

**CONNECT NEW MEXICO COUNCIL MEETING
410 DON GASPAR AVE., SANTA FE, NM
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023, 2:00 PM**

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Connect New Mexico Council was called to order by Chair Kimball Sekaquaptewa, at 2:00 pm, on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Chair Sekaquaptewa thanked everyone for joining the Council to celebrate Broadband Day at the Legislature.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kimball Sekaquaptewa, Chair
Eli Guinnee
Secretary Peter Mantos
Ovidiu Viorica
Launa Waller
Katherine Crociata
Steve Grey
Jim Ruybal
Joseph Navarrete
Godfrey Enjady
Tico Charlee

MEMBERS ABSENT