

Panelists:

Jim Northrup ✓
Catharine Rice ✓
Doug Noell ✓
Earl McKee ✓
Kathy Zopfi ✓
Sally Kadle ✓
Sally Greene ✓
Todd Broucksou
Keith Conover
Terri Buckner ✓
Anna Richards
Vasu Kilaru
Victoria
Patricia Hull ✓
Travis Myren
Paul Cardillo ✓
James Bryan
Glenn Knox ✓
Erica Bryant ✓
Ryan Miller – OC Public Schools ✓

Attendees:

Tony Blake ✓
Bonnie Hauser ✓

ACTION ITEMS:

- JN: contact Todd McGee and invite him to next meeting to discuss plan for how to get folks to listening session
- on announcements, ask attendees to submit questions in advance

DRAFT AGENDA December 15, 2021 @ 5:30 PM AGENDA

5:30 PM Welcomes and introductions - Greene/McKee
5:33 PM Approve Minutes (Dec 8, 2021) - Greene/McKee/Group
5:35 PM RFP Responses Update - Northrup/Amaro
5:40 PM Revisiting Fixed Wireless - Greene/McKee/Knox
6:25 PM Old Business / New Business
6:30 PM Adjourn

Welcomes and Introductions – Greene/McKee Erica Bryant – Director of Child Support Svcs, co-lead for One Orange Govt alliance for racial equity task force for OC; Glenn Knox – Broadband Infrastructure Office; all attending TF members introduce themselves

Approve Minutes (Dec 8, 2021) – Greene/McKee/Group – Pat/Doug move and second with addition of “billion” to funding amounts

RFP Responses Update – Northrup/Amaro – River Street Networks; Skyrunner Inc.; North State Communications, LLC; Charter Communications, Inc.; Jovana’s role now is to confirm that all are

complete and responsive. And will get all qualified responses to the technical committee for review by 12/22/21. Her role is to make sure we're following state statutes.

Revisiting Fixed Wireless – Greene/McKee/Knox – Glenn Knox: worked in BB office ~9 years; worked with all 4 respondents - both River Street and Skyrunner because they have fixed wireless capabilities; trying to dig into where OC is in the process – think we now have 4 good RFP responses – 2 from a combination of wireless and wire line providers. Take a hard look at RFP's for providers offering hybrid solutions; need to be read to see what combination of services being offered before we start discussing what we want to invest in; Terri: Glenn is here to discuss possibilities for mixed (wireless/wired) solutions and OC has funds to work with for such a solution; RFP is for fiber so don't have an opportunity to look at wireless but could look at funding sources elsewhere for wireless; goal being to serve all people as expeditiously as possible with highest possible bandwidth; SG: talk about what solutions are available other than FTTH (may be several years off and possibly won't even cover all areas needing service); Terri: don't want to leave anybody without service for 3 years while waiting for the perfect solution; also have needs that may never be filled by FTTH – agricultural community for example; need to look at more robust solution other than just FTTH; GK: fiber backbone needed to feed a fixed wireless solution; JN: Glenn – are there examples of other counties doing fixed wireless? Any success stories?; GK: Skyrunner out west is doing well; has seen where fixed wireless is really making a big difference (out west); doesn't see fiber as the solution everywhere at this time but fiber is ultimately going to be the solution for FTTH as well as fixed wireless; Terri: what does GK consider a good fixed wireless speed?; GK: when using broadband connection, using it for streaming (100mb down and 20mb up); SG: how responsive is 100 down/20 up?; GK: has 6mb down and can see all participants' CR: when Treasury Dept was talking about broadband needs during COVID - upstream for the average home of 4 without dropping or fading out – need to build to 100/100 or minimum 100/20; don't want to underemphasize the importance of upstream; SG: could be a school teacher having to teach from home so need upstream for students to see; JN: what are some examples of successful wireless deployments?: DK: CBRS technology nowadays is very impressive; Terri: thinking about how we lay out wireless network?; GK: dual technology type of project; go for fiber development as much as possible then for those that can't get fiber to, pursue wireless from tower assets; Terri: what do we need to consider in our mapping process to be able overlay on top of fiber map to identify who can/can't be served?, need to be able to identify populations we need to be reaching out to; EM: need for internet for farms/farmers is real; some of larger and more integrated farms have gone there already; smaller farms are going to struggle with the cost; corn, soybeans, wheat combine costs \$650k so out of reach for small farmers; Terri: Mike Ortosky (farmer) – needs to know what technologies are available (like watering equipment); need to look at hybrid solutions that are meeting today's needs as well as future needs; JN: Ag Summit – few years back, technology was the theme and should be an ongoing conversation; Breeze Farm - small farm that has wifi for temperature feedback for their coolers – not possible without broadband but some farmers don't need high speed 100 mb connection, making wifi/cellular connection work; EM: lack of broadband an impediment for small farmers; get wireless to people that fiber won't get to for quite a few years; Terri: planning – locate towers strategically for backhaul to feed fixed wireless; EM: most critical piece is to get fiber to the towers, get tower strategically located close enough to be able to get the needed coverage, up to a point, Board is willing to spend the money to get the broadband coverage for OC residents; want OC to be our front to be first in line (due to extreme demand for manpower and materials)

