



# STATE OF IOWA

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR  
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

## STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL BROADBAND COMMITTEE

Co-Chair John Carver, Superintendent, Howard-Winneshiek Community School District  
Co-Chair Robert von Wolfradt, Chief Information Officer, State of Iowa  
Amy Kuhlers, Program Manager, Connect Iowa  
Robert Denson, President, Des Moines Area Community College  
Dave Duncan, President, Iowa Telecommunication Association  
Philip Groner, Iowa Communication Network  
Karl Hehr, Director of Technology Services, Ames Community Schools District  
Galen Howsare, Chief Financial Officer, Iowa Association of School Boards  
Karen Randall, Keystone Area Education Association  
Michael Sadler, Assistant VP for Public Policy  
Larry Siegel, Iowa School Finance and Information System Services  
Jeff Weld, Executive Director, Governor's STEM Advisory Council  
Josh Byrnes, State Representative, District 14  
Steven Sodders, State Senator, District 36

## STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL BROADBAND COMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2013, 9:00 – 10:30

Iowa Economic Development Authority, 200 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50309  
2nd Floor Conference Room

#### Committee Members Present:

John Carver  
Robert von Wolfradt  
Philip Groner  
Steve Sodders  
Galen Howsare  
Amy Kuhlers  
Michael Sadler  
Rob Denson  
Josh Byrnes (via phone)  
Karen Randall (via phone)

#### Committee Members Absent:

Cory Larsen  
Dave Duncan  
Jeff Weld  
Karl Hehr  
Larry Siegel

#### Other Attendees:

Adam Gregg, Governor's office  
Ric Lombard, ICN  
Sherry Timmins, IEDA  
Beth Canuteson, AT&T

Tom Lampe, Dept. of Public Safety  
Phil Wise, Dept. of Education,  
Ed Pardini, Mediacom  
Rob Smith, Fiber Utilities

#### Other Attendees (via phone):

Jim Bogner, Dept. of Public Safety  
Beverly Flores, John Deere  
Gretchen Bartelson, NWCC  
Charlie Bruggemann, Windstream  
Larry Lasley, Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi





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### I. Call to Order and Introductions:

Meeting called to order at 9:00 by Co-Chair Carver. Committee members provided introductions to attendees. Roundtable introductions of attendees took place later during the meeting.

### II. Welcome:

Carver provided a welcome and overview of the Governor's charge to the committee to:

- a. Identify policy recommendations to encourage build out of broadband technologies throughout the state, particularly in un-served and underserved areas, with a December 1, 2013 deliverable date
- b. Identify and pursue federal funding and private partnerships to achieve the goal of 'Connecting Every Iowan'
- c. Development of a long-term broadband strategy for Iowa, with a January 1, 2015 delivery date.

### III. Approval of Agenda:

Rob Denson moved to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Steve Soddors, unanimously approved.

### IV. Background:

Carver provided an overview of the history behind the STEM Advisory Council Broadband Committee, which was charged with identifying the current broadband challenges faced by the education sector, and how that mission encompassed a need for all Iowans to have access to robust broadband. Recommendations resulting from the original committee mission included making broadband connectivity a priority item; tasking an existing entity to provide direct leadership development and implementation of a cost effective statewide broadband plan; and an overall review of the state's current broadband assets, capacities and legislation with the goal to identify strengths, growth areas and to draft legislation that increases access and adoption with managed costs and which incentivizes provider for expansion.

### V. How do we get there?

- a. Timeline: Proposed meeting dates were discussed: September 24, October 8, October 22, November 5, and November 19. All dates were acceptable by members present with the exception of November 5, and an alternate date will be vetted and finalized by next meeting. The meeting time of 9:00 – 10:30 was agreed upon. Meeting locations will be finalized by the Sept. 24 meeting. For those unable to attend on-site, audio capability will be available at a minimum, with video attendance available if possible. Meeting agendas, minutes and other documents will be publically available on the website, which is also being customized to provide a venue for the online posting of public comments.





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b. Current conditions and future state: Discussion points:

Carver raised the question on what world class connectivity would look like when considering speed, cost and availability, and noted San Francisco as an example.

Denson suggested we research other communities/states that have implemented broadband expansion that we may want to compare to as a model.

Sodders suggested consideration of the future broadband view as the next 'farm to market' roadway.

von Wolfradt suggested that as the committee looks at making recommendations, we consider tactics that can be used for further deploying broadband and increasing adoption. We need to get an overview of where the state currently stands as far as speed levels for households, adoption levels, unserved and underserved areas, and then build recommendations around tactics to address those need areas. Connect Iowa has much of this data and will provide information to committee members.

Carver recommended two subcommittees be formed to 1) identify top four global communities that could be used as a comparison model for Iowa and 2) identify state broadband policies already in existence that through implementation, the state has seen increases in access, adoption and use, and to identify the tactics used to reach goals. Rob Denson will lead the search for model communities, joined by Sadler, Sodders and Kuhlers. Philip Groner, assisted by Kuhlers, will review possible existing state broadband policies for best practices. Both groups are to provide executive summaries at the Sept. 24 meeting.

### VI. General public comments, statements, discussions:

Adam Gregg thanked the committee for taking time from their schedules to take on the Governor's challenge, and added the Governor will need specific recommendations so urged the committee to stay focused. And while the TechNet Broadband Index is being used as a measurement, it is understood that all platforms will be considered when looking at best methods to provide efficient access. The recommendations should make the business case for incentivizing the private sector to increase build out. However, he affirmed that there are no pre-conceived notions from the Governor's administration as to what policy recommendations coming out of the committee should look like. They could include tax incentives, the creation of a revolving loan fund, increase in public/private partnerships, etc.

Phil Wise commended the Connect Every Iowa initiative as a positive step forward for the state, and informed that the Dept. of Education Director, Brad Buck, and the Board of Educational Examiners Director, D.T. Magee both fully support the initiative and have offered whatever resources they can provide. Additionally, he can bring some policy expertise to the table in areas such as student assessment needs or the role of online learning in delivering content to students.





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Tom Lampe provided some information to the committee on the FirstNet efforts currently underway in Iowa, which will include the future expansion of 4G LTE networks. It will be important for the committee and DPS to communicate and work together moving forward.

Beth Canuteson informed that today the Iowa Utilities Board is holding a telecommunications regulatory workshop, and that regulatory concerns should be considered in planning efforts. von Wolfradt asked that the industry please bring any regulatory concerns or recommendations to the committee for consideration.

Ric Lumbard shared with the committee that he'd recently returned from a conference and feels that Iowa is much farther along than many states, in terms of broadband, so continued movement forward will only help solidify our place as a strong connected state.

### VII. Housekeeping Items:

Addressed under Item V.a.: Timeline.

### VIII. Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12.

