Alaska Statewide Broadband Advisory Board – December 18, 2024 – 10:00am Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting

Alaska Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development

This meeting will be virtual only.
Online Meeting Details: [Join the meeting now](#)
Meeting ID: 228 543 368 587; Passcode: u4mv24Pt
Call In: 907-202-7104; Phone Conference ID: 475 223 337#

AGENDA

I.   Call to Order and Roll Call

II.   Approval of Agenda

III.   Declarations of Conflict of Interest

IV.   Approval of Minutes from Prior Meetings

      a. Regular Meeting October 21, 2024

V.   Subcommittee Reports (None)

VI.   Staff Reports

      a. Digital Equity (DE) Grant Programs (Deputy Director Von Bargen)

            i. DE Grant Programs Overview
            ii. Alaska Digital Equity Capacity Grant
                1. Application Period and Grant Portal
                2. Technical Assistance
      b. Alaska In-State Mapping Challenge (Director Lochner)
      c. Alaska Broadband Grant Program (Director Lochner)
            i. Application Period and Grant Portal
            ii. Tribal Consultations
            iii. Technical Assistance
      d. Board Vacancies (Deputy Director Von Bargen)

VII.   Unfinished Business (None)

VIII.   New Business (None)

IX.   Public Comment

X.   Board Member Business from the Floor

XI.   Next Meeting Date

      a. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting – February 17, 2025

XII.   Adjournment

Alaska Statewide Broadband Advisory Board
Agenda Statement

Meeting Date:	December 18, 2024
Item Number:	IV.a.
Item Title:	Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting of October 21, 2024
Submitted By:	Broadband Office Staff
Recommendation:	Approve Minutes from the Regular Meeting of October 21, 2024
Attachments:	1. October 21, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Summary Statement:

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 21, 2024 are attached for review and approval by the Board.

Alaska Statewide Broadband Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Alaska Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Minutes for Regular Board Meeting- October 21, 2024, at 10:00 AM AKDT.
These draft minutes were prepared by staff and have not yet been approved by the board.

Attendance

Present:

Members: Charles Carpenter; Representative Bryce Edgmon; Ana Hoffman; Glenda Ledford (Chair); Thomas Lochner; Travis Million; Kathleen Moran; Steve Noonkesser; Christine O'Connor; Charlene Stern; and Mary Swain.

Staff Present: Lisa Von Bargen, Deputy Director; and Kalynn Himes, Administrative Specialist.

Members Absent: Michael Brase, Lyman Hoffman, Laurel Shoop, Tara Sweeney.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:05am. Kalynn Himes called the roll, and eleven members of the board were present at the time the meeting was called to order. Quorum was met.

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mary Swain to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Steve Noonkesser. Approved by unanimous consent.

III. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None.

IV. Approval of Minutes from Prior Meetings

    a. **Regular Meeting August 19, 2024**

Motion by Thomas Lochner to approve the prior meeting minutes, seconded by Travis Million. Approved by unanimous consent.

V. Subcommittee Reports

None.

VI. Staff Reports

    a. **Digital Equity Grant Programs (Deputy Director Von Bargen)**

        i. **Digital Equity Competitive Grant (Coordination with Capacity Grant)**

        ii. **State Digital Equity Capacity Grant**

        iii. **Tribal Digital Equity Grant**

        iv. **Alaska Digital Equity Capacity Grant**

Lisa Von Bargen gave an update of the Digital Equity (DE) Accomplishments and Milestones. The DE Planning Grant was approved by the NTIA on March 14, 2024. The State DE Capacity Grant application was submitted by the Alaska Broadband Office (ABO) to NTIA on May 23, 2024, for FFY24 funding of $5.6 million and is still waiting for final approval. Tribal applications for the same program are due to NTIA February 7, 2025. The ABO will use the majority of the State DE Capacity Grant to run an in-state grant

opportunity called the Alaska DE Capacity Grant Program. The purpose of the in-state grant program is to implement the goals of Alaska Digital Equity Plan. The grant application portal is expected to open in November 2024. The NTIA is currently running the DE Competitive Grant Program. $1.25 billion is available nationwide for the program and applications were due September 23, 2024. It is unknown how many Alaska applications were submitted, nor how many will be awarded funds.

Deputy Director Von Bargen gave a recap of the Alaska Digital Equity Plan. The Plan includes thirteen Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). There are five General KPIs, one for each of the five NTIA Digital Equity categories: Broadband Availability and Affordability, Online Privacy and Cybersecurity, Devices and Affordability, Digital Literacy, and Online Accessibility and Inclusivity. There are eight population-specific KPIs, one for each of the eight Covered Populations identified in the Digital Equity Act of 2021: Individuals with a Language Barrier, Incarcerated Individuals, Individuals with Disabilities, Individuals in Low-Income Households, Aging Individuals, Veterans, Members of a Racial or Ethnic Minority, and Individuals Primarily Living in Rural Areas.

b. Alaska In-State Mapping Challenge (Director Lochner)

i. State of Alaska's Data Filed with the NTIA

Director Lochner gave an update on the Alaska In-State Mapping Challenge. Stage One, the 30-day public review of Broadband Serviceable Locations, took place from April 6 to May 5, 2024. Stage 2, the 30-day In-State Mapping Challenge of Broadband Serviceable Locations and Community Anchor Institutions, took place between May 6 and June 5, 2024. Stage 3, the 30-day Rebuttal Period of Mapping Challenges, took place between June 6 and July 5, 2024. Stage 4, Mediation of Mapping Challenges and Rebuttals, took place between July 6 and August 4, 2024. Preliminary Challenge Results were submitted to NTIA on August 8, 2024. Formal submittal of Challenge Results took place on August 13, 2024. Final submittal is scheduled for November 22, 2024, following NTIA review.

c. Alaska Broadband Grant Program (Director Lochner)

i. Application Period and Grant Portal

Initial Proposal Volume 2, Grant Program Outline and Rules was approved by NTIA on October 10, 2024. The grant program was put out for a 30-day public comment period beginning October 18, 2024. The grant portal is planned to be launched December 16, 2024, with a 120-day application period through April 14, 2025. Further details are on the Alaska Broadband Website.

VII. Unfinished Business

None.

VIII. New Business

None.

IX. Public Comment

None.

X. Board Member Business from the Floor

Representative Edgmon commented on the Starlink use in the villages and asked if this is this considered adequate high-speed internet. He further asked if the locations currently using Starlink will be considered unserved or underserved? Director Lochner replied that per the FCC and NTIA, Starlink is not considered reliable broadband. The preference under the BEAD program is for fiber builds and symmetrical 1 gig service. Starlink currently cannot provide 1 gig over 1 gig service at this time.

XI.   Next Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled meeting date is December 16, 2024.

XII.   Adjournment

Motion by Mary Swain to adjourn, seconded by Ana Hoffman, and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:36am on October 21, 2024.