



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, CenturyLink, 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 Soddors, State Senator, District 36

STEM ADVISORY COUNCIL BROADBAND COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2013, 9:00 – 11:00
Iowa Utilities Board, 1375 E Court Ave, Des Moines, IA
Conference Room 1-2

Committee Members Present:

John Carver
Galen Howsare
Amy Kuhlers
Dave Duncan
Karl Hehr

Robert von Wolfradt
Phillip Groner
Michael Sadler
Jeff Weld
Karen Randall

Committee Members Absent:

Rob Denson
Josh Byrnes

Larry Siegel
Steve Soddors

Other Attendees:

Sherry Timmins, IEDA
Will Walling, Iowa Network Services
Bill Heckroth, IA State Assoc. of County Supervisory
Scott Weiser, Windstream Communications
Vince Hanrahan, Iowa Utilities Board
Matt Gronewald, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture

Thomas Lampe, Dept. of Public Safety
Mike St. Clair, Rural IA Ind. Tel. Assoc.
Robin Harlow, ISAC
Suzanne Smith, Iowa Utilities Board
Phil Wise, Iowa Dept. of Education
Sue Shipitalo

Other Attendees (via phone):

Jim Bogner, Iowa DPS
Charles Bruggemann, Windstream Comm.

Beth Canuteson, AT&T
Phillip Brown, Connected Nation





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I. Call to Order and Introductions:

Meeting called to order at 9:05 by Co-Chair, Carver. Committee members and guest attendees offered introductions.

II. Approval of 11-19-13 Agenda:

Howsare moved to approve the agenda, Sadler seconded, unanimously approved.

III. Approval of 11-08-13 Minutes:

Howsare moved to approve the minutes from the 11-8-13 meeting and Groner seconded, unanimously approved.

IV. Review of Committee charge and timelines:

Carver reviewed the three directives given to the Broadband Committee, with the first being the December delivery of policy recommendations based on findings through previous meetings. The working session on 11-19-13 will examine emerging themes and vet a listing of recommendations. Phillip Brown, Connected Nation's Director of State/Federal Policy and Broadband Planning will review the Committee recommendations and draft a preliminary report to be provided to the committee by 11-25-13. Committee members will have an opportunity to review the draft and offer suggested edits. A conference call will be scheduled for 8:00 AM on 11-27-13 for a final draft review, with suggested delivery of the final recommendations report to the Governor's office by close of day, 11-27-13.

V. Committee working session: Discussion of stakeholder input, emerging themes and recommendations.

A Google Doc had been shared with all members, which included some summary points pertaining to providers and to users, as well as emerging themes surrounding broadband access and adoption. The Doc was further broken down into categories under the three TechNet Index measures of Adoption, Network Speeds and Economic Structures. Discussion followed, as committee members reviewed points listed in the document.

Providers:

- a. Light-touch regulation: Members agreed this is an important factor for consideration.
 - i. Less bureaucracy the better. Duncan commented on the FCC program 'Connect All American's' that included so many regulations it became counter-productive. Carver added that going forward as a state; we want to create an environment that is regulatory-friendly to providers to help incite build-out.
- b. Incentives needed for provider build-out: Members agreed this is an important factor for consideration
 - i. Levels of Connectivity for connecting Iowans: Fiber backbone, middle loop, end user connectivity to middle loop:
 - ii. Duncan suggested clarifying terms to industry terms, backbone, middle mile and last mile.





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- iii. Groner commented that if we are to include incentives in recommendations, should look at tying them to specific goals. For example, wouldn't want to offer incentive to a provider that wanted to just replace existing infrastructure, but that wouldn't increase access.
 - iv. Sadler: Hesitant to limit incentives to just unserved and underserved areas, but should apply to all infrastructure needed to connect Iowans everywhere.
 - v. von Wolfradt: We still need to differentiate the goal of unserved and underserved areas, so we can see a measurable increase in accessibility in those areas.
 - vi. Duncan: If we are aligning recommendations to the TechNet index, one criterion is the number of homes passed by fiber, so it may seem we need to look at incentives to increase fiber deployment, as opposed to other technologies. But there isn't just one solution so we should have a menu of options.
 - vii. Carver: Might consider a funding pool that would allow providers to select options for serving an area. Some type of differentiated support.
 - viii. von Wolfradt: Need to set guidelines for 'move the needle criteria' and whoever is reviewing, they can fund applications based on guidelines.
 - ix. Sadler: An example would be trying to get 7MB connect to a rural farm. That could be done in several different ways, wireless, fiber, copper wire, etc. Let provider submit an application for the project, but not be prescriptive on 'how'.
 - x. von Wolfradt: Still need to look at guidelines, fiber is one of the 'move the needle' criteria, so in drafting the recommendations, needs to have the word guidelines included that will encompass an emphasis on unserved, underserved, fiber, other key criteria.
- c. Dig Once: Members agreed this is an important factor for consideration.
- i. Duncan: Asked for clarification on this policy.
 - ii. Groner: One state he researched early on had created a centralized database that if a city/county/state had a project where roadway right-of-way would be dug, that information could be included in the database so providers could indicate if they would like to lay conduit at that time.
- d. Standardize cell tower location: Members agreed this is an important factor for consideration.

Users:

- a. Unserved and underserved needs to be addressed
- b. Adoption:
 - i. Carver: Small business and residents don't always see the need for broadband so education is needed. Adoption increase can lead to increased provider build out.
 - ii. Wide variety of users, each with a different need – example, bandwidth capacity for a school may be different from what is needed at a hospital or business.
 - iii. Duncan: We need to determine our goal. Is it to get all Iowan's some affordable and robust broadband, or is it to increase the broadband capacity (100MB, etc.) to some high-volume users, or both?
 - iv. Hehr: Believes it is both
 - v. Duncan: We want both, but are going to have limited resources, so wondering if we will have a preference of one direction over the other.





