

**Asotin County Broadband Action Team
November 16, 2022, 2pm Meeting Agenda**

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

Introductions

Jennifer Ashby, Brian Shinn, Aaron W., Mary Neuman, Mark Havens, Dustin Loup, All Andy, Sarah Reaves, Erika Stricker, Joe Savoy

Broadband Office update/Questions

AI: Current job announcements sent in email; 4 positions Digital Equity Manager, Management Analyst 4, pushing to get roles filled soon; reviewing RFPs for the Re-entry Program; will go live in the next couple of weeks with the infrastructure funding;

WSU Extension grants – forming subcommittee

Jennifer: Wanda, Brian and Jennifer got together to talk about the application for the \$45,000 available to Asotin County. Sarah, Aaron, and Erika have volunteered to be on subcommittee.

Dustin: figuring out the best way to map the project to local needs; says what subcommittee has outlined is largely in keeping with WSU's thinking.

2 paths of support: Provide support for Broadband Action Teams (close the \$3,000,000) and one for Digital Equity (\$3,000,000 for the state). Working to partner with companies to help provide BAT support, including Petrachor, this would expedite spending of funds within tight time frame. Hoping to complete that process within 3-4 weeks. For Digital Equity, they are looking at aligning the grants to support an ongoing planning process but one that frontloads some of the things that the SBO will include in their state digital equity plan, which should be done by June. May include things like local plan for digital equity, asset inventory of active programs underway to support digital equity, wants to know local barriers as well as local efforts underway. Says items that subcommittee identified are on the right track. Happy to see that subcommittee has started looking at needs. In process of hiring people to help with grant.

Brian: what should we have accomplished in 3 weeks?

Dustin: the 3 weeks applies to his office to get their partnerships set up and will communicate when ready.

Brian: is there a definition for digital equity plan for our area? Is low income a criteria for being underserved?

Dustin: some of the grant is to work with local communities to discover who is underserved and talk with those groups to discover what they need.

Dustin: Unserved is ? down and ? up and underserved is 45 down and 15 up. There is some specific language in the legislation that he will provide to us.

Jennifer: question about digital equity piece. We are a subgrantee of ConnectWA grant that goes through June. Are the WSU funds from that pot of federal money?

Dustin: WSU funds are to support development of plan and digital equity roadmap for the state, and specific to each county.

Jennifer: Al, do you know if there is a new cycle of Digital Navigator grant coming?

Al: There was a cycle for FY 2022, and one that just closed that is for FY 2023.

Mark: will the digital equity money stream flow to the county or stay with WSU?

Dustin: money will flow to county to plan how to meet needs. This is planning money more than implementation money.

Mark: are seniors considered underserved?

Dustin: Yes, aging, rural, immigrant, disability, racial/ethnic are part of the intended targets for digital equity. We are not trying to define what digital equity is, but discover what it looks like in each community.

Port Update

Chris isn't here to give report.

BAT Web Page

Joe walked us through new page. Pretty bare bones right now, but more content is coming. Please let him know if anyone has any suggestions for things to be included. FirstStep is hosting the webpage; they will be listed as a sponsor. Needs logos from all BAT members.

Digital Navigator grant update

We have one less digital navigator but will be replacing the one who is gone.

Questions/Discussion

Jennifer: does anyone else want to be on the subcommittee for the WSU planning?

Aaron: do you have a meeting schedule?

Mark: will meetings be weekly?

Jennifer: we will need to wait for Dustin to give us next steps.

Aaron volunteered to be on subcommittee.

Erika Stricker also volunteered.

Subcommittee now consists of:

Jennifer Ashby

Brian Shinn

Wanda Keefer

Sarah Reaves

Aaron

Erika Stricker

Mark Havens, will participate as he has time

Chat

14:54:31 From Erika Stricker SEWEDA To Everyone:

I don't have much of a voice today so can't speak up, please put me down for the subcommittee