



**Connect New Mexico Council Meeting
February 18, 2022 | 4:00PM – 5:30PM
Virtual (via WebEx)**

Meeting called to order at: 4:04PM by Public Information Officer, Renee Narvaiz, DoIT

Council Members Present: Jeremy Lovato, Alex Greenberg, Eli Guinee, Joseph Navarrete, Ovidiu Viorica, Luis Reyes, Jim Ruybal, Godfrey Enjady, Kimball Sekaquaptewa, Katherine Crociata, Matt Schmit (designee for Raja Sambandam), Steve Grey, Launa Waller.

Not Present: Juan Torres, Bogi Malecki, Christopher Becenti

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve by Luis Reys

Second by Eli Guinee

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve by Luis Reyes

Second by Jeremy Lovato

Introductions:

Members delivered a brief introduction of their background and perspective on Broadband.

Election of Interim Chair & Vice-Chair

Nomination of Kimball Sekaquaptewa as Interim Chair of the Connect NM Council made by Luis Reyes

Second by Katherine Crociata

No nominations were made for Vice-Chair; Luis Reyes volunteered as Interim Vice-Chair of the Connect NM Council

Second by Jim Ruybal

Connect New Mexico Council Duties

Matt Schmit discussed coordinating programs and projects for Statewide Broadband program and awarding dollars from the CNM fund, adopting rules and application procedures and project qualifications. In addition to standing up the grant program, consulting local and tribal governments and other stake holders. Within this discussion a detailed slide presentation discussing the OBAE approach, State Broadband Grant Programs Characteristics and Best Practices and Connect New Mexico Act Broadband Grant Program Framework & Reporting was provided as a guide.

Matt also shared details on the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program and funding in the amount of \$42.45 Billion which is devoted within National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA). Every state will receive \$100 million and remaining will be allocated on a formula basis.

Chairwoman Sekaquaptewa asked if Matt has an idea what the funding formula will look like to allocate those remaining dollars. Matt noted it will be about \$650-700 million devoted to Broadband.

Discussion

Ovidiu Viorica requested a summary of the federal funding that is available so the council can have picture of the funding availability. Comment on Slide 8 and question regarding eligibility, who will be eligible for these grants in the event preparation needs to be made by entities or so that partnerships can be made. Mr. Viorica also asked what it would take to develop an outline of what the engagement of plan development would look like. Matt responded that on Jan 1, 2022, an annual report was shared to the Legislature with the framework. The Grant program will also assist in receiving applications and making awards, refining mapping, and frame around statewide engagement and planning. Ovidiu last comment regarding the affordable connectivity program and making it a priority ensuring every New Mexican is enrolled in the program. Chairwoman Sekaquaptewa noted the flaws in the program and agreed with Ovidiu's recommendation.

Katherine Crociata noted Representative Chandler carried legislation, HJR ,1 changing the anti-donation clause relating to Broadband and pending election. She also asked if the members could meet more frequently to discuss the Grant Programs.

Chairwoman Sekaquaptewa mentioned the NM PRC Applications pending, were they private companies and does the anti-donation rule prohibit funding projects. Matt deferred to legal, Todd Baran. Mr. Baran noted they have been developing a matrix which will list fund availability for OBAE. Matrix will also include funds available to partners and should be available at next meeting.

Next Steps

1. Council Meeting cadence and Schedule
 - a. CNMC Meeting will meet monthly – Wednesdays at 2pm was agreed upon by council.
2. Council discussed creating working groups to meet more frequently with specific areas of concentration.
 - a. Connect NM Grant Program
 - b. Digital Equity and Inclusion
 - c. Regional Planning and Community Engagement
 - d. Mapping Data and Evaluation
3. OMA Resolution/Switch to Zoom
4. Staggering Terms-will address in the future

Matt paused to allow for public comment:

None

Next proposed meeting date:

Wednesday, March 16 2022, at 2PM

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn until next meeting, Wednesday, March 16, 2022, made by Jeremy Lovato
Second by Steve Grey

Meeting adjourned at 5:29 PM