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- vi. Randall: We need to look at using both private and public infrastructure – maybe wholesaling of the ICN – to be able to look at both goals. Providing incentives for partnerships to expand and grow.
- vii. Groner: Need to remember we are not tasked to solve all issues at once. Our first task is identifying some actions we can start to take, and secondly, to begin addressing the overarching strategic plan after December 1. Some of the items we are discussing may fall into the larger plan.
- viii. Carver: One of the metrics is number of households passed by fiber, but understands there will be different needs for different users.
- ix. von Wolfradt: First criteria is availability – won't have adoption without access. Maybe phase 2 deals with adoption – training, education, partnering with anchor institutions to foster adoption programs.
- x. Randall: Looking at economic growth, if looking at trying to increase economic opportunities to drive business to Iowa - maybe that should be a first priority. Wouldn't the others follow?
- xi. Sadler: There are many people with the access that aren't subscribing, so when considering adoption we could look at programs aimed at education and incentivizing those people to adopt.
- xii. Carver: Maybe part of our discussion is how to deal with adoption issues we have today and still look at 'tomorrow' when we have all of the students who've grown up with devices looking to leave the state for work due to lack of access. Increased access also incentivizes people to relocate to Iowa.
- xiii. von Wolfradt: We are drafting recommendations, I think the simple statement under 'Users' is that the tax incentives or incentives are to affect adoption and availability – that's how we tie them together, that becomes the guideline. From a recommendation perspective if we want to increase availability and adoption, that's where incentives get tied to.
- xiv. (Public comment) Charles Bruggemann, Windstream Comm.: When talking about adoption you need to also talk about affordability. The Nebraska Public Service Commission is exploring to see if discounts can be provided to low-income telephone subscribers as a means to boost broadband usage. That might move you towards increasing adoption where services are currently available.
- xv. von Wolfradt: Would be interested in hearing more about Nebraska's programs. Programs offering subsidies for broadband access for low income families can help to empower people to climb out of poverty, but the programs are substantial investments that won't likely be addressed during this legislative session, so would be interested in finding more details on how Nebraska is dealing with costs.
- xvi. Randall: Would teleworker training be something to include here, such as mentioned in the last meeting – leading to an increase in employment through broadband?
- xvii. Howsare: The community colleges are already geared up and the state is already providing job training money, so teleworkers and telecommunications becomes another segment that fits with what is already in place. Would not want us to set up a separate education of teleworker training or trying to get people to better use internet in small business, because the colleges have the capacity to target funds and assistance.
- xviii. Carver: We really need to look at coordinating pieces already in place.





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TechNet Index Criteria:

- a. Adoption: Dealt with adoption above.
- b. Network Speeds:
 - i. Carver: What is a minimum network speed?
 - ii. Hehr: Depends on what you want to do with it. Ames CSD has a 200 MB connection to district with about 3,000 devices. About 80% of capacity is used. Looking at bringing on another 1,000 devices so will need to go up to 300-400 MB for the district. It's hard to quantify. Where they run into issues is trying to share capacity out with other buildings in the district. There is no incentive for providers to help districts out when it comes to connecting facilities, so we can't just get access to dark fiber unless they lay their own.
 - iii. Carver: Does Connect Iowa have a recommendation for a network speed?
 - iv. Kuhlers: Echoing what National Broadband Plan is trying to use as a definition would be 4 MB/1Mb. We don't have a standard recommended speed. Is it the role of the committee to offer some parameters for the legislature to base incentives off of?
 - v. Carver: Availability and adoption would be driving incentives, so us setting levels isn't in our scope.
 - vi. von Wolfradt: We are empowered to solicit input and try and figure out how to make recommendations of that input that may not gone to the legislature and executive branch in the past, and adding forceful recommendations for them to pursue. For example, maybe we don't worry about speed for schools, but rather funding mechanisms to make a necessary speed available to schools.
- c. Economic Structure: (no discussion)

Recommendations: (Use TechNet criteria to evaluate program)

- a. Promote a clearinghouse/taskforce of information surrounding current availability and adoption initiatives in the State.
- b. Encourage continued dialogue and discussion related to leveraging the ICN.
 - i. Enactment of legislation that amends Iowa Code chapter 8D in a manner to accomplish the following:
 - a. Enable the Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission (ITTC) to identify a portion of the Iowa Communications Network's (ICN) unused bandwidth for use as a wholesale asset.
 - b. Enable the ITTC to enter into agreements with private providers allowing them access to this identified wholesale asset for their use. This access should facilitate all of the following:
 1. Support the private providers' access into unserved or underserved areas.
 2. Provide new sources of revenue to private providers
 3. Significantly reduce the level of capital investment that private providers would be required to expend to replicate existing and available infrastructure
 - c. Ensure that current authorized users of the ICN continue to receive access to a secure data network through the ICN as currently provided.





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- c. Allow for freedom to receive incentives based on providers specific needs within specified guidelines.
- d. - Increase adoption rate and support for users.
- e. - Further latitude on using school infrastructure funding.

VI. Next Steps:

Phillip Brown, Connected Nation's Director of State/Federal Policy and Broadband Planning will review the Committee recommendations and draft a preliminary report to be provided to the committee by 11-25-13. Committee members will have an opportunity to review the draft and offer suggested edits. A conference call will be scheduled for 8:00 AM on 11-27-13 for a final draft review, with suggested delivery of the final recommendations report to the Governor's office by close of day, 11-27-13.

VII. Adjourn

