

OBC Outreach Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2008

Attended:

Karen Hardie	Office of Ohio Consumers' Council
Chris Henney	Ohio Farm Bureau
Lou Gentile	Governor's Office of Appalachia
LaMar Wyse	Galion Community Hospital
Chris Chapman	State of Ohio/OIT/OBC
Katrina Flory	State of Ohio/OIT/OBC
Letha Butcher	Ohio Supercomputer Center
Denis Walsh	Ohio Supercomputer Center
Mark Forni	Ohio Department of Agriculture
Fred Deel	Governor's Office of Appalachia
Brent Legg	Connect Ohio
Gary Lambert	Connect Ohio
Sage Cutler	Connect Kentucky
Steve Burigana	Ohio Department of Education
Jennifer Garrison	Representative, Ohio House of Representatives
Phil DeSenze	Representative Garrison's Office

Not able to Attend:

Gary Little	ITAAO
Ken Engstrom	Office of Congressman Zack Space
Sharon B. Mitchell	OCCN/Dakota Center

Location:

Vern Riffe Center, 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
24th floor Large Conference room

Time:

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

- I. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Mr. Deel welcomed everyone to the subcommittee meeting. He invited Steve Burigana, Chair of the OBC Policy Subcommittee and Connect Ohio representatives Brent Legg, Gary Lambert and Sage Cutler to introduce themselves to the group.

- II. Approval of February 21 Meeting Minutes:

Minutes:

PASSED

La Mar Wyse: Moved
Chris Henney: Seconded
All Members agreed
No Members disagreed

III. Connect Ohio

- a. Brent Legg, interim Executive Director for Connect Ohio provided an update of their current activities including the mapping effort and eCommunity teams.
 - i. Ohio's initial maps will be unveiled on June 27 as well as the results of the benchmark research survey. The maps will feature functionality as tiers, layers, search capability. The tiers will be based on recent FCC definition providing for minimum level of 768K.
 - ii. Connect Ohio will have three eCommunity teams established by June 27. The initial focus will be Fairfield, Gallia and Crawford counties as well as Hocking/Vinton/Perry. These teams will include community leaders from all sectors – agriculture, hospital, tourism, education, government, library, etc. The approach includes a benchmark piece to determine programs, resources need to move forward, strategic plan development, education and awareness to increase technology usage.
- b. Questions
 - i. Mr. Wyse asked how OBC & Connect Ohio relate. A: Connect Ohio is our resource for the ground game. They will work with the providers, residents, small businesses, etc. to identify gaps and develop plans.
 - ii. Mr. Chapman inquired about the granularity of the mapping and research survey. A: Statistically relevant samples were taken for each county to provide data for barriers to broadband adoption and technology use. Maps will be accurate to street level.
 - iii. Mr. Wyse recognized that the provider community needs to be involved in the eCommunity process – how does Connect Ohio get them to see the return of investment? A: Through a business case. Connect Ohio cannot force them to build out but can show the available increase in demand to help them make that decision.
 - iv. Mr. Henney asked how teams were formed. A: Local community leaders (likely County Commissioners) are contacted and asked to provide lead contacts for the various community sectors. The Subcommittee members were urged to provide names if they were aware of folks that fit the criteria for the eCommunity team.

- v. Mr. Chapman asked if small providers were also included in these efforts. We tend to talk about the “big guys” and he didn’t want the “small guys” to be overlooked. A: Connect Ohio has an inclusive approach. Small providers were instrumental in Kentucky and will not be overlooked in Ohio.
- vi. Denis Walsh asked how Connect Ohio will gauge affordability. A: Competition and partnerships should drive rates down. Connect Ohio generally deems that \$45/month or more is not affordable.

IV. Pilot Project Status

- a. Chris Chapman provided an update on the three pilot projects that were approved to move forward at the OBC meeting on March 3. Mr. Chapman indicated that based upon this approval we started digging in deeper on these three projects to find what technology was deployed in each area and how to craft the Memorandums of Agreement to address the many nuances of each project.
- b. Lancaster (Green): This pilot is moving forward. We are working with the provider to identify anchor tenants in the community to help with a business case to deploy new technology.
- c. Galion (Yellow): this project is in a degree of flux as it was the broadest proposal. Mr. Wyse indicated that the city is in fiscal emergency and perhaps a short term solution should be the focus as opposed to long term.
- d. Rio Grande (Green): This pilot is within the original budget and the provider is working with us to make things happen.
- e. Mr. Deel recognized that with pilot efforts we would run into “unknowns” but we needed to proceed when we did. Waiting for all of the details would be too late. Overall, the pilot process has been a very positive experience and has shown that the providers are willing to work with us.

V. Proposals Received

- a. One proposal has been received thus far. It is a joint county proposal from Hocking/Perry/Vinton. Mr. Chapman did not think we should be too concerned as Connect Ohio will likely be a source of future proposals. Connect Ohio is currently reviewing the H/P/V proposal from an eCommunity standpoint.
 - i. Mr. Deel indicated that these counties have been working together for some time and have had their ups and downs in the decision making process. He is going to facilitate a meeting between county reps, Connect Ohio, OIT and OSC to start digging through their proposal.
- b. Questions
 - i. Mark Forni inquired about the use of the MARCS towers. We know that Coshocton was recently allowed collocation as part of

their broadband solution. Mr. Forni would like to see more latitude on the fees charged based upon location of the tower and ability of the local government to pay. Representative Garrison agreed with his position. Mr. Chapman and Ms. Flory indicated that this was being discussed internally at OIT.

- c. Outreach Processes & Procedures: A flow chart was provided to subcommittee members showing the process flow of a proposal from receipt to vote at the OBC. Mr. Chapman asked how we should handle proposals that the Subcommittee does not feel are right for funding? Should they still go to the Council? Rep. Garrison recommended that these proposals are reviewed for informational purposes as Council members may be aware or be asked by constituents of status. This will keep everyone up to date.

VI. Vendor Overview

- a. Katrina Flory was pleased to report that thus far our interaction with the provider community had been positive. The Ohio Telecommunications Association provided \$200,000 towards the Connect Ohio effort, Verizon is working on a proposal for the distribution of the \$250,000 PUCO finding and our pilots are moving forward.

VII. Policy Subcommittee Request for Input

- a. Steve Burigana joined us today as the chair of the Policy Subcommittee. The Outreach Subcommittee will be collaborating with Policy to ensure that we are moving forward together. Mr. Burigana and Mr. Deel felt that the data we will receive from Connect Ohio on June 27 (mapping & research results) will be good resources for the subcommittees to review and get a sense of how we move forward. A joint meeting with be held on July 17.

Adjourn