

Grant County Digital Network Coalition
December 18, 2018
6:00 PM
John Day Fire Hall, 316 S. Canyon Blvd, John Day

<p>Join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone. https://www.gotomeet.me/CityofJohnDay</p> <p>You can also dial in using your phone. United States: +1 (408) 650-3123 Access Code: 189-714-637</p> <p>First GoToMeeting? Let's do a quick system check: https://link.gotomeeting.com/system-check</p>	<p>Watch the meeting live on Facebook. https://www.facebook.com/CityofJohnDay/</p>
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AGENDA

1. **OPEN AND NOTE ATTENDANCE**
2. **APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES**
3. **APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS** – At this time the Board will welcome the public and ask if there is anything they would like to add to tonight’s agenda.

ACTION ITEMS

4. **INTRODUCTION OF MEETING PARTICIPANTS**
Attachments:
 - None
5. **OVERVIEW OF THE GRANT COUNTY DIGITAL NETWORK COALITION**
Attachments:
 - SWOT Assessment
 - Maps for Phase 1&2 Route – John Day to Burns
6. **COMMUNITY CONVERSATION FACILITATED BY CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL**
Attachments:
 - Grant County Broadband Coverage Map
7. **OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION**
Attachments:
 - ReConnect Program (Rural Broadband Pilot Program) Fact Sheet
 - USDA Farm Bill – Middle Mile language
8. **AUDIENCE QUESTIONS & CLOSING COMMENTS**

OTHER BUSINESS

- 9. OTHER BUSINESS AND UPCOMING MEETINGS**
 - Board Meeting – January 15, 6 P.M., John Day Fire Hall
 - Viasat Demonstration

TO: Grant County Digital Board of Directors

FROM: Nicholas Green, Executive Director

DATE: December 18, 2018

SUBJECT: Agenda Item #4: Introduction of Meeting Participants
Attachment(s)

- None

BACKGROUND

The Grant County Digital Network board of directors has invited several key stakeholders to participate in tonight's discussion. We will introduce the participants at the beginning of the meeting.

The town hall will be facilitated by Christopher Mitchell, Director of the Community Broadband Networks Initiative at the Institute for Local Self-Reliance.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Mitchell's work focuses on telecommunications — helping communities ensure the networks upon which they depend are accountable to the community. He is a leading national expert on community broadband networks and speaks at conferences across the United States on the subject, occasionally to directly debate opponents of public ownership.

He was honored as one of the 2012 Top 25 in Public Sector Technology by Government Technology, which honors the top "Doers, Drivers, and Dreamers" in the nation each year. That same year, the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors named ILSR the Broadband Organization of the Year. In 2011, that organization also honored Mitchell for his policy work.

On a day-to-day basis, Mitchell runs MuniNetworks.org, the comprehensive online clearinghouse of information about community broadband. In April, 2012, he published three in-depth case studies of citywide publicly owned gigabit networks, called "[Broadband at the Speed of Light](#)." In April 2011, Mitchell released the [Community Broadband Map](#), a comprehensive map of community owned networks.

PARTICIPANTS

The board has invited several participants to join tonight's meeting in person or remotely by teleconference. A list of key stakeholders is enclosed.

Organization	Stakeholder	Representing
Grant County Digital Professional Services Team	Erik Orton	Commstructure Consulting
	Dan McGraw	Commstructure Consulting
	Victor Braud	Fiber Channels, Inc.
	Joanne Hovis	CTC Technology & Energy
Local Internet Service Providers	Tre Hendricks	CenturyLink
	Garrin Bott	Ortelco
	DeeDee Kluser	Ortelco
	John Hoskinson	Viasat
Congressional Staff	Lorissa Bounds	Congressman Walden's Office
	Jessica Keys	Senator Merkley's Office
	Kathleen Cathey	Senator Wyden's Office
Federal Agencies	Joe Bradley	USDA Telecommunications Program
State Agencies	Courtney Crowell	Governor Brown's Office
	Scott Fairley	Business Oregon
	Christopher Tamarin	Business Oregon / OBAC
Affiliate Organizations	Steve Corbató	Oregon Fiber Partnership
	Jonathan Dolan	Oregon State University
	Bruce Patterson	City of Ammon, ID

TO: Grant County Digital Board of Directors

FROM: Nicholas Green, Executive Director

DATE: December 18, 2018

SUBJECT: Agenda Item #5: Overview of the Grant County Digital Network Coalition
Attachment(s)

- SWOT Assessment
- Network Diagram – John Day to Burns

BACKGROUND

Grant County Digital was officially organized on April 10, 2018 as an intergovernmental agency operating under Oregon Revised Statute 190.010, a state law that allows local governments to partner together to create shared services. The board consists of a one member from each participating government agency (Grant County, John Day and Seneca) and two at-large members appointed to two-year terms by the standing board members. Current board members are:

- Josh Walker (Seneca), Board Chair
- Dan Becker (Grant County), Vice Chair
- Brandon Smith (John Day)
- Nathan McFarland (At-large)
- Denise Porter (At-large)

The Coalition's mission is "to facilitate affordable, reliable, broadband access to Grant County Oregon."

