STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OFFICE OF BROADBAND ACCESS & EXPANSION

Connect New Mexico Council Meeting (Hybrid)
Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2022
[Meeting Materials](#)

Meeting Called to Order at 2:24PM

Council Members Present
In person: Kimball Sekaquaptewa, Jeremy Lovato, Eli Guinnee
Remote: Jim Ruybal, Raja Sambandam, Launa Waller, Luis Reyes, Katherine Crociata, Joseph Navarette, Alex Greenberg, Ovidiu Viorica, Steve Grey
Absent: Bogi Malecki, Godfrey Enjady

Approval of the Agenda and May CNMC Meeting Minutes
Council Member Launa Waller noted one correction to the May Meeting Minutes; (page 4) ARPA funding dollar amount should be in millions.
Motion to approve made by Luis Reyes
Second by Jeremy Lovato

INSPECTION OF PUBLIC RECORDS ACT
Todd Baran discussed the process for email management and DoIT creating a repository to house council files. A single email address has also been created to triage all communications so that all council related emails will reside in one mailbox. Records Custodians will be responsible for producing any work products that are shared and documents will be stored in a SharePoint file accessible to the CNMC members.

Jeremy Lovato Question/Comment:
Q: Asked to whom within DoIT will the requests go to?
A: Todd: Renee Roybal and Melissa Gutierrez will review the request and send to the appropriate council member. If general in nature, the request will be sent to the entire council. The goal is to file all documents in one repository so the Records Custodian can easily respond if an IPRA request is submitted.

SharePoint for Connect New Mexico Council is available as well as the Working Group folders to house all associated working materials. Melissa Gutierrez gave a brief overview of the DoIT-Connect NM Council site and will provide access to the members.

Ovidiu Viorica
Q: What will be posted to the public website?

A: Todd mentioned all final documents will be posted to the document library and will assist in managing IPRA processes.

BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY MAPPING DEMO

Broadband Grant Program Dashboard Demo was provided by Shawn Penman of EDAC. In this presentation was a view of four quadrants and central mapping, available in the mapping layers are speeds, served and unserved households, broadband coverage areas, tabs with grant eligibility, additional layers with high-speed areas and locations indicating grants awards. The map dashboard also includes a section with statistics; communities with census data, educational attainment by county; bachelors, associates, master's degrees, etc., age of people who do not have computers, economic opportunity zones, county boundaries and tribal lands.

Jeremy Lovato Question/Comment:

Q: Is there any specific technology to determine grants for areas without 100 down 20 up?
A: Ms. Penman indicated they simply subtract the areas with 100 down/20 up to determine the difference.

Ms. Penman continued the mapping demonstration and noted the map included PRC Grant details such as the year the grant was awarded, the recipient, federal grants, loans and awarded grants. There is also a layer that includes FY 22 grants under review, funding category, applicant, cost and description. CSV file downloads are also available for data analysis as well as shape upload reports which allow one to select address points.

Kimball Sekaquaptewa Question/Comment:

Q: How accurate is the household level of mapping and what can the state do to help fill those holes.
A: The NM 911 program is missing tribal information; Navajo Nation does not participate in the NM 911 program and currently have no address locations. FCC data will be granular, hopefully EDAC can obtain the same information which would strengthen the mapping system.

Ovidiu Viorica Question/Comment:

C & Q: The maps are only as good as the information that goes in and speaks to standardizing; the information that we need to collect from entities whose data we do not have, is needed and would be beneficial to review and determine what is missing. Such as the information on affordability and the adoption of broadband as it serves no purpose to build broadband if nobody can afford to purchase and utilize it. Also, where are we on digital equity and what progress has been made?
A: Matt noted there will be a very strong report ahead of the October 1st deadline and will discuss the approach later in the meeting in terms of planning and preparation. (See working group reports)

RULEMAKING

Todd Baran provided an update on the framework for the Rulemaking; the Council requested a more program specific structure and will include standard requirements and definitions. The general rules will apply to every grant. The additional requirements applicable to competitive grants will be developed with the larger funding sources in mind. There will also be rules for

noncompetitive grants and will have special rules for the federal funded grant programs, will have the federal standard requirements and provisions that account for the anti-donation issues that are not presented by the federal grant programs. Section twelve is a very important one as it sets out the terms of coordination and collaboration between OBAE and council; details who does what. Challenges will be addressed in Section thirteen and will include an internal process to address the processes following an award. Additional rules for broadband infrastructure and standards that are applicable to grant programs under the Connect NM Fund.

Todd Baran suggested meeting twice per week for the next two months to accelerate the rulemaking process.

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Regional planning & community engagement:
Kitty Clemens discussed the planning, execution and follow up of these meetings.
1. Southwest NM – ensure policy makers are available in each county on the day of the meeting, robust public notice, encourage public engagement.
2. Allow for shared stories so that each personal story is heard, and the takeaway is considered.
3. Follow up is completed at the end of each meeting, participants are documented and included in all follow-up communications
4. Diane Lindstrom noted that each county will be visited 3 times per year, totaling 99 visits and will also include the tribes, based on 200 days in the year.
5. Groups to be included:
    a. Senior Citizens
    b. Medical professionals
    c. Unions
    d. Senior centers
    e. Schools
    f. Libraries
    g. Veterans

Eli Guinnee Question/Comment:
C: Mentioned there are several libraries across the state, and where there are no libraries, there are book mobile stops.

Ovidiu Viorica Question/Comment:
C: Urged everyone to support this group and leverage federal funding.

Jeremy Lovato Question/Comments:
C: In regard to planning, DOT and other neighboring states hold quarterly meetings and review each states rules and activities; there are other elements of engagement which can be reported at a later date.

Digital equity & inclusion:
Eva Artschwager and Jennifer Case Nevarez will be involved in the creation of the Digital Equity plan and requirements of the NOFO.

Mapping, data & evaluation – demo provided by EDAC

Connect New Mexico Grant Program:
Four key positions; director, assistant director, compliance manager, grants manager will be posted this week.

Katherine Crociata Question/Comment:
Q: Is the Director a Gubernatorial position?
A: Matt noted one director will be by appointment, reporting directly to the Governor and a second will be a classified position. This will allow for high level staffing.

OFFICE OF BROADBAND UPDATE
Matt noted twenty-two (22) Request for Information (RFI) submissions were made to OBAE. The office continues working on the Notice of Funding Opportunity and upon posting, will be communicated immediately to the council. The NTIA funding opportunities include $43 billion in BEAD funding with extreme importance on the mapping.

The NTIA NOFO's and Timelines:
Digital Equity due by July 12th and will stretch out through 2023.

BEAD funding Letter of Interest due July 18th; mapping will be critical in this process and will run through August 15th, opportunity to detail the planning work or hire consultant to complete the work. Matt indicated this is a great opportunity bring the maps to each community and verify for accuracy; community engagement is important so the number of unserved households can be brought to the forefront. Matt noted a county level dashboard demo will be provided at the next Council meeting and strong collaboration with Libraries, Tribes, Higher Education and key collaborators will be imperative.

Kimball Sekaquaptewa Question Comment:
Q: How many states have submitted a Letter of Intent?
A: Matt indicated thirty-six states have submitted their Letter and NM is included in that list.

Ovidiu Viorica Question/Comment:
C: Mentioned the Digital Equity funding will be distributed through competitive grants and there will be a limit to what NM can secure through the formula. Looking forward to working with the working groups to effectively solve the problem.

Launa Waller Question/Comment:
Q: At last council meeting it was mentioned NMBB Plan due to Treasury submitted, was that accepted?
Likely will be resubmitting the plan with the PED allotment of $10 million; includes tribal libraries update, Treasury is also digging into responses and the first four were announced.

Public Comment
None

CONFLICT OF INTEREST (NOT RESOLUTION) (Moved to the end of Agenda)
Eli Guinnee made the motion to adopt the Conflict of Interest
Ovidiu Viorica noted small edit on paragraph five; council members referred to as board members. Also, requested the AG to attend a meeting to talk to the council members.
Open for discussion prior to adoption
Kimball Sekaquaptewa asked if the state Attorney General relative to the tribes? Todd Baran stated the Attorney General is the designated attorney for the Council and issues such as this. If there is a question regarding compliance obligations of the Council or if the Attorney General feels it is not in their purview, they will make the appropriate referral. This language was inserted to avoid any conflict with the DoIT General Counsel.

Eli Guinnee amended motion to adopt with recommended modification: change board member to council member.
Second by Ovidiu Viorica
Unanimous approval of Conflict of Interest

Motion to Adjourn made by Eli Guinnee
Second made by Jim Ruybal