UNAPPROVED

Broadband Advisory Council

Regular Meeting

June 8, 2016

**TIME AND PLACE:** The Broadband Advisory Council met June 8, 2016 from 10am to 12pm at the Green Ridge Recreation Center at 7415 Wood Haven Road, Roanoke, VA.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Delegate Byron, Chairperson

 Senator Ruff, Vice Chairperson

 Senator Carrico

 Delegate Boysko
 Sam Towell (representing Secretary Haymore)
 Ray LaMura

 Duront Walton
 Christy Morton
 Jimmy Carr
 Jane Dittmar

**STAFF PRESENT:** Sandie Terry

 Jean Plymale

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 10:15 AM.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Senator Ruff motioned to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2015 meeting. Ray LaMura seconded. All agreed.

**DHCD BROADBAND GRANT PROGRAM DISCUSSION**: Lisa Atkinson, Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), discussed DHCD’s new broadband infrastructure grant program.

* DHCD needs information from the BAC on how to define / identify “unserved” areas.
* DHCD will convene stakeholders to assist in defining program criteria. The BAC will recommend representatives to DHCD to participate in this meeting.
* DHCD will return to the BAC in September to present more details on the program.
* Application process opens in October and will close November 30.
* DHCD will report to the BAC once per year on the program.
* The average grant amount is not yet set but DHCD will propose ideas.

**BVU UPDATE:** Senator Carrico provided an update on Bristol Virginia Utilities (BVU).

* The Tobacco Commission invested $39 million.
* BVU has approximately 12k customers.
* BVU is currently undergoing an APA audit, will be completed by August.

**HB 912 DISCUSSION:** Ray LaMura discussed HB 912 and the benefits from the bill.

* As a result of the bill, Comcast will be expanding service to approximately 1600 homes and possible 1 state park in Lake Anna.
* CenturyLink reported that HB912 ensured that CenturyLink would leverage the CAF II funds otherwise deployment would have been too expensive and labor intensive.

**Local governments and the broadband challenge:** Chip Boyles, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC), presented on broadband initiatives within TJPDC. For a copy of the presentation please contact caroline.luxhoj@cit.org.

* Senator Ruff recommended that maybe it should be a requirement that localities work with CIT before beginning a plan.

**Updates from secretary jackson:** Sandie Terry, CIT, provided updates from Secretary Jackson.

* Terry discussed the RUOnlineVa campaign and provided the council with a flyer. For a copy of this flyer please contact caroline.luxhoj@cit.org.

**NO COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:19PM.