

BROADBAND STRATEGY COUNCIL

Meeting Notes – September 15, 2009

I. Introductions

Members: Rep. Cynthia Dill (co-chair), Rep. Ken Fletcher, Phil Lindley, Wayne Gallant, Jeffrey Letourneau, Commissioner Vendean Vafiades, Kathy Renault

Staff: Kelly Arata (ConnectME Authority)

II. Introductory Comments – Rep. Cynthia Dill

Rep. Cynthia Dill stated that the deadline for NTIA applications has now passed. She is looking for new and relevant information from others to share with the group to assist in the Council's review and assessment of projects.

III. Update from Governor's Designee – Dick Thompson

NTIA asked each State Governor to name an individual point of contact to facilitate communication between the State and NTIA on matters relating to applications for ARRA funding of broadband projects. Governor Baldacci has named Dick Thompson, CIO for the State, as the NTIA point of contact for Maine.

Dick Thompson stated that he has talked to Ian Martinez, the NTIA contact, and reviewed a draft broadband evaluation process. Here are the important points:

- A preliminary list will be available within 36-48 hours. Each state would submit their recommendations to NTIA within 20 days upon receipt of the list.
- Each state would see the entire list of proposals. There would be no narrowing of the field. NTIA will review their list at the same time but wants the states to review and make assessments to them.
- Additional guidelines will be set. It will not be narrowly tailored.
- NTIA is not looking for an ordinal ranking. BBSC could use a green, red, or yellow light approach with some degree of feedback.
- No predetermined amount yet but NTIA will look at multi-state proposals. NTIA wants every state to benefit.
- Each state will receive appropriate documents but understands that there is some degree of proprietary. Applicants can be contacted if there is missing information.
- NTIA is interested in proposals that will meet our state's needs.

- Indian Tribes proposals should be reviewed at the same time as the other proposals.

IV. BBSC Process

Important points addressed by BBSC members:

- If there is missing information that may be necessary, BBSC could go back to the companies and request additional information.
- The list can be viewed on the website. Dick Thompson will check to see if BBSC members can access the website.
- The BBSC Evaluation Criteria Subcommittee submitted a handout that outlined five important points: economic development, industry growth, new jobs, project values, and project viability.
- The work can be split up among BBSC members so that an initial assessment can be made. A BBSC member will write an assessment on each application based on the five important points cited above.
- There could be different checklists for the different types of projects i.e. middle mile, last mile, sustainable broadband, and computer centers.

Linda Lord from the Maine State Library stated that the MSL submitted a BTOP grant. All criteria are critical, but that their computer center project may not be a perfect fit with all the criteria.

Fletcher Kittredge from GWI stated that he sent their Three Ring Binder application to everyone.

Ralph Thompson from Fairpoint Communications asked if the BBSC will send out criteria. He recommends that underserved and unserved should be high on the list.

V. Summary

Summary of the proposed review process:

- The five criteria listed in the BBSC Evaluation Criteria Subcommittee report will be applied to all programs but may need to be adjusted for last mile and middle mile projects.
- Phil Lindley will assign applications to BBSC members to review and write an assessment.
- Assessment should include introductory paragraph, list the project, how the project meets the criteria, and what it means to Maine.
- Dick Thompson will coordinate with the Governor's Office.