

**SPECIAL CONNECT NEW MEXICO COUNCIL MEETING
VIRTUAL
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023, 4:00 PM**

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER- on recording at 0:00:42

The meeting of the Connect New Mexico Council was called to order by Chair Kimball Sekaquaptewa, at 4:00 pm, on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kimball Sekaquaptewa, Chair
Eli Guinnee
Ovidiu Viorica
Launa Waller
Katherine Crociata
Jim Ruybal
Godfrey Enjady
Nora Sackett in attendance for Alex Greenberg
Tico Charlee

MEMBERS ABSENT

Leonard Manzanares
Secretary Peter Mantos
Joseph Navarrete
Bogi Malecki
Luis Reyes, Co-Chair
Steve Grey

OTHERS PRESENT

Kelly Schlegel, Broadband Director
Melissa Gutierrez, Project Manager
Renee Narvaiz, IT, Public Information Manager
Josanne, Josh Bueg, Kathy Korte, Mitch Hibbard, Heidi Byrd-NTIA, Jeff Albright,
Lenny Washington, Steve Crout, Mary Parker, Sandeep Taxali, Amelia de Jesus, Dave
Pena, Erin Thompson, Gar Clarke, Gregory Rohde, Jay Santillanes-NMECG, Jen
Somers, Jessica Hitzman, Jim Wasilewski, Johnny Montoya, Kate Sneed, Mack,

Matejka Santillanes-NMECG
Michael Ripperger, M

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA on recording at 0:02:06

MOTION A motion was made by Mr. Ovidiu Viorica and seconded by Ms. Launa Waller to approve the agenda as presented.

VOTE The motion passed on a voice vote.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 15, 2023. on recording at 0:02:34

The council requested the minutes be amended because of issues with spelling errors and incorrect information.

3. CHAIR UPDATES/COMMENTS on recording at 0:00:42

Chair Sekaquaptewa thanked everyone for joining the Special CNMC meeting. She appreciated the quorum, and the number of other guests who joined the special meeting.

Chair Sekaquaptewa reminded the group about the Broadband day at the Legislative session and acknowledged the appearance by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. Several members of the broadband and internet services joined the CNMC meeting on this day, and she mentioned it was helpful to have so many subject matter experts gathered.

3.5 AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT FOR TULAROSA COMMUNICATIONS- on recording at 0:17:31

Director Kelly Schlegel of Office of Broadband Access and Expansion introduced the team from Tularosa communications who just received a grant award from the Connect New Mexico Pilot Program to connect 1,100 homes. It will connect people who never had internet access before.

3.6 OFF AGENDA EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Scott Lopez, VP of business development and government affairs at Kelly Cable. They do turnkey work for fiber networks. Kelly Cable hosting an event Monday. USDA is hosting a DC delegation in ABQ to recognize companies of NMECG who are getting \$40 million in reconnect grants.

4. RULEMAKING—KIMBAL SEKAQUAPTEWA, MELISSA GUITERREZ

Updated rule shared with the Council, with feedback and reviews.

-Ms. Gutierrez offered an update: We are ready to adopt the rules. We will not make the April 1st effective date.

-Will get them to the administrative office, and if they are adopted today, they can become effective after they are published which is 15 days after tomorrow.

-Rule hearing was on January 31st, followed by a 10-day response period, and a hearing officer issued a recommended decision. The decision was issued by Brian Brock on March 1st.

- A final order drafted in a word document, which is what needs to be discussed for adoption.

-Ms. Sekaquaptewa noted two sections of the document are missing the key demographic of veteran. The Chair also noted that she was expecting to read language respecting Tribal Sovereignty or the New Mexico Tribal State Collaboration Act, she's wondering if there is a chance to add those to the NOFO. (Ms. Gutierrez mentions that doesn't necessarily need to be in the rules.) Mr. Enjady asked about the possibility of an amendment after approving the rules. Ms. Gutierrez answered that pursuant to the rules act you can make an amendment, and only publish portions, we can adopt as is now, and come back to the table with the amendments and start the process over to only address the issues. Mr. Viorica mentioned he is supportive of moving forward with the rules the way they are as people are anxiously waiting to have a framework in place that will allow projects and grants applications to be developed.

-The changes: April 1st to April 11th

- on recording at 0:40:00 Ovidiu Viorica makes a motion to adopt the rules as written, to allow the OBAE to start writing NOFO, to put money to work as soon as possible.

Katherine Crociata 2nd. No opposition. Motion passes.

5. LEGISLATURE UPDATE – Kelly Schlegel

- Took 7 Broadband bills through the legislative session 6 passed.

- 1 did not pass, HB213 SJC, back logged, many bills got stopped there, and died.

- HB155, takes PRC fund in 2026 converts \$30 m fund to broadband

- HB362 amends HB10 which is the OBAE Act

- HB262 amends the Connect New Mexico Act

- SB452 – old sb 93 passed within 24 hours.

- SB41 levels playing field- 'the lumen bill'

- HB160 Rights of Way

5. OBAE UPDATE – Kelly Schlegel

A. WAVE 2 Selections

a. Approval for 4 projects

b. Due in December, 12 applications from 8 entities received

- c. -Over \$220 Million 43%grant 57%match
- d. All for fiber to the home, except one, which is a fixed wireless.
- e. Tularosa, Valley Telecom Group in Columbus, Western NM Telephone, Ethos Broadband (Sacred Wind)

B. WAVE 3, Deadline

- a. Due April 3rd. Hosting office hours and coaching many people, so expecting very good applications.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT, Q AND A, CHAT

Tim Presley: Cybersecurity Planning committee sending out a survey, hoping to get help with tribal stakeholders. (Mr. Enjady mentioned the FBI is helping that tribes learn about security and due diligence)

7. ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Council the Mr. Enjady made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Ovi Viorica, there was no opposition meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Kimball Sekaquaptewa, Chair