

Asotin County Broadband Action Team
January 19, 2pm Meeting Agenda

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87604918466?pwd=WVJ3Zi94QzUydzZ1L1RXUjNGSkEyUT09>

2:00 Introductions

Brian Shinn, Joe Higgins, Jennifer Ashby, Mary Neuman, Chad Miltenberger, Scott Thompson, Wanda Keefer, Joe Savoy, Mark Detrick, Sarah Reeves

2:05 Broadband Office update/Questions

Continue to encourage to take speed test, people can get their speed tested more than once-they will be time stamped so fluctuations can be recorded ,14 projects for infrastructure-100 million, first meeting of digital equity forum, second one in March, will have multiple listening sessions around state, finishing up contract for digital equity awards, meeting with grantees, grantees are getting equipment and hiring new staff or training existing staff, call center going live beginning of Feb., working on hotspots using \$500,000 to identify where need is and hire contractor, 5 million in equity and affordability grants, expecting to announce program in March 2022, lot of money for infrastructure and equity and office submitted public comment to federal office, waiting to find out actual funding and rules, lost both deputy and deputy director end of last year, have hired new deputy director Erica Henry

Jennifer: does all money mentioned have to be set by June

Mark: only dig nav and wifi hotspots have to be spent by June

2:20 BAT Web Page

Wanda: Add original plan for Asotin County and then the updat

Wanda: has an earlier project to add to list

Mark: put Def. in chat

Joe Savoy offered to help with page design, etc.

Scott: need compelling reason for need to take speed test

Mark: data is to help community get funding we need to be able to make a good case to get federal money that is dependent on a digital equity plan and speed test data is a key part of that,

2:35 Port Projects Summary

Earlier project ready to go out to bid – West Clarkston Heights, got Avista OK for pulling fiber; wants port to sponsor one more project before retiring which is to get broadband towards Parkway elementary, very interested in BAT members input, will send map of project mentioned first above

2:40 Digital Navigator grant update

We are subgrantee, working with Connect WA. \$25,300, has seen draft contracts, hasn't gotten final contract yet, we are hiring for dig nav position, ready to go by February, wants to do media blitz-billboards, radio, tv, paper; one person will go out into the community, one person will be available in library. EBB

ended Dec. 31, we're done promoting EBB, Affordable Connectivity is \$30 per month, 2 month grace period for those already in EBB at lower rate, **When does ACF start?**,

Jennifer: will there be graphics, etc available for promotion

Mark: working on that, will keep us up to date

2:45 **Questions/Discussion**

Sarah: are we considered rural? For other funding sources, we aren't considered rural

Brian: we're still part of the MPO

Sarah: USDA and others lump us with Lewiston

Mark: using OFM definitions, Asotin County is rural

Wanda: not only are we rural, we are also a distressed county for some grant programs

Brian: we're been turned down by Commerce for some grants because we aren't poor enough in the right way, so it's nice that Broadband Office considers us rural.

Ended 2:38