Community Listening Sessions: SG: Host a community listening session to hear more about “what are we missing”?; JN: in the past have had BB meetings (the Grange) did a Facebook Live session so have locations with good cellphone signal that could be used to host; SG: What about Cedar Grove

Community Center?; JN: have a metro-e connection there; where Ag Summit is held; around county, only have one official place that has hybrid technology and that's Whitted; if small enough group, could make a passable Zoom meeting at Cedar Grove, possibly White Cross Fire Dept; SG: how to communicate to folks about it?; JN: Public Information Office can get the word out (radio, newspaper, Twitter, FB, etc), can reach out to churches/community centers around the county to put in Sunday flyer, event at The Grange was >100 attendees; Erica: getting a lot of community input using surveys with QR codes to get a snapshot of info from folks; Terri: contact school systems, Mike Ortosky will contact agricultural community about listening program: ACTION – JN to contact Todd McGee and invite him to next meeting to discuss plan for how to get folks to listening session (next meeting in 3 weeks), possibly put a flyer in a tax mailing; SG: Ag Summit - possibly a panel for a session on broadband, Kenny Sherron to speak along with a member from the OC BB Task Force; EM: nominates Terri, seconded; JN: asks what support is needed (and offers help); Terri to contact Mike to discuss what support they'll need for Ag Summit; EM: suggests having more than one listening session (northern OC and southwestern OC) so don't overlook western area (Orange/Alamance county line) – the more attendees we have, the more will get involved; Terri: suggests having 4 or more; EM: announce schedule of sessions in advance so residents can plan; JN: what are specific needs? Also advertise all of the good work already done; EM: review RFP responses then have conversations about where we're going to go so prepared for questions (same as well as new questions); Terri: will work with Paul to put together an agenda for listening sessions; ask public if they can ask their questions in advance so research can be done ahead of the listening sessions; SG: guide the conversation but want useful information from attendees; PC: should we plan to have news to share regarding where we're heading with the RFPs?; CR: scoring will be on evaluation which will inform going into contract negotiations; Terri: possibly have a representative from the schools; JN: maybe Bonnie Hauser could be a representative?; BH: happy to help with session, question – if had a meeting, what would we expect to get out of it? People want to know when they'll see improvements and what's it going to cost us? Need to give some idea of **when** we're going to see something – don't want County to lose credibility. Maybe discuss T-Mobile, AT&T, StarLink and new offerings they may have...not just what the County is doing. People are begging for service, how can OC help them get there?

Old Business / New Business

Victoria Deaton – Regarding Training and Certification, Durham Tech work group has done research on employment outlook and moving into next stage of consideration so still working on potential curriculum

When next meeting? – January 12th

Adjourn – 7:13 pm