



ILLINOIS BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT COUNCIL  
Public/Private Partnerships Workgroup Minutes

Tuesday, October 21st, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
Chicago: James R. Thompson Center – Room 9-036 (9th Floor)  
Springfield: CMS – 130 W. Mason, Room 104  
[Via Webinar](#)

Attendees:

Members: Callie Jo McFarland, Virgil Mathis, John Lewis (co-chair), Bruce Montgomery (chair), Hyong “Buck” Buckner

Staff: Heidi Bruce, Laura Lane, Jay Roberts

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Co-chair John Lewis called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. Review of Charge and Ground Rules

Co-chair Lewis explained that the purpose of Public/Private Workgroup is to encourage and facilitate Public/Private partnerships. The workgroup will be making recommendations to the whole Broadband Deployment Council (BDC) and be used in the full Illinois Broadband Plan. Ground rules: Would like full participation, all documents are working documents. Recommendations will be given before 12/19 BDC meeting- from the 9/8/14 meeting, today’s meeting, and one more meeting in November. Minutes will be provided for each meeting; looking for expertise and recommendations to have a quality Illinois Broadband Plan. The workgroup respects all opinions and will respect others input.

Any comments from other members? Virgil Mathis asked- for the projects that were submitted to the chair of the Public/Private Workgroup (per the 10/17 solicitation for feedback), are there any certification requirements? Note: Virgil has submitted numerous projects to chair Bruce Montgomery. John Lewis- no certification required. The BDC should look at all recommendations and advise the workgroup on what should be moved on.

Lewis- If anyone has contacts with ISPs, incumbent telecoms, etc. please invite them to participate and take part in discussions, give input. This is good interaction for this workgroup to have so many ideas that are supported by all players in telecom space. It was also agreed that the working group should have other industries involved. If workgroup members have industry contacts they should share the workgroup charge and explain the purpose of the workgroup or give contact information to Laura Lane of PCI and she will begin outreach. Callie Jo McFarland asked how do we not duplicate efforts of reaching out contacts? PCI can send request to BDC email list and people who have subscribed to their e-blast, but does not have distribution list for private sector contacts in specific industries. No other comments/questions.

### 3. Review of 9-8-14 Meeting Minutes

Laura Lane presented highlights of the 9-8-14 minutes- how to share info; how to locate and secure funding opportunities and share those with interested parties; how critical this group and Public/Private partnerships are for the state; working with other BTOP projects; also discussed was where recommendations will go- just BDC, Governor's Office, other state agencies; and timeline and email list for this group. The Governor's Office staff is willing to help facilitate discussions with this workgroup and other state agencies.

Minutes approved as presented.

### 4. Discussion of the Charge

- Documentation of current and past public/private partnerships in broadband space

Ideas of Public/Private partnerships that are existing or ones to investigate: Buck Buckner- Minnesota has several counties that have been successful with this throughout the state and he will forward the summary doc to the group. Lewis- CTC in the Virginia/Maryland are has a great summary document that he will share. Virgil- Chicago Police headquarters Community Policing office and 20 veterans service organizations- he will contact and see if they are involved in any projects or if they have ideas for projects. Recommendation that the charge document be sent to others to identify projects. Recommendation that some criteria be created that members can use to gather info from potential players. Buckner – one option is working with electric co-ops to expand networks or work with public sponsors to share bandwidth, etc. Lewis mentioned Prairie State funding working with REA group in northwest Illinois (backhaul project) that could be added to list of potential partnerships.

Bruce Montgomery- where would we like to compile these documents, lists, directories, etc.? MacArthur Foundation has been funding collaboration work in digital media. CISCO hosted their international Internet of Things in Chicago recently and Bruce made some good connections and got great ideas for this workgroup and would like to establish a place where we can share info. The listing could include industry specific initiatives and vertical markets. Examples include universities research

networks and the sectors that they have leveraged. Illinois has been a leader in this area for 25-30 years.

The PCI webmaster is working on Google Site and place for data/info to be stored. Herb Kuryliw and Cindy Phillips of NIU were willing to assist with database management for the BDC Illinois Projects Monitoring workgroup . If there is enough shareable data, we may just create one space for the two groups. Eliminate Digital Divide Committee is using grad students to do additional research for their meetings; BDC could look into this and see if we can get more staff.

Bruce- When you think of the results of the work of this WG—tools, assets, ROI on your participation—think of the charge and suggest what you would like to see as output of this committee? What deliverables can we give in 6-9 months? Lewis- 1) Identify opportunities for Public/Private partnerships and recommendations on how to go forward with broadband and 2) how to make Public/Private partnerships operational. 3)What's being done, what needs to be done, and best practices to get there? Example - **Iowa has a new broadband plan** that details Public/Private partnerships that they have or plan to do- we could collaborate with them, they have a private group to manage statewide network. This may be an opportunity for Illinois and the BDC Workgroups. Virgil- How can the universities (small business and technology programs) assist with our efforts? Governor's State University has +300 student veterans and a great business development group. Bruce- SBDCs are great because they get SBA monies and State of IL monies. I don't think they and small chambers have been as integrated in the BDC as they should be. Bruce has reached out to the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at U of I – a collaboration between universities, private research hubs and R&D from industry. Looking for similar groups that we can fold into BDC and help in our efforts. Need to be more aware of the smart Grid efforts; there is a "connectivity component" to each of these industries and there are existing public/private opportunities there. Timeline could be 6 to 9 months for output.

Virgil- In November, GSU is having a small business boot camp, +200 participants, if we had a press release/ 1-pager for this WG- this would be a good event to get our information out about looking for projects. Callie Jo McFarland mentioned the backbone in Monticello that is connecting 30 facilities and has the potential to expand.

Buck- Portal where a private company could request funding for a build-out, is there anywhere they can post interest and solicit funding? Mention was also made of the Connect America Fund monies from the FCC- if Illinois projects are selected, could this workgroup work with those applicants or the State match monies to continue partnerships? This could be one of the recommendations to the larger BDC – a portal for crowdsourcing projects.

Overall: Best Practices, using Universities and Public/Private partnerships as models and as workforce generator.

- Identify potential for public/private partnerships in the future and requisite policies

- Develop policy recommendations and findings for the consideration of the BDC

## 5. Collaboration with Other Workgroups

Lewis mentioned that Public/Private workgroup could feed into the Illinois Broadband Plan Workgroup. The FirstNet Workgroup also feels like they will feed the IL Broadband Plan. As we compiled requests for potential partnerships, we noticed overlap of database of existing projects with this group and (Herb's Workgroup Illinois projects). With these two groups there will be plenty of overlap and could use one database. Lewis- Would you recommend that the Chairs of these groups work together, or should these two groups have joint meetings? PCI is looking at developing a crosswalk document and working on recommendations as to what would be better, joining forces, or just co-chairs meet. Decided to wait until after tomorrow's IL Projects Monitoring meeting to decide what to do before next month's WG meetings.

Virgil- Should these partnerships be only with IL organizations? Lewis and Laura- We don't have any guidance barring that; Gigabits Challenge worked with out of state partners. If private sector partner is from neighboring community or has experience, we may want to join forces. Lewis- Any other comments about other states? Virgil- Member of Veterans Communication organization that is a national org. Lewis- Recommends: Reserve participation to state of Illinois for now to allow John, Bruce, and Laura to speak with BDC chair and see if we can get input before next meeting. There are a lot of stakeholders in this process and we need to be careful not to exclude or offend.

## 6. Recommendations for December 19<sup>th</sup> BDC Meeting

PCI is working on a template for all workgroups to use and submit recommendations to BDC Executive Committee. A Google Group can be created for all members to email one another for collaboration, etc.

## 7. Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 18, 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment: 11:15 a.m.