

Southwest Central eTeam Meeting 5.15.2012 Notes

The following people attended the Southwest Central Broadband Planning and Action Meeting on May 15 in Edwardsville at the Lewis and Clark Community College:

Brenda	Matherly		Illinois Farm Bureau	309-557-3151
Diana	Byler		Charter Business	636-236-5159
Jim	Maurer		AT&T	618-823-2198
Patrick	McKeehan		PMcK Consulting	618-407-5070
Kim	Harbor			
Mark	Turnipseed		Charter Business	618-843-9551
Barb	Rhodes	Director	Mississippi Valley Library District	618-344-11212
Keith			Mississippi Valley Library District	618-344-11212
Mike	Reynolds	Manager	CassCom	217-452-4101
Jay	Donnelly		Clinton County	618-594-8571
Dave	Mollet		ICN	618-651-9633
Glenda	Young		Southwestern Illinois College	618-222-5253
Chadd	Thompson		TInCans Wireless	618-594-8422
Andy	Jones	Account Executive	Charter Business	636-387-6601
David	Sandel	President	Sandel Assoc	314-435-3655
Julie	McPike		LCCC	618-468-3600
Len	Schwartz		Madison Telephone Co.	618-635-5000
Bill	Flowers		NewWave Communications	618-339-5344
Kevin	Hamilton		Grafton Technologies	618-639-4841
Dan	Hamilton		MVN.NET	618-244-6868
John	Scrivner		MVN.NET	618-244-6868
Edie	Koch		Illinois DCEO	618-346-3816
Neal	Gilb	Government Relations Manager	Charter	314-543-6679
Eric	Schmidt		HomeTel	618-644-2111
Nathan	Stooke		Wisper	618-206-4190
Edie	VanHoose		AIEC	217-529-5561
Vicki	Lubrant	Asst. Director	West Central Development Council - LWA #21	217-854-9644

Meg	File		Bond County CUSD #2	618-664-1226
Kevin	Terveer		SIMAPC	618-344-4250
Scott	Lurkins		City of Greenville	618-664-1644
Susan	Hamilton		Grafton Technologies	618-639-4841
Craig	Hern	VP	Harrisonville Telephone	618-939-9219
Jim	Pennekamp		SIUE	618-659-9300
Jennifer	Russell	Community & Economic Development Educator	U of I Extension	618-980-9300
Daniel	Chace	Director, Network and Systems	SIUE	
Jennifer	Vandever	Assoc Vice Chancellor for Information Technology	SIUE	

Handouts were given to meeting participants. Maps of regional coverage were available. The counties in the PCI Southwest Central region include Washington, Monroe, Calhoun, Jersey, Madison, Bond, Clinton, and St. Clair. Other information and maps are available on www.broadbandillinois.org

Presentation from PCI

PCI Regional Coordinator, Barbara Webster, gave a presentation on PCI and displayed relevant maps for the region. She demonstrated the website and showed the search tool. The mission of PCI is to help people find providers, market what is available, help providers and communities with access and adoption needs. **Access, adoption, data.**

Community Leaders: Look at industrial parks, know what a person needs to do to get the good access.

Barb mentioned that adoption will likely only be hindered by cost and access in a few years due to the younger generations use and need for technology. For today, we still need to assist with adoption through making it easy to find access, promoting training and marketing relevant use.

Dave Mollet gave a presentation on what the Illinois Century Network is doing in the region, including their pricing model. There were a few expressed concerns with public build competing with private builds. Committee needs to work to make the private build as beneficial for providers as possible. The pricing location on ICN web site was shown.

If there are any questions in regards to the ICN build and how providers can utilize, Dave will be available to answer.

Kim Harber led a discussion on the Illinois Network Alliance. Providers can also get info on that build from PCI.

Nathan Stooke mentioned that Wisper ISP will be turning on 36 new towers in the next 90 days. Barb wanted to be sure to get that info so committee could get word out to those impacted communities.

Ed Van Hoose led a discussion on the electric cooperatives. Tag AIEC to connect to coops. All telephone coops have fiber or are in the process (i.e., Wabash 477 miles) Prairie Power will likely build an entire fiber network. Coops do the last mile. Also, a Mt. Vernon Provider mentioned needing a piece of equipment, and Ed said he might be able to help him out.

Three communities in the region fit Community Connect Grant Requirements. (We later found that the communities also have to be on Rand McNally or on Census to be eligible - so Rosedale was only one in region truly eligible. One provider is researching possibility.)

Gigabit Grant Challenge

Frontier is working on grants in the Olney/Carbondale communities. Grant is highly competitive and you have to ask for at least \$1 million. Barbara Webster thinks there will likely be grants around the State. If you have any specific questions and/or general questions let Barbara know. Likewise, innovation and jobs are the driving force of the competition. It was asked if there was a scoring sheet and the answer was not at this time.

Chadd Thompson of Tincans Wireless: If you go off the pricing model, it is not practical. No way to give a gig worth of capacity to a community. Idea behind the whole concept is to just spark innovation as much as infrastructure. We can all shoot holes in a lot of this but the opportunity is out there to get communities to be innovative.

Prevailing wage requirement was discussed It's a problem for rural Illinois. Can double the cost. Some plan on building the entire network in-house. Cost of living is not the same here.

Capital Development Bond: State & Federal wages, CapX has a lot that figures into the labor side of that.

Evaluation is done by heads of various state departments and others. Ensure you have a sustainable model.

Assets for Southwest Central Region:

- Middle Mile Builds
- Belleville Scott Air Force Base- InfoTech Users (WingCommander)
- Major airport access
- Tourism
- State Park
- World Class Historical Site - Cahokia, Museum in the Park
- State is now divided into two sections, largest automated library network in the Country
- Number of Providers
- Coverage
- County Farm Bureaus
- McKendree & SIUE Classes at Scott Air Force BaseStrong Development
- Four Year College
- Industrial Parks (Ex Greenville)
- Entrepreneurial SAED Funds (David Sandel)
- Senior Link Classes
- Strong Network of Libraries - Largest Interconnect Library network in US. Heartland Library System
- Wi-Fi Free Classes (Barbara Rhodes)

Access Needs:

- Last Mile in more places at an affordable rate
- BDC- asked for somewhere to create a repository of success stories (i.e. Harrisonville school success story)
- Robust access networks right here in this region.
- Communities of interest: Education, Healthcare, Bank Financing, Agribusiness
- Stop talking about access we don't have and start talking about what access we do have
- Internet and Broadband Training to improve demand
- Demand aggregation may be the greatest problem:

Lesson - non-interested party must be at center. Connect SI started to be seen as a competitor by some.

Tell success stories.

Economic Model: weaknesses, strengths, etc. What do we have to do to make technology even more impactful?

May need Communities of Interest Committees: Technology agnostic. Econ Dev, Healthcare, Education, etc. Group chooses what is needed.

Connect SI Model: Mr. Kim Harber talked about the Connect SI program and how we can learn from it. Shortage of nurses in Southern Illinois: online nursing program. No need to reinvent the wheel.

The teams (called "eTeams") for other active PCI Regions were mentioned. Volunteers from a variety of organizations assist in the effort in the Southern and Southeast Central Region. Those include providers, U of I Extension, Colleges, high schools, libraries, Farm Bureaus, regional plan commissions, local economic development, hospitals, ICN, and many others.

The group was given a break after one hour in order to network and was asked to introduce themselves and the company they worked for prior to breaking. Time was also allocated from 3 to 3:30 for networking and questions.

Thank you coffee cards were given to Edie Koch with DCEO and Jim Pennekamp with SIUE for all the assistance in setting up the meeting. Art Borum from SCIGA was unable to attend, but also helped with meeting planning. (Also a special thank you to the Lewis and Clark Community College for allowing the group to use their wonderful conference room.)

The group discussed next steps. Another meeting will be held in late July or early August to determine how best to address assets and needs of region that are tied to broadband.