

CHICAGO (THOMPSON CENTER) ATTENDEES:

Wendy Farley, Comcast; Matt Guilford, City of Chicago; Tony Hylton, Broadband Technology Associates; Doug Power, NIU Regional Development Institute; Herb Kuryliw, NIU IT Services; Keenan Leesman, Broadtech Solutions LLC; Joe Mambretti, International Center for Advanced Internet Research; Bruce Montgomery, Montgomery & Co., Inc; Layton Olson, Howe & Hutton Ltd.; Doug Power, NIU Regional Development Institute; Nicol Turner-Lee, One Economy Corporation; Ray Williams, DCEO; Pete Knopf, Illinois Virtual High School

Staff Attendee: Marlena Jentz

SPRINGFIELD (STRATTON BUILDING) ATTENDEES:

Joe Annett, Alcatel-Lucent; Kirk Mulvany, CMS (ICN); Eric Jakobsson, National Center for Supercomputing Applications; Kim Harber, Frontier Communications; Faith Bishop, State Board of Education (ISBE); Nancy Bradbury, ISD; Marybeth Lauderdale, ISD; Bruce Cooper, Now Wireless; Ron Duncan, Shawnee Community College; Doug Dougherty, Illinois Telecommunications Association; Esther Viles, Mediacom; Sonja Reece, Town of Normal; Vince Jordan, RidgeviewTel; John Hester, Illinois Commerce Commission; Sumantra Lahiri, ISBE; Wade LeBeau, Kankakee Daily Journal; Karen Lee, USDA; Sara Lieber, Chicago Medical Society; Sara Nelson, Office of Senator Dick Durbin; Pete Schiel, City of Kankakee; Deborah Seale, SIU Telehealth; Mario Sebastiani, Kankakee Daily Journal; Dana Smith, Rural Electric Convenience Coop; Michael Dickson, WIU; Lori Sorenson, ICN; Kathy Harrington, Sen. Obama's office; Brad Housewright, Heartland Communications; Jody Johnson, University of Illinois Extension; Terry Sullivan, Shiloh CUSD # 1-Edgar County CUD #6; Philip Wood, Verizon, Bryan Stevens, Rural Comm; Doug Sigrist, Rural Comm; Don Wood, Assoc. of Illinois Electric Cooperatives; Doug Wilson, USDA Rural Development; James Dearing, Alzheimer's Association; Mayor Chet Olsen, City of Rochelle

Staff Attendees: Carolyn Brown Hodge (CBH), Holly Copeland, Ryan Croke

TELECONFERENCE ATTENDEES

Matt Brady, Federal Signal; Chuck Brown, Integrated Technology; Dave Loomis, ISU; Sascha Meinrath, CUWiN; Mike Glodo; Gisele Hamm, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs; Mike Hammett, Intelligent Computing Systems; Doc Mueller, Illinois Municipal Utilities; Rechner; Cathy Roger, City of Peoria; John Scrivner, Mt Vernon.net; Glen Semple, Farm Credit Bureau; Kenneth Terrinoni, Boone County Government

Croke called the meeting to order at 2:15pm.

Housewright moved to accept the minutes from 5.2.07. Deborah Seale seconded the motion.

Connect The Nation Act of 2007

Croke: David Lazarus in the Office of Sen. Durbin could not make the call but an update on this bill will be available online and at the next BDC meeting.

USDA Community Connect Grants

Lee: The USDA Rural Development administration made \$8.9 million available for Community Connect grants.

FCC Rural Health Pilot

Kraus: The FCC will provide 85 percent of the funding for the pilot. The Illinois Rural HealthNet pilot proposal asks the FCC for \$22 million over three years to link hospitals across the state.

National Center for Supercomputing Applications

Jakobsson: The National Science Foundation provided a grant to offer remote chemistry teacher training funding to high school science programs around the state. Broadband availability will impact education just as significantly as it does health care.

[Jakobsson described the multimillion dollar grant to the NSCA to bring the world's fastest supercomputer to Champaign. One percent of the computer's capacity will be dedicated to education.]

Jakobsson: There's a need for trained tech personnel in high schools.
We appreciate Illinois support for NSCA.
We'd like to collaborate to further education, research and economic development.

Sullivan: We need to take advantage of NCSA and remote chemistry training in rural areas. Teachers need training and broadband access in physics and math and chemistry.

Quinn: We want to be number one in the world in nanotechnology.

Brown Hodge: This may be something we should cover at the Rural Telecom conference.

Quinn: Is the 1 percent capacity for education nationwide or statewide?

Jakobsson: Nationwide. NSCA is a national center, although our roots are in Illinois.

Illinois Century Network updates

Sorenson: We have a number of handouts on the ICN, including a report. Highlights include focus on growing the backbone and making it scalable using dark fiber. The second highlight is looking at how to leverage the ICN constituency group for better deals on access lines. We've worked with ITA, IDOT -- using the ICN's collective voice to negotiate better last mile connectivity, at&t metro ethernet offering throughout the at&t territory. This can offer speeds up to 1gbps without creating new physical connections. It is a model that could be replicable for the other carriers we work with.

Wood: Verizon would be happy to discuss this model.

Quinn: This is the next generation of the ICN.

Technology Immersion Pilot Project (TIPP)

Bishop: 2,600 computers have been provided to children in 7 school districts. 9 Chicago schools were recipients and all have applied for year 2.

