Rural Broadband Taskforce Meeting
Friday, December 1, 2017, 11am – 11:45am,
2017 Rural Summit
DoubleTree Hilton Hotel, 210 Holiday Court, Annapolis, MD
Meeting Notes

Participants:

Taskforce Appointees:	**Other Participants:**	**Presenters:**
Charlotte Davis, Chair	Mark Cohoon	Mitsuko Herrera, Montgomery
Bob Behlke	Janice Booth	County Office of Broadband
Robert Branson	Debbie Bowden	Programs;
Senator Adelaide Eckardt	Sandra Burnett	
John Hartline	Brittany Davis	
Sean Looney	Rodney Dean	
Delegate Johnny Mautz	Ellen Flowers-Fields	
Lisa McCabe	Frank Hodgetts	
Michael Pennington	John Huggins	
Robert Scott Randall	Joe Klausner	
Andrew Roscoe	Shamekka Kuykendall	
Scott Warner	S. Lubito	
	John Lyons	
	Meredith Mears	
	Andi Morony	
	Len Parrish	
	Lucretia Freeman Pouster	
	Shannon Reed	
	Eric Robison	
	Cindy Stone	
	M. Thomas	
	Mark Widmyer	
	Greg Williams	
	Jennifer Williams	
	Julie Woepke	
	Bob Zimberoff	
	Sharon Zimmerman	

The meeting began at 11:05am. Charlotte Davis, Chair of the Rural Broadband Taskforce, welcomed the group. Charlotte reviewed next steps including continued work on the Task Force report.

Presenters
Mitsuko Herrera, Montgomery County Office of Broadband Programs
Ms. Herrera presented and shared information on the Montgomery County Agriculture Reserve and Rural Broadband Cost Study. Ms. Herrera shared facts on Montgomery County's agriculture, county and provider data, system choices – including single operator vs. open access, operational costs, and findings from a sample cost distribution impact. It was also shared that Montgomery County uses franchise fees to build fiber to schools and hospitals.

The key takeaway from the presentation included that the Task Force could potentially commission, by way of Request for Proposal (RFP), an analysis to discover fiber build out costs by region. The analysis could help the Task Force understand the costs for rural build out and how to slice/ share those costs among the state/county/local governments and customers. Also, the analysis could address how wireless will impact fiber build out.

Discussion and Review of Task Force Report
Chair Davis reviewed the five basic recommendations in the report and requested feedback and comments from the audience.

Suggestions/Comments:
- Executive summary – change mega bites to megabits.
- Discussion around maps in the Report:
  - Maps included are not accurate – better to not include maps at back. Include recommendation to update the maps in report. Less than $75,000 to update the maps from GIS.
  - Maps can become outdated so quickly because the industry moves so fast. Any data quickly becomes irrelevant and this needs to be taken into consideration.
  - Request for a quick estimate of unserved homes, this data can be compiled with the assistance of Counties.
  - Ask Federal Communications Commission (FCC) not to use census blocks when mapping
- Montgomery County has a survey it can share, ISPs should give addresses where they serve (to help with mapping), and everyone in a community should take an internet speed test (so municipality can understand the true speed the ISPs are providing).
- The Broadband Communities website has models for broadband implementation and a yearly summit.

Chair Davis shared that a finalized report will be made available to the Task Force for Rural Broadband members via email, and suggestions and comments will be incorporated into the final report. The report will be voted upon by a proxy vote via email within a week.
With no other suggestions for input, the meeting concluded at 11:45pm.