

**Asotin County Broadband Action Team**  
**October 20, 2pm Meeting Agenda**

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

**2:00 Introductions**

Jennifer, Erin – Asotin County Library, Ernie Rasmussen, Sean Ardussi – State’s Digital Equity team  
Joe Higgins – Asotin High School, Sarah Reaves– Tri State memorial hospital, Debbie Baker – Valley Vision  
Dawn Smith – SEWEDA, Brian Shinn – County Commissioner

**2:05 Broadband Office update/Questions**

Ernest Rasmussen – props to our Asotin County BAT

What can we do to help support BAT? Working thru Digital Navigators – counting on libraries to submit proposals.

Address the 3 As – access, affordability and adoption – adoption is a barrier itself because folks are not yet understanding the benefits of broadband and libraries can help bridge that gap

October 29<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the Digital Navigators grant

Sean leading charge on digital equity forum

Sean’s update – co-leading effort Digital Equity Forum (December 9) developing list of stakeholders and such – listen to community voices about barriers with access to digital resources – different sectors and interests – will schedule listening programs throughout the year; want this group to develop recommendations for the legislature. Ambitious, learning as they go.

BAT can expect updates from Sean and this team as things come up.

Ernest emphasized this is ambitious – rural is not to be left behind

They will be rolling out money in phases. Funds need to be dedicated by June 30, 2022.

noted that small/rural communities do not have the capacity to write up great proposals and they might be the most in need and most deserving; working to support them.

Brian Shinn – noted county commissioners never saw an application. It’s very important to have documents more quickly so commissioners can have time to respond and not miss out on opportunities.

Jennifer recapped BAT is working on a long-term document about where we are going

Joe Higgins – spoke about students in Asotin/Anatone about not having broadband and asked how he can engage with commissioners to promote broadband need in very rural areas like Anatone.

Discussion about fiber followed

Jennifer hoping to come up with a plan that gets service to everyone – we need a plan to address issues brought up by Joe and then as money becomes available we are able to act on it

Joe shared how COVID pandemic affected his students this past year - how students simply could not access wifi during pandemic, coming to school parking lots, parents having to manage other aspects of life and family with kids at home learning without the wifi connection

Brian talked about how they tried to get some service in that rural area – infrastructure isn’t there. Access isn’t there.

Ernie gave explanation of RDOF, which is a method of auctioning of particular areas to ISPs for development. Some of the areas around Anatone are off limits for broadband development because they have been auctioned off through RDOF.

Brian talks about access/cost and investments and ARPA money – had questions for Ernie  
Ernie talks about how important it is to have a public/private partnership and that's good  
Cost per pass – want to get that number down low and private/public partnership is good so everyone benefits

## 2:20 Port Projects Summary

Jennifer read the following from an email from Wanda Keefer:

On Oct. 8, the Port of Clarkston submitted the two applications to the Public Works Board that were discussed in our meeting Sept. 15, 2021. The description of those projects and dollars requested are as follows:

- Near Grantham Elementary School project: *Fiber-to-the-Home within the City limits of Clarkston, WA, north of Sycamore St to just north of Fair St., east of 13<sup>th</sup> St, with 6<sup>th</sup> St. marking the eastern boundary Total project costs: \$1,798,282 Amount requested: \$1,775,282 (The difference of \$23,000 is in-kind match contributed by the Port.) 817 connections expected.*
- Census Tract 9604: *Fiber-to-the-Home to 788 households in the census tract that serves Grantham and Highland Elementary Schools. Total project costs: \$1,969,486. Amount requested \$1,944,381 (The difference of \$25,105 is in-kind match contributed by the Port.) 778 connections expected.*

Different members of the Broadband Action Team contributed substantially to these grant applications by doing research on demographics (Asotin County Library), expressing interest in partnering with the Port by leasing dark fiber and/or signing Contingency Agreements as committed ISPs. The Port is immensely grateful!

Because competition is fierce on all fronts, the Port combined those two projects and on October 18, requested \$3,400,000 from the Washington State Broadband Office Infrastructure Acceleration Program via a pre-application. That requested amount does not include match, which is a requirement of at least 10%. We should know by Nov. 8 whether we will be invited to submit a full application.

## 2:35 Digital Navigator grant application

Jennifer discussed:

ConnectWA contacted Washington libraries to be a part of their grant – smaller libraries will get on board  
Talked about our how TechHelp is now a digital navigators program and that we want to kick up our hours on that and be out in the community

## 2:45 Questions/Discussion

Brian got an email from broadband office. He asked for more detail on the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of grant applications

When Wanda returns – Jennifer, Brian, Wanda and Gail will get back together and keep working on the plan

Okanagan County – look online at their Broadband Action plan

Looking for a good model of plan – Ernie can provide one – Jennifer would like to see this

Brian wondered if we'd be able to see successful grant applications – Ernie didn't know

Brian asked about technology to shoot service to Anatone. Ernie had some comments about this re: a recent meeting with T-Mobile. There's got to be a way to blend technologies ...

Microwave towers discussion

Ernie commented about retaining culture with advancing technology discussion – advocate for community sustainability

**Meeting ended at approximately 3:00pm**