Asotin County Broadband Action Team
December 15, 2pm Meeting Agenda

2:00   Introductions
Jennifer, Wanda, Ernie, Aaron, Gail, Joe Savoy, Brian, Debbie

2:05   Broadband Office update/Questions
Ernie: praise for relationship and event with Nez Perce tribe, fosters a sense of repriprocity between cultures; encourages us to continue relationship; Commerce hiring new tribal liaison; this past week Digital Navigators grantees selected, happy that money will go into all 39 counties; Digital Navigators will continue to be a priority, ??? will continue to push for money to continue beyond 6 months; first Digital Equity Forum last week, has some broad representation but want to hear rural needs, providers not at table because they want to hear community needs first; infrastructure acceleration grants that were submitted will go through full review by end of year; Far Level 4 areas – looking for providers to step forward and be applicants; his office can offer support for rapid design feasibility studies and grant writing to help get ready for shovel ready projects;

2:20   Vision statement
Jennifer read first draft. Comments: homes should be changed to residents; add regardless of location and ability to pay; Wanda: access is more than infrastructure, digital navigating is part of it too; Gail: her suggestion to change homes to residents broadens scope to include digital navigation, devices, etc.; Jennifer: we can keep working on vision statement as we progress
Jennifer: would like to have a BAT page as a subpage of ACL website; listed things that could be on page; Wanda: there will be a gap between EBB and ACP
Jennifer: do people think it's a good idea; Gail: would like to have links to service providers on page; Jennifer: would like our digital nav to talk to providers so can give people links; Wanda: maps, click on your location and see range of options for providers; Ernie: behind the scenes their map updates every 24 hrs but outward facing doesn't update as often; they are working on design that would do what Wanda wants; Ernie: this kind of map might not happen on county by county basis – staff time limitation; digital equity dashboard will probably launch well into 2022; Jennifer: page will change as people give input; Wanda: will there be a comment form?; Jennifer: community input – will be open for people's comments; Ernie: big thing is to get it out there and evolve as we learn what community wants and needs, not big on vision statements that don't have how you get there, possible change "inclusive access for people"; Gail: maps-as she understands it the maps are based on speed tests, but wants users to understand what that means, users need to understand that the best way to find out availability is to contact service providers; Jennifer: we need to push for speed tests in Asotin so that map is accurate.

2:35   Port Projects Summary
Wanda: delighted we've been successful; kudos to library for providing demographic; even with the two projects, need is not being met – affordability is big issue; can send map of jurisdiction of projects; ordering materials now so materials are at hand when ready to start; Digital Navigators necessary to achieve the goal of inclusive access

2:45   Digital Navigator grant update

Jennifer: got money through ConnectWa; one employee will be available 8-10 hours to help people in library with device selection, filling out EBB and ACP forms, introducing people to Northstar, LinkedIn Learning and other things library has to help people become digitally literate; will be offering Microsoft Suite and we can help people get certified in Suite; Career Center can help with upskilling; what we really need is promotion such as billboards, ads, etc. and perhaps ARPA funds can do that; wants to talk to each internet provider to learn their plans; we'll have a person going out into the community to places where people already go for assistance so they don't have come to library; Brian: Commissioners want to be able to help within confines of ARPA requirements, money available.

2:55   Questions/Discussion

Jennifer asked Ernie if he felt good about the forum; Ernie: now our work begins, we will work across communities to inform Legislative report that is required; rural is often left behind when talking about digital equity, must continue to remind people, in order to not do harm to communities rural must be kept in mind; Brian: would really like to see us come up with alternative form that is available now – hotspots? Ernie: fixed wireless solutions can save a lot of money, encourages BAT to push for that; rapid ????? becomes a public document, is not for broadband office to file away; Jennifer: that's what can be done on website; Gail: wants to meet with Brian and Jennifer – let's schedule in January; Brian: have list of Anatone families with school kids that need service, talking with Blue Mountain fire chief can help with that; Gail: supply chain problems for modems is a current problem; Jennifer: our Dig Nav can help with informing and helping people up there; when supply chain issues resolve, we can go up there to help people;

Brian: would like to meet with Ernie to learn more about rapid ? document

Wanda: thank you to Library

Brian: thank you to Wanda

Jennifer: next meeting is third Wednesday in January