNet and the Cooperative Broadband Coalition – 10 min.
 - I. Presentation.
 - See Cooperative Broadband Coalition [slide deck](#) posted online.

- High customer satisfaction scores
- Broadband Adoption terminals & hubs.
- Digital Navigators.
- Gig City recommendation.
- Mapping conundrum. Cooperatives can help provide bb speeds of unserved areas; just need a directive.
- Community Engagement – major criterion for funding and for successful adoption
 - Stroud, Beggs, Wellston, Iowa Tribe, et al.
- Cost efficiency
- Community revitalization

II. Discussion.

- Agee: Are communities partnering with the cooperatives?
- Gupta: Usually smaller communities without many resources, but support by rights-of-way.
- Agee: Same with Tribes?
- Gupta: Generally, a match is not required for Tribes.
- Agee: Will any of the Tribes use NTIA funding?
- Gupta: Yes, Sac and Fox Nation and Seminole Nation. BEAD funding option through state.
- Wreath: OUSF already has tens of millions dedicated to rural areas. What is the coalition doing to make sure we're not over-building using subsidized dollars?
- Gupta: Stillwater example. We usually use our own money in areas not served.
- Wreath: Has the coalition talked about partnerships with telecom providers? There are missed opportunities.
- Gupta: Collaboration is the only way to serve the entire state. Working with NTCA to engage rural telephone operators, exploring successful business models from other states, like Indiana.
- Agee: Tribes also can be great partners with the electric cooperatives.
- Gupta: Often difficult to get our foot in the door with many tribes. Appreciate help with that.

c. Strategy on Planning Grants – Mr. Mike Fina, chair of the Oklahoma Broadband Governing Board – 10 min. (requested by Fina in May)

I. Presentation.

- The BGB will for the third time this Friday.
- The Board and the Council have the same mission and will work closely together, especially through the subcommittees.
- Board Committees
 - Search – for hiring a director for the state broadband office.
 - Mapping – Central to the challenge process as well as the award process. Citizens will use the map for their purposes. It's also our scoreboard.
 - Policy – Darlene will brief the Board at its next meeting.
- HB 3363 sets out objectives.
- The Board is working to hire an SBO director by Sept. 1

d. State Broadband Expansion Act and Update on Broadband Governing Board & State Broadband Office – Clay Holk of Oklahoma Grants Management – 10 min. (requested by Fina in May)

I. Presentation.

- Digital Equity Act (DEA) application.
- Broadband Equity, Access, & Deployment (BEAD). See BEAD Letter of Intent [slide deck](#) posted online. Requires as action plan, too.
- Capital Project Funding (CPF) from State's ARPA funds. \$167 million.
- Middle Mile program. State match of 30%.
- OBEC is for strategy and tactical plans and OBGB is for oversight of the SBO.

II. Discussion.

- None.

6. * Sub-committee reports with discussion and possible action on recommendations

a. Geographic Boundaries – Mr. Brandy Wreath – 5 minutes

I. Report.

- No meetings.

b. Policy Impacts – Ms. Darlene Brugnoli – 5 minutes

I. Report.

- No meetings.

7. Discussion of possible agenda items for next meeting

- Sub-committee reports

8. Announcements

- Next regularly scheduled meeting: 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, **August 17**, 2022, in the Freeman Room of the Jim Thorpe Building. [location later changed]
- Members must attend in-person to count toward quorum, speak, and vote.
- Wreath: Thanks for the privilege of allowing me to participate.

9. Adjournment

- Wreath adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

* Indicates anticipated action.

Prepared by: Kirk Martin, Oklahoma Department of Commerce

Approved by Council, as presented, on 08/17/2022.