

Rural Broadband Taskforce Meeting
Thursday, September 19, 2017, 10am – 1pm,
Chesapeake College, Wye Mills, MD
Meeting Notes

Participants:

Taskforce Appointees:

Charlotte Davis, Chair
Senator George Edwards
(Online)
Delegate Carol Krimm
Delegate Johnny Mautz
Steve Kolbe
Steve Pennington
Guy Winterberg (Online)
John Hartline (Online)
Scott Warner
Mike Pennington
Heather Gramm
Theresa Bethune
Drew VanDopp
Brian Roche
Jonathan Favorite
Andrew Roscoe
Lisa McCabe
Robert Scott Randall
Robert Branson
Dr. Michael Scott
Tom Dennison
Sean Looney
Robert Behlke
Hugh Grunden

Other Participants:

John Lyons
Andrew Johnston
Jason Cross
Robin Clark Eilenberg
Melissa Kelly
Kimberly Kratovil
Ted Pibal
Christen Sullivan
David Black
Brian Miller
Julie Woepke
Melissa Einhorn-Eckardt
Meredith Donaho
Erika Howard
Jason Krauss
Robert Grantham
Dennis McElligot

The meeting began at 10:00am. Charlotte Davis, Chair of the Rural Broadband Taskforce, welcomed the group and called for introductions.

Review of Membership

Charlotte Davis shared a handout of the Connecting Rural Maryland Act of 2017 membership. The taskforce has received final appointees, an updated membership roster was shared with the group.

Review of Task Force Charge

Charlotte Davis reviewed the task force charge and elements of the study and its findings due to the Governor and General Assembly on November 30th. A suggestion was made for the taskforce to receive a presentation on the background of the Connecting Rural Maryland Act legislation at a future taskforce meeting.

2012 Maryland Broadband Map – Dr. Michael Scott, Salisbury University

Dr. Michael Scott led a presentation on mapping broadband in Maryland, the State's broadband initiatives and availability. Dr. Scott also identified key constraints and conditions, including that the definition of broadband is out-of-date, definition of "served by broadband" is also problematic, and various error checking procedures exist with varying degrees of effectiveness. The presentation concluded with three objectives: 1). Broadband mapping is a critical component for reaching underserved areas and preventing unnecessary duplication/competition; 2). Several states have continued the broadband mapping effort and have passed legislation requiring BSP participation, threatened to withhold state owned assets such as rights-of-way; and, 3). BB mapping in rural areas creates little competition but enables marginally-viable areas to be identified.

DoIT Mapping and BTOP Project – Mr. Dennis McElligott, Maryland DoIT

Mr. McElligott presented and discussed maps provided by the Maryland Department of Information Technology. The maps showed the One Maryland Broadband network with ICBM (Inter-County Broadband Network) consortium included.

Maryland Broadband Cooperative Mapping – Mr. Drew VanDopp, Maryland Broadband Cooperative

Mr. Drew VanDopp provided an overview of the Maryland Broadband Cooperative, including who the organization serves. The Cooperative identifies four key priorities, including: 1). Open as much fiber up to expansion as possible; 2). Constantly reinvest in equipment and services to expand networks; 3). Offer a statewide OA network that is integrated whole; and, 4). Commitment to solving problems.

Status of current County Broadband Assets and Networks – Natasha Mehu, MACo

The presentation scheduled for MACo was postponed until the next taskforce meeting.

Member Requests for Information/Presentations

Several ideas were requested for future taskforce meetings, including:

- Overlays
- Last Mile Broadband Issues
- Simple surveys of small businesses in Maryland, and identify their barriers to growth and difficulty in deployment

- Costs
- Identify means for access to high speed internet
- Test Cases

Action Items

The taskforce will follow-up with members to provide a recording and copies of the slides for presentation. A specific location will also be identified in Frederick County for the next taskforce meeting and will be shared with appointees and participants.

With no other suggestions for input, the meeting concluded at 12:15pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 26, 2017, 10am – 4pm, Frederick County, Location TBD