

## **Asotin County Broadband Action Team April 21th Meeting Agenda**

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86570332898?pwd=c3U0Q05oa29GeUJnQnY4WmhWlC4Zz09>

2:00 Introductions

Brian Shinn

Yvonne Wilcox

Sarah Reaves

Joe Higgins

Jennifer Ashby

Mary Neuman

Joe Savoy

Kristn Kemak

### **2:05 Broadband Office update**

Big news: in next few days state legislature will announce how much funding. Could be up to 100 million dollars. This office will help determine projects which will score high on Federal grants and help them.

House had asked office for as good a number of project as Broadband Office could get.. They got requests and proved need for 2.3 billion dollars of requests.

Senate Bill 5383 and looks like both bills may pass. Decided that no matter which bill passes they will support private and public investment.

Federal amount coming \$400 million. Office will help determine which projects fit federal requirements.

Lots of activity around federal funding from Tribal. Big consortial opportunities are being discussed. Big takeaway in sessions when attendees had opportunity to ask questions of federal folks. "How will govt verify unserved areas?" Answer: "FCC." Tribes quick to point out the FCC info is not accurate. Rally cry for broadband questionnaire. The more participation in survey the better. Asotin County 3.96%, 384 responses. Broadband Office is getting more staff so they can do more outreach.

More conversations happening with counties – private and public both.

In better position to leverage money now.

**USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT)** now open until June 4. \$50,000 to \$1 million per grant.

**Distance learning** portion-real time live interactive telecommunications.link for educational programs to students and teachers. Connects teachers and students from two areas.

**Telemedicine** real time live electronically linked medical professionals. Must benefit rural areas. Interactive is key. Professional to professional or professional to patient

Approved to get a Digital Equity Manager in office. Search is underway across country.

USDA Reconnect scheduled to open in early summer. Rural communities of 20,000 or less eligible.

Brian: around Grantham school is prime need area. Problem will be ongoing payment for service to household. Are there any programs to help them afford it?

Yvonne: EBB for households. New Federal funds announced-Emergency Connect Fund. E-rate are subsidies for anchor institutions, this will look at subsidies beyond anchor institutions.

## **2:10 Discussion of projects/Questions**

Projects submitted from Asotin County

Wanda:

Port put together two lists.

Reach populations that are needy, trying to figure out to make it affordable. First Step Internet and Inland Cellular have been in conversation.

\$6.2 million ask, 12 projects

100 download, 20 upload

Fiber to home, every provider would have opportunity compete for home business. Focusing on areas of high concentration of no service.

100/20 projects are close to existing infrastructure. Doesn't include Anatone. Merges 2013 broadband plan and BAT conversations.

Joe Savoy: supporting Port projects. Fiber versus microwave – microwave is improving and can offer high speed. 50 mg packages (\$50) and 2 gb packages (\$75). They are enrolled in EBB program.

Yvonne: website has link to participating EBB providers.

Wanda: loves partnering with for-profit. Thank you, Joe.

Joe: learns a lot from partnering, finds out community needs

Jennifer: Thank you to everyone for progress made since December 2020  
Next meeting May 19.