

GRANT COUNTY DIGITAL NETWORK COALITION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

March 19, 2019

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Josh Walker, Seneca
Dan Becker, Grant County
Nathan McFarland, At-large
Denise Porter, At-large
Brandon Smith, John Day

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Nicholas Green, Executive Director

GUESTS PRESENT

Dan McGraw, Commstructure (by phone)
Robert Waltenburg, Grant ESD

Agenda Item No. 1—Open and Note Attendance

Chairman Walker opened the meeting of the Grant County Digital board of directors at 6:00 P.M. and noted all were in attendance except Mr. Smith, who was excused but arrived later in the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 2—Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Boardman MacFarland moved to approve the February 19, 2019 minutes as read. The motion was seconded by Co-chairman Becker and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 3—Appearance of Interested Citizens

Chairman Walker welcomed the audience and asked if they wished to add any items to the agenda. *None were added.*

Agenda Item No. 4—2019 USDA Community Connect & Reconnect Grant Revisions

Dan McGraw from Commstructure appeared via phone. Director Green reviewed the information included in his agenda memo. After a pricing update from Mr. McGraw explained, there was a consensus to change the proposed 72 Fiber Backbone to 96 Fiber. Discussion ensued about the scope of the proposal for the Community Connect Grant, largely concerning the sites of the co-location facility and community access facility and building north from Burns as described in the agenda packet. There was apprehension about an agreement being reached with Centurylink before the grant deadline regarding the co-location facility. Following discussing, the consensus was to move the proposed co-location site to Seneca City Hall, identifying specific spaces for co-location of outside plant and public

access terminals. Green was tasked with investigating the potential for the community access facility to be at the Seneca School instead of City Hall. Chairman Walker was tasked with collecting letters of support from the Seneca community. Board concurred with the revised approach.

During discussion about the Reconnect Grant, Green noted that some previously proposed subscribers areas are excluded because they are now in ViaSat's zone. The board discussed where clusters of homes were along the route, who else might want to pre-subscribe, emphasizing they needed at least 20 farms. Green noted they should aim to pre-subscribe as many residents, farms, and home-based businesses as possible. When trying to determine which homes could pre-subscribe, further discussion found that distance did not determine eligibility because geography and existing infrastructure could change affordability. It was confirmed that those next to the highway, out of ViaSat's zone, would be considered eligible. Green will identify eligible locations and send out the pre-subscriber forms. There was a consensus to look at having MST's with the ISP doing the residence drop. It was also noted that they should have a logo before the grant deadlines.

Agenda Item No. 5—Update on 911/ESD & City Hall Laterals

Director Green reviewed the update from his agenda memo, adding that Blue Mountain Telecom had submitted a bid for the City Hall lateral. The board scheduled a meeting, to review and approve a bid for the City Hall lateral, on March 26th at 12 noon, along with further analysis of potential pre-subscribers and the new website.

Agenda Item No. 6—Update on New Website

Director Green noted the website is set to go live the following Tuesday. Green noted the photos may need to be in higher resolution, there was discussion about getting native files.

Agenda Item No. 7—Bylaws and Accounting Procedures

After a brief conversation, the bylaw and accounting deep dive was postponed to the April 4th work session, where discussion would also include a mission statement and logo. It was noted that bylaws will need to be in place before the Reconnect application deadline in May.

Agenda Item No. 8—Broadband Bills

Director Green reviewed the information presented in his agenda memo. During discussion it was proposed that the board would have a stronger position for SB904 if the county were able to commit a contribution of at least one million. Co-chairman Becker stated he would speak with the county court. Green also gave a more in-depth update of his conversations with Senator Merkley's staff explaining the real-life application of scoring criteria. He emphasized they are systematically excluded from receiving the benefits, which Merkley and Walden helped appropriate to programs, that would help their district. He noted the ways that separate Grant County as a frontier community versus the qualifications of rural communities. There was further discussion about HB 2184, the likelihood of its success, and the effects on future funding. This led to evaluations of various factors that could affect presenting SB904 at a later time. The consensus was that it was important for the commissioners to be informed about work being done by Senator Bentz, encouraging a conversation, with hopes to attain a better understanding about

the significance of this gesture and the benefits to the county. Green noted it is encouraging that there are multiple state and federal efforts underway to address rural broadband, which has never had this much attention. Chairman Walker requested Merkley's request be included in the website when it launches.

Agenda Item No. 9—Other Business and Upcoming Meetings

Chairman Walker reviewed the upcoming meetings, including agenda topics for the March 26th, April 4th, and April 16th meetings.

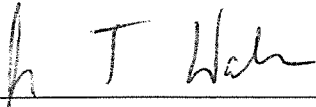
Adjourn

There being no further business before the board, Boardman MacFarland moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Boardman Smith and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicholas Green

ACCEPTED BY THE BOARD ON APRIL 16, 2019.



By: Josh Walker, Chair