

**Asotin County Broadband Action Team
September 15, 2pm Meeting Agenda**

Zoom Link:

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

2:00 Introductions

Jennifer, Mark Detrick, Wanda Keefer, Sean Argussi, Chad Miltenberg, Sarah Reaves, Joe Savoy, Debbie Baker, Monika Lawrence, Brian Shinn, Mark Havens
I'm not sure this is everybody

2:05 Broadband Office update/Questions

Mark: Russ Elliott last day Sept. 30 Associate Director will be acting until position filled, working on a lot of grants, still encouraging speed tests, useful for challenging federal broadband maps, webinar last week with USDA about upcoming funding grants, will be hosted on website when possible, currently building communications team, hiring for open positions, has website/virtual media team assembled, new website lists funding opportunities, in October shooting to have online applications open for Infrastructure grant, \$7.5 million for digital navigator grant program and info on website in early October, regular updates will continue to come through email and be posted on website, waiting for House and Senate to vote on big infrastructure bill that contains \$65 billion for broadband, also includes digital equity act, important to be familiar with language of digital equity for future grants, newest hire is Sean

Jennifer: EBB expanded to anybody who qualifies for free and reduced lunches, should open possibilities for those families

2:20 Broadband Plan Progress (Wanda, Brian, Jennifer, Gail)

Jennifer: Would love to know of anyone's projects to make plan inclusive

Port of Clarkston applications to Public Works Board (feedback sought):

- 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 13th St, with 6th St. marking the eastern boundary*
- Census Tract 9604: *Fiber-to-the-Home to 788 households in the census tract that serves Grantham and Highland Elementary Schools*

Wanda" looking at cosponsors – county?,city? Looking at census tract 9604 keeping affordability in mind. Free and reduced lunches indicate need. Other area includes

subsidized housing. Speed tests in first area above were very low. Commercial corridors are only areas with high speeds

\$1.5 million cost of first project, other one?

- Connections can be lower cost because of density. Counting on everybody on team, would like feedback.

Draft letters of support have been sent, need two letters, one for each area

Jennifer pointed out that one project is city and one county so two pots of potential ARPA money.

Brian: commission will be making decision on Monday night's meeting. Not sure money will happen, but will strongly endorse

Wanda: source of grant funding does not require match, increases competition. Has asked county and city to help, recognizes that US Treasury has not sent down all rules for ARPA money. Could have applied for up to \$5 million dollars for each application, but would make rollout harder. Competing against self by doing two grants. Optimistic that projects will be funded.

Mark D: are these new projects?

Wanda: submitted 14 projects to Public Works Board. These 2 areas are the most vulnerable so focusing on them first.

Mark: encourages applying in next round for other projects

Jennifer: Will other projects be included in another round

Wanda: Grantham area most in need, at a major deficit, this is the time to address needs, EBB funds, other projects will stay in plans as other opportunities arise.

Mark H: Regions selected in part because of low income, are you simply bringing broadband to home address or is there also money for devices?

Wanda: one ISP is participating in EBB, would like to partner with them for future rounds that can provide equipment. Fiber will go inside the homes, ISPS will put the box right to it. Happy that library is looking at doing digital navigators.

Jennifer: we've had tech help for quite a few years, now emphasizing digital nav aspect, helping people sign up for EBB. Will be talking with other libraries to partner in effort to get money for digital navigator position.

Mark H.: we need to get together and talk about this. Interlink has grant money for similar program. Difference in program is that Interlink was going to send people into the homes to help. Covid interfered. Would still like to move forward and coordinate with library on program.

Jennifer: checking into liability issue, will talk with Mark

Mark D.: Digital Navigator Toolkit info in chat. Best practices available. Many have been using telework for initial meeting, then virtual, sharing screens after.

Adjourned 2:34

2:35 Questions/Discussion

Chat:

14:11:56 From Mark Havens, Interlink to Everyone:

Mark D.-- Could you put your Dept. website in the Chat box where these various grants will be advertised?

14:12:59 From Ardussi, Sean (COM) to Everyone:

sean.ardussi@commerce.wa.gov

14:13:14 From Mark Detrick - (he/him) to Everyone:

WSBO speed test

14:13:28 From Mark Detrick - (he/him) to Everyone:

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/building-infrastructure/washington-statewide-broadband-act/speedtestsurvey/>

14:13:54 From Mark Detrick - (he/him) to Everyone:

<http://www.broadband.wa.gov/>

14:20:04 From Mark Detrick - (he/him) to Everyone:

Digital Equity language and information from the National Digital Inclusion Alliance
<https://www.digitalinclusion.org/definitions/>

14:24:49 From Brian Shinn to Everyone:

I have to leave in a moment for a doctor's appointment. So sorry.

14:30:00 From Mark Detrick - (he/him) to Everyone:

The Emergency Broadband Benefit will be renamed Affordable Connectivity Benefit in the bipartisan infrastructure bill, reduced to \$30 per month but with higher income limits

14:32:51 From Mark Detrick - (he/him) to Everyone:

<https://www.digitalinclusion.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Digital-Navigators-Toolkit-Final.pdf>

