

Statewide Broadband Task Force
Wednesday, April 25, 2012, 1pm-4pm

Conference Call: 1-800-315-6338 (participant code: 4914#)

In Attendance: Mike Baker, Chris Brown, Joseph Davis, Rich Gazaway, Dave Goggins, Robbie Graham, Renee Johnson, Karl Kowalski, Maureen Moore, Stevi Morton, Bill Popp, Mike Robinson, and Bob Whicker

By Teleconference: John Boucher, Brad DeMontfort, Rich Gazaway and Jeff Tucker

Excused: Mike Bridges, Rep Bob Herron, Jim Kohler, Myron Naneng, Sen Joe Paskvan and Mike Todd

Guests: Demian Voiles/Verizon, Carl Berger/Lower Kuskokwim EDC, Gina Spangler/DRS Technologies, Chris Jimenez/DRS Technologies, Hugh Short/Alaska Growth Capitol, Chris Kolerok/Alaska Growth Capitol, Cheryl Stine/ASRC, Sue Sherif/Alaska State Library, Agatha Erickson/Office of Senator Begich, Patrick Burke/Globe link Telecom, Anne Reed/Read Systems, Jim Dunn Connect Alaska, Keith Cunningham/SNAP, UAF

Guests by Teleconference: Joe Little/SNAP,UAF, Timothy Crawford/AKARNG, LTC John Woyte/AKARNG, MAJ Kasynski/AKARNG, Rob Earl/Rep Herron's office and Kimberly VanWyhe/Sen Paskvan's office

Chairman's Opening Comments: The meeting was called to order at 1:06. Chairman Popp welcomed everyone to the meeting. He briefly talked about a meeting with IBM global technologies specialists. The meeting was an interesting exchange of thoughts and ideas with recommendations to look at broadband development in Korea and South Africa.

Public Comments: The Chairman opened the floor to public comment. Guests introduced themselves but there were no comments.

Meeting Minutes: Chairman Popp asked if there were any issues with the minutes from February's. Robbie Graham moved to approve the minutes as written, Chris Brown seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Presentation: Hugh Short, North Slope Borough gave a presentation on the Arctic National Broadband Network's plan to install fiber suspended from poles. There was a brief discussion regarding ownership of the completed infrastructure with the possibility of a consortium being a game changer. The presentation will be available on the task force website.

Task Force Subcommittee Discussions: The Chairman asked each subcommittee chairman to update the Task Force on progress made since the last Task Force meeting.

Benefits

- Robbie Graham (Group 1) stated that her report was the update from SNAP and so in the interest of time she deferred to the update scheduled later in the meeting.
- Joseph Davis (Group 2) stated that his group is finishing its report and there has been excellent input particularly on healthcare issues.

Technical

- Chris Brown shared his subcommittee's cost estimate using experimental data.

Regulatory

- Rich Gazaway had nothing new to report but reiterated that his subcommittee is available to answer any regulatory questions and provide support.

Presentation: Keith Cunningham gave an update on the Geospatial Visualization and Research being conducted by Scenarios Network for Alaska Planning (SNAP), UAF. He indicated that they have reached a point where they will be looking to Task Force members for assistance.

There was discussion regarding ownership of research and data once projects are complete. It was agreed that Connect Alaska and the Dept. of Commerce would confer with the Alaska Dept. of Law on language that would define ownership of research and data. An update on that language will be provided at the next task force meeting.

Public Relations: The Chairman asked Robbie Graham to update the Task Force on the public relations roll out and vetting process of the Task Force final report. Robbie stated that Thompson & Co. had been contracted to develop and execute the public relations plan. When the final Task Force draft report is done – estimated date is September 1, 2012 – selected Task Force members will embark on a circuit of conferences to vet the plan with the public and targeted stake holders and gain feedback. To date, the Task Force has been somewhat insular but it is time for more exposure. Thompson & Co. is developing a more detailed plan.

Old Business: The RFP process for the ARDOR grants is being developed.

Chairman's Closing Remarks: Chairman Popp asked if anyone felt the Task Force had gone astray or were we still on track. Maureen Moore indicated concerns about the 100 mgb goal and whether or not it was realistic. There was some discussion and the Chairman pointed out that the process was to set a direction with a clear goal but that, as we navigate, goals sometimes change. It is not necessary to reinvent the wheel but the framing of the outline needed to begin in earnest. He tasked each subcommittee to come to the next meeting with one to three recommendations to get conversation going and to meet with Anne Reed, Technical Writer. The next Task Force meeting will be May 24th with the 21st as an alternate. Expect a four to five hour meeting with a brown bag lunch.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.