

Asotin County Broadband Action Team
February 16, 2pm Meeting Agenda

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87604918466?pwd=WVJ3Zi94QzUydzZ1L1RXUjNGSkEyUT09>
Meeting ID: 876 0491 8466
Passcode: 425187

2:00 Introductions

Jennifer, Mary, Brian, Dovie , Gail, Joe Savoy, Sarah Reeves, Wanda

2:05 Broadband Office update/Questions

2:20 BAT Web Page

2:35 Port Projects Update

Progress – has ordered fiber and it may come next month, West Clarkston Heights completely designed and reviewed, firm date on delivery of fiber will begin to advertise, hearing that some local construction firms might be hungry for work; released rfp for design on other two projects, Board of Public Works wants those to be handled as two separate projects, enough fiber ordered for all projects, First Step and Inland Cellular have confirmed that they are signed up for Affordable Connectivity Program, Board of Public Works said that part of reason for project approval because these two companies were involved in previous projects; has high praise for cooperation from these ISPs.

Jennifer: supply chain a problem?

Wanda: yes, especially for higher level of technical connections; had been working since August to order fiber, finally last week was able to place order for fiber that is already in US

2:40 Digital Navigator grant update

We made Digital Navigator an actual position. 18 hours a week – 8 hours in library and 10 in community. Excited partners in WWCC and Stone Bridge. Privacy an issue for some agencies. Dig Navs currently doing training, learning new devices, gathering ISP info about plans so they can make matrix showing available services and costs; one of Dig Navs is using ACP himself, so he comes from a place of understanding. Working on advertising plan so we can approach commissioners about funding.

Wanda: too bad this ends in June

Jennifer ConnectWA more focused on BIPOC than rural so library partners have to keep reminding them of the rural need. New funding should be available July 1 and we'll go after some.

Brian: now that Sparklight is getting out of television, will they improve internet?

Wanda: Sparklight has a lot of legacy copper

Brian: takes all the vendors to ensure delivery to more people, might spur Sparklight

Gail: TDS also participates in ACP

2:45 Questions/Discussion

Adjourned 2:26

Mark Detrick came in after meeting adjourned. Apologized for missing meeting.

Take the speed test.

Watching 2 pieces of legislation. HB 1723 establishes long term framework for Digital Equity and would establish low income internet help through DSHS. HB 1673 about the way that loans and grants by Public Works Board are handled to make it easier.

Federal funding: NTIA is saying that May will be the earliest that specific guidelines for funds will be available.

13 different infrastructure projects in the works.

NOANet will be repairing wifi hotspots around state and looking for 10-20 additional spots to install hotspots.

Jennifer: will Dig Nav funds continue after June?

Mark: working to extend funding into long term program, nothing definite yet, but it's a high priority for us. Only Arizona has a similar program and we want to keep our standing as a model for other states.