DISCUSSION

Grant County Digital was the result of a grassroots effort on the part of several community members and local government officials who banded together to address mounting concerns with broadband access for our rural communities. The original participants, organized as the Grant County Internet Task Force, successfully lobbied the state legislature in 2017 to appropriate \$1,836,000 for the City of John Day to begin developing options for a fiberoptic backbone between John Day and Burns.

The purpose for this "middle mile" network is to connect our residents to both public and private internet service providers (ISPs) with fiber optic networks along U.S. Highway 20. The City of John Day applied for the USDA Community Connect Grant in 2018 to expand this proposed route to include fiber-to-the-home (FttH) and fiber-to-the-premise (FttX) connections throughout Seneca and the area surrounding U.S. Highway 395S, including several key communications nodes in the Grant County radio network and federal campsites and visitor locations along this route (see network diagram enclosed in packet).

The City was not awarded a grant under this program; however, the Grant County Digital board intends to apply for additional federal funding in 2019 through the USDA ReConnect program and other federal funding opportunities. The board will provide a brief summary of these opportunities along with an assessment of our area's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and constraints, during tonight's meeting.

TO: Grant County Digital Board of Directors

FROM: Nicholas Green, Executive Director

DATE: December 18, 2018

SUBJECT: Agenda Item #6: Community Conversation Facilitated by Christopher Mitchell
Attachment(s)

- Grant County Broadband Coverage Map

BACKGROUND

Christopher has traveled to John Day and help facilitate a town hall discussion for the board. He will describe the goals and objectives for tonight's meeting, which include helping us organize our board and its mission so that we can work more effectively with both public and private partners.

Other topics we may discuss include:

- Why community broadband? (and why now?)
- How to promote equitable broadband access within a community
- Overcoming barriers to access (politics, price, technology, location, etc.)
- How to have effective community conversations on broadband needs, issues and opportunities

Mr. Mitchell will facilitate the community conversation with the various stakeholders and residents and will participate as part of a panel discussion with the board. This is a unique opportunity to set the tone for future community conversations and fiber optic deployments. We believe it will be a positive opportunity to promote community dialogue around the needs and opportunities for broadband expansion in Grant County.

TO: Grant County Digital Board of Directors

FROM: Nicholas Green, Executive Director

DATE: December 18, 2018

SUBJECT: Agenda Item #7: Opportunities for Collaboration
Attachment(s)

- ReConnect Program (Rural Broadband Pilot Program) Fact Sheet
- Farm Bill – Middle Mile language

BACKGROUND

Congress has appropriated over \$600 million to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for investments in rural broadband in the 2018 spending bill. USDA is launching a pilot program called ReConnect, which will provide loans and grants to build broadband infrastructure across America—improving rural communities’ economies, health care, and quality of life.

Of the total funding appropriated, \$200 million will be available for rural broadband grants. Individual projects are capped at \$25 million per project and are due on April 29, 2019. This is a unique opportunity for us to build on the City of John Day application for the 2018 Community Connect Grant and to assemble a competitive team for this project. USDA also has specific language in the Farm Bill dedicated to middle mile infrastructure. Details on the middle mile program are enclosed.

DISCUSSION

The board has brought together three of our local internet service providers to participate in tonight’s meeting: CenturyLink, Oregon Telephone Corporation, and Viasat. These firms will discuss the opportunities they see in the market and how we can work together to strengthen the board’s application.

Other stakeholders who are working with the board include the Oregon Fiber Partnership – a consortium of the state’s four research universities – that owns fiber optic lines along U.S. Highway 20, along with both federal and state agencies and officials. These public sector partners will participate and discuss the unique policy, funding and technical assistance they can provide for these new opportunities in 2019.

TO: Grant County Digital Board of Directors

FROM: Nicholas Green, Executive Director

DATE: December 18, 2018

SUBJECT: Agenda Item #8: Audience Questions and Closing Comments
Attachment(s)

- None

BACKGROUND

The board will take questions from the audience prior to concluding the meeting. Audience members are free to meet with board members and participants after the meeting has concluded.

TO: Grant County Digital Board of Directors
FROM: Nicholas Green, Executive Director
DATE: December 18, 2018
SUBJECT: Agenda Item #9: Other Business and Upcoming Meetings
Attachment(s)

- None

OTHER BUSINESS

- Viasat technical demonstration

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Jan 15 – Board Meeting