UNAPPROVED

Broadband Advisory Council

Regular Meeting

May 1, 2015

**TIME AND PLACE:** The Broadband Advisory Council met May 1, 2015 from 10am to 12pm at the Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street. Richmond, VA.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Delegate Kathy Byron, Chairperson

Delegate James Leftwich

Delegate Scott Surovell

Secretary Karen Jackson

Hayes Framme (representing Secretary Maurice Jones)

Ray LaMura

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tyrone Franklin  
 Duront Walton

Gary Schwartz

Bryan David

Senator Carrico

**STAFF PRESENT:** Sandie Terry

Caroline Stolle

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Senator Ruff (appointment to council begins July 1), Delegate Minchew (via phone, appointment to council begins July 1), Christy Morton (appointment to council begins July 1), Terry Ellis, Tom Innes, Bill Newborg, Rich Schollmann

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM:** With six members of the council physically present, a quorum was established.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 10:20 AM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The council reviewed the November 24, 2014 meeting minutes. Delegate Surovell motioned to approve the minutes, Delegate Leftwich seconded. All agreed.

**virginia Libraries Assessment Presentation–** Sandie Terry (CIT) presented on the results of the 2014 Virginia Library Assessment. For a copy of the presentation please contact [caroline.stolle@cit.org](mailto:caroline.stolle@cit.org).

* Ray LaMura suggested that the next assessment look into whether or not any of the libraries have been impacted by the state-funded providers.
* Delegate Surovell suggested that the next assessment include questions regarding whether or not any of the libraries offer bilingual digital literacy classes.
* Delegate Byron requested that the council have an opportunity to review the questions before the next assessment.

**broadband challenges – federal issues & broadband mapping challenges post-ntia presentation–** Caroline Stolle (CIT) presented on recent changes in broadband at the federal level and the challenges of Virginia broadband mapping now that the SBI grant period has ended. For a copy of the presentation please contact [caroline.stolle@cit.org](mailto:caroline.stolle@cit.org).

**public-private partnership success story–**Bill Newborg discussed the public-private partnership between Metrocast and King George County.

* Ray LaMura said that planners need to work with providers and provide targets.
* Secretary Jackson said that it is still important to meet with planners even if they don’t have targets because sometimes they need help deciding what they need. Secretary Jackson suggested that Ray LaMura refer planners who need help establishing a plan and target to CIT.

**cit broadband strategic plan presentation –** Sandie Terry (CIT) presented on CIT’s broadband strategic plan including projects, goals, and associated budget. For a copy of the presentation please contact [caroline.stolle@cit.org](mailto:caroline.stolle@cit.org).

* Ray LaMura urged CIT to continue promoting adoption because providers are making large investments in infrastructure and adoption rate is low.
* Bill Newborg said that the average broadband adoption rate of Metrocast is 40% and doesn’t see it getting higher without broadband awareness and adoption support.
* Sandie Terry said that every locality needs to include broadband awareness in the tax bills.

**member discussion**

* Delegate Byron said that the council needs to review HB 2325 at the next council meeting.
* Secretary Jackson said that the council needs to consider what the state’s roll in broadband is going to be moving forward and to consider this in terms of the budget. The broadband programs have been beneficial but we can only go so far as the budget will allow. What is the state’s long term goal and what will that mean both programmatically and financially?
  + Senator Ruff said that Virginia won’t know where to go until we understand what’s fully happening at the federal level.
  + Secretary Jackson said that the issues at the federal level will be dragged out for a long time and Virginia either says it wants to invest or remain a resource. She said that it may be helpful to learn what other states have done/will be doing.
  + Senator Ruff said that we need to get the private sector to overlay what they can do.
  + Delegate Leftwich said that VGIN is looking at transitioning from analog to digital and perhaps there are opportunities to piggyback.
  + Secretary Jackson said that Firstnet is going to require new towers and may allow some last mile providers to piggyback on the new towers. She asked Delegate Leftwich for support on this issue.
  + Delegate Surovell said that one of the biggest justifications for tax payers to buy into broadband is education.
  + Delegate Byron requested a presentation from DOE to hear about what else is going on in broadband and education.
  + Sandie Terry said that it’s a big dilemma with schools that want to implement digital learning but their students don’t have broadband access at home.
  + Ray LaMura requested an update on what kind of investments cable companies are making.
  + Hayes Framme said that even though DHCD is providing grant money a lot of localities are lacking a plan. He said every locality needs to have a strategic plan for broadband.
  + Sandie Terry said that some localities don’t have a plan and then hire a consultant without knowing what they want or need.
  + Delegate Byron requested that the next council meeting be in July.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:03PM.