



ILLINOIS BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT COUNCIL

Friday, September 28, 2012 - 2:00 p.m.

Chicago Location: James R. Thompson Center - JRTC 9-036

Springfield Location: CMS – 131 West Mason, Room 104.

Telephone Call-In Number: 760-569-6000, Access code: 379048#

Springfield

Kim Harber, Madison Communications

Laura Kessel, Lt. Governor's Office

Terry Sullivan, Shiloh School District

Lori Sorenson, ICN

Mark Kincaid, IDOT

Jim Zolnierek, ICC

Drew Clark, PCI

Ryan Croke, Gov. Quinn's Office

Clayton Black, PCI

Brenda Matherly, Farm Bureau

Frank Whitney, AT&T

Michael Dixon

Karen Poncin, IIRA

Matt Johnson, ITA

Tom Coats

Anne Madonia Hubbard, PCI

Amy Lawson, PCI

Chicago

Alice Calabrese-Berry

Herb Kuryliw, NIU

Bruce Montgomery

Ernie Sanders, PCI

Erma Lopez, DCEO

Layton Olson

Virgil Mathis

Phone

Chet Olson, City of Rochelle

Joel Mambretti, Northwestern

Aaron Weatherholt, IDOT

Ed Vargas

Victor Itturalde, Chicago Public Schools

Karen Boswell, Frontier Communications

Gina Baxter, Connected Living

Sohair Omar, Illinois Finance Authority

Francis Roehm, Skokie Library

Francesca Rodrigues, City of Chicago

Rebecca Hunt

Paula Robinson

Barbara Webster, PCI

Ed Van Hoose, AIEC

1. Call to Order – 2:02pm

Ryan Croke gave an introduction, mentioning broadband activities that have taken place throughout the State since the last BDC meeting on April 20, 2012. These activities included the Governor's Gigabit Challenge, the Broadband Innovation Fund, and Mayor Rahm Emmanuel's recent announcement on Chicago's Broadband Challenge.

2. Approval of Minutes – April 20, 2012 meeting

Kim Harber made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2012 meeting. Alice Calabrese-Berry seconded the motion.

3. Committee Reports

Information and Research

Co-chairs Jim Zolnierek and Alice Calabrese-Berry provided an update on the activity taking place within this committee. They thanked PCI for the range of research, background, and statistics that PCI is able to provide to the committee. The FCC has published a report on broadband data, in which they have found that 98.7% of Illinois have access to some form of broadband, but adoption is a real issue in Illinois. Among other things that need to be measured are price, speed, latency, and data restrictions in a mobile environment. There have been studies that differentiate mobile from wireless offerings as well.

The PCI response to this adoption issue comes about through their Lifeline Pilot project being offered through the FCC. They are awaiting decision from the FCC. The project utilizes variations of pricing models that focus on adoption in rural areas, and other economically stressed low-income regions. They have partnered with 7 eligible telecommunications carriers as well as Citizens Utility Board and Connected Living to do the training component of this program. The Lifeline map that shows the area covered by this program will be circulated.

Infrastructure and Access Committee

Dr. Joel Mambretti provided an update on this committee in which he stated three major policy areas the group is focused. Chris Meister and Lori Sorenson are focused on creating policy documents to advance key broadband policies, and broadband infrastructure in Illinois. Herb Kuryliw and Ed Vargas are focused on backbone fiber optic preparedness. Aaron Weatherholt and Zachary Mottl are focused on right of way.

The various sub-committees groups are preparing policy documents to provide the framework for their activity and interconnecting the documents to put a plan in place. The group is focused on fiber and wireless, as the fiber component is necessary to enable the wireless connection. Dr. Mambretti anticipates a busy fall on this document preparation front.

Ryan Croke mentioned an article recently published in Crane's Chicago that discussed how Chicago has become one of the nation's most digital cities. The article will be circulated along with a one pager on the Chicago challenge that has been created by PCI. Ryan asked the BDC

whether they would be prepared to send a response to the City of Chicago and their recent challenge. Francesca Rodriguez of the City of Chicago, said that the city would be open to having the BDC put together this coordination piece.

Adoption, Use and Impact Committee

Laura Kessel provided an update from the August 16th meeting of the Adoption committee. The committee has put together two projects. The first is “Insourcing Illinois”, a project where urban tech employers create opportunities for youth in rural areas. The second, “Electrifying Broadband”, would include involvement from the electric cooperatives in Illinois. The committee wishes to find a mechanism to carry out some of these projects before moving forward with creating additional programs.

4. Partnership for a Connected Illinois Report

Anne Madonia-Hubbard led a discussion on the **Illinois Broadband Innovation Fund**. The purpose of this project was to create a broad, competitive program to allow various sectors to submit applications in which they use broadband in an innovative way to advance their goals. There were 113 applications, and PCI is in the midst of the due diligence to ensure the winners are announced very soon. Matt Johnson, ITA, voiced his appreciation for the State and PCI’s support of advancing broadband adoption through programs like these. The carriers feel this is the one area where State financial resources should be leveraged. Kim Harber also stated that this broadband awareness consumption effort should be the focus. Bruce Montgomery commended groups that applied, noting their very quick turnaround on an application. Montgomery stated that the BDC should support efforts to help connect applications and partnerships.

Brad Housewright led a discussion on **PCI eTeam progress**. The eTeams spearheaded activity for the Illinois Broadband Innovation Fund throughout the State over the last month and are continuing to work with stakeholders in the regions to identify hurdles, lend resources and tie ideas together. The eTeams have seen involvement from all types of broadband carriers. Every region has an assigned eTeam coordinator that is working on advancing these efforts.

Drew Clark noted that the **PCI Research Symposium** has been postponed for some time during the week after Thanksgiving 2012. The symposium will provide for a dialogue about research efforts that PCI has invested in and others throughout the State. There will be academic focus at the symposium from some of the University projects throughout the State.

5. Issue Discussion

Right of Way: Matt Johnson opened a discussion on right of way hurdles that some of the carriers in Illinois are experiencing. There are issues with municipal rights of way, county road, property owners, land management companies and railroads. Of these, the railroads prove to be the greatest issue, and they’ve heard from the carriers for a long time. The railroads have property rights and have ceded negotiation power to land management companies that are creating unworkable conditions for carriers. Johnson noted a major fiber route in Illinois where

a provider is faced with going under the railroad. The land management company has moved from a cost based model to a revenue opportunity. In this scenario, the land management company is obtaining public tax dollars, as it is an issue for both private and public providers.

Kim Harber reinforced that right of way was a high-ranking item that dates back to when the issues were recognized at a meeting when Governor Quinn was Lt. Governor. Harber noted that the issues have been identified, but will persist until there is a firm legislative response.

Herb Kuryliw noted that the two northern Illinois BTOP projects are also experiencing the pain of right of way, as they need to get on RR with 7 crossings. Rights of business have the same problem with land management company

Putting the issue into perspective, Matt Johnson noted that \$1-\$7K is common for railroad resources to help make it happen. However, some of these land management companies are charging closer to \$75-\$100K.

Deno Perdiou, AT&T, stated that a legal team needs to look at this right of way issue because the biggest problem is time. Public and private projects can't sit and wait when it comes to these issues. Narrow changes need to happen now, but in the long term will railroads will fight if changes are made.

Lori Sorenson, ICN, noted that info from FCC has been made available on how other states handle right of way issues. There may not have been much railroad information in there, but it is worth recirculating. There is a standard set of fees within that FCC information.

Ryan Croke noted that this is a clear impediment at the local and State levels that is worth further discussion. It is also the one issue that really brings together private and public providers with a common goal. The Governor's office is willing to help in the short term, as infrastructure projects cannot be delayed.

Mike Dixon noted that it might be worth bringing the railroads to the table. A number of specific railroad groups were mentioned, but the consensus seems to be that the issue is a problem across the board.

Herb Kuryliw and Ed Vargas will be having a committee of the Fiber Optical Preparedness subcommittee on October 8 to discuss this issue further.

Layton Olson mentioned that the City of Chicago is offering subsidies to the railroads and it may be a solution to this issue. It also may be a federal issue that is worth involvement from Senator Durbin and Senator Kirk

FirstNet: Brad Housewright led a discussion on this NTIA led federal program. The guidelines are less than coordinated, and many stakeholders are currently awaiting more information. The program is a \$7 billion wireless first responder network. Illinois is currently putting together the organizations to push effort forward. Laura Kessel, Lt. Governor's Office, noted that presentation materials are being assembled over the next 30 days with a target date of Oct

25, 30, or 31 to share what we know via webinar. Mark Kinkaid, IDOT, was under the understanding that much of the funds through this program is in the form of loans instead of grants. Ryan Croke noted that States are allowed to opt-in or opt-out of the FirstNet network. \$135 million is being made available to state organizations to come develop the plan.

Gigabit Challenge: Ryan Croke announced that the State received 40 applications for the Illinois Governor's Gigabit Challenge to award between \$1-4 million to communities in Illinois to build a gigabit capable network in their community. While a specific announcement has not been made available, additional details should be available soon.

Chicago Broadband Challenge: Ryan Croke stated that this challenge will reinforce that Chicago is a world-leader in innovative high-tech infrastructure. The program targets parks and public spaces. The goal is to turn them into wireless zones with an October 19 deadline. Victor Itturalde, Chicago Public Schools, stated that CPS has looked at map and list of targeted areas, but there are some areas where the demand is higher. Itturalde noted a desire to put it in areas where it will be used fully, and there is a need. Per the announcement, no groups are precluded from submitting applications.

6. Other Business

Virgil Mathis (virgilmathis1@yahoo.com): Chicago group is working with Navy and Air force, to create a closed circuit TV system, 298 programs, collaboration useful in state of IL, hookup will be a mentoring program for communities and military families.

Lori Sorenson (lori.sorenson@illinois.gov): ICN is currently continuing work on 2,000 miles of fiber in 55 counties, BTOP connects with NIU, UC2B, Clearwave. ICN is subcontracted with the Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network at ISU in the Bloomington area for their project. The network is open access, and every element of the network is open to utilization for last mile provider service providers. ICN has received interest from all carriers in Illinois including ILECs, 3rd party brokers, wisps, regional providers. Monthly rates are available at www.illinois.net. The website has monthly updates, and information on how schools and libraries should work with their learning technology centers to work one-on-one with the network. Service providers are welcome to reach out to Lori Sorenson or Robin Woodsome.

Ryan Croke asked if the BTOP projects were indeed stimulating jobs. Lori Sorenson noted that direct jobs through construction, driving manufacturing were being created. There is a segment of the workforce working from home and hotels are housing workers. The project is also driving down broadband costs and creating ramped up networks.

Herb Kuryliw: 1100 miles of fiber wrapping up LaSalle in November schools are coming on, IDOT getting us permit, CAI's expected, 66 CAIs in DeKalb, 533 in iFiber

7. Future Meeting Date: Drew Clark proposed November 30th, at the same time. Herb Kuryliw mentioned that we may want to take a look at a morning meeting.

8. Adjourn – Meeting Adjourned at 4:00pm: Laura Kessel motioned to adjourn, and Herb Kuryliw seconded that motion.