Quinn: How many computers are damaged?

Bishop: Very limited damage. Our service contracts with the vendors is very inclusive so any damaged computers have been repaired.

Sullivan: I'm interested in the research on this project.

Bishop: We're hiring a program evaluator. All of the year one pilot schools have re-applied.

Telehealth/Connect SI update

Seale: ConnectSI is a collaboration of the 20 southernmost counties in the state. There are 5 communities of interest organizing to pursue better broadband access.

Housewright: The healthcare COI has identified 200+ doctors who want to access patient information remotely. We are working to bring them access at home. We are targeting townships in conjunction with providers like Verizon.

Bill update:

Croke: Three bill summaries are included in your handouts. The first, Senate Bill 6, is a telehealth bill. SB6 will provide Medicaid reimbursement rates for broadband-enabled mental health services.

Brown Hodge: Major barriers to telehealth expansion in Illinois?

Seale: Reimbursement, but also some technical issues, including the availability of network services and the logistics of establishing links with medical practitioners across the state. The Illinois Medical Association supports telemedicine so long as doctors from within Illinois are providing the services.

Croke: SB766 will transfer \$4 million to a new Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity fund to support a statewide non-profit.

Dougherty: An RFP and a rulemaking will take place to enlist the nonprofit through DCEO.

Williams: There are some issues with where the money is currently residing and the Department will discuss further as funding issues are settled.

Dougherty: This bill represents a paradigm shift in broadband deployment policy because it provides money for building demand rather than building the supply of broadband services. A federal bill sponsored by Senator Durbin may also make matching federal funds available to states with nonprofit programs like the one 766 authorizes.

Croke: SB678 calls on the Illinois Department of Transportation to complete a feasibility study on wireless broadband for passenger rail in Illinois, but it is part of a more sweeping bill. Susan Satter from the Attorney General's office helped negotiate the public interest obligations it contains.

Satter: SB678 authorizes new entrants to the video market. As video capacity is more available, broadband services will necessarily become more available.

Springfield Wireless

Perdiou: The city of Springfield and at&t could not reach an agreement on a wireless network after ten months of discussion.

Quinn: Could it be done just downtown?

Perdiou: The economics weren't there, although it is technically doable. We wanted to phase-in over 25 miles of coverage. We're in Riverside and St. Louis with wireless deployments.

Slottag: Technology is changing fast, but we're open to working with at&t or other providers who have ideas about how to make a wireless broadband plan work in Springfield.

Soss: I'd like to meet with Ernie to set up a meeting about bringing wireless to the downtown area.

Harber: Frontier just completed a Wifi project in Carlinville.

Normal Technology Plan:

Reece: The National League of Cities wants to work on broadband deployment. I chair the IT committee of this organization. We need a better broadband definition and a national strategy for broadband deployment. W2i is an arm of the UN bringing together countries to talk about strategy for broadband deployment. The diasaster management project for homeland security recognizes that emergency capabilities depend on infrastructure and common communication standards.

Northern Illinois Technology Triangle

Koteski: I'm the new president of NITT. We're determining which technology to use to build out our fiber triangle.

Olsen: NIU, Rockford and Rochelle in Boone and Ogle County. We secured a fiber lease on I-88 to I-90, and I-39 to 294. The projected completion date by IDOT and the contractor for having fiber in the ground is November 19, 2007. Lighting the fiber will take place in segments and be completed by the first quarter of '08. At last night's council meeting we announced that Rockford is developing a 160-acre technology park that will open soon. A 911 center and diasaster relief center will locate there. Allstate has indicated it will be opening a call center in the technology park due to the presence of the technology infrastructure.

Quinn: I admire the tenacity of NITT. This is about creating infrastructure to support jobs and economic development.

Vince DeMuzio Broadband Pilot

Power: Five strong vendor proposals were submitted. The project seeks to improve the core broadband infrastructure in Macoupin and Montgomery counties. County stakeholders have been involved the whole way through.

Quinn: When will the winning proposal be announced?

Power: Between a month and two months. Official word will be coordinated by CMS and your office.

Online Illinois broadband project catalog

Croke: the Lieutenant Governor's office has been collecting information on all the broadband projects within the state. The projects have been posted online, along with other broadband deployment-related resources at www.illinoisbroadbanddeployment.pbwiki.com

Rural Telecom Congress Conference (Oct 14-17, Springfield)

Brown-Hodge: I attended a conference in Spokane and Little Rock and so thought Illinois should host to bring the best and brightest to Illinois. We have more people registered than they've had in the past. Sunday night Abraham Lincoln will be there. We hope to see everyone in Springfield for this conference. Also check out the handouts on USF funds for rural broadband and the FCC hearings on Media Ownership in Chicago.

Telecom Infrastructure and Chicago's Olympic Bid

Olson: The transportation, homeland security, and health and other logistic requirements of Olympic planning demand we bring together the capital investments needed for a successful Olympic bid. The Olympic Committee will make its decision on the site on Oct. 2, 2009. I am willing to organize with anyone for Illinois, Wisconsin or Indiana to improve our chances of winning the bid.

Other business

Gerhardt: Funding for community technology centers has not been renewed this year. The \$3 million should be reinstated. Also, US First, an engineering program for high school students is looking for corporate sponsors to enable it to expand to additional schools. Mr. Gerhardt presented an award to the Lt. Governor for his support of US First.

The LTG adjourned the meeting at 3:50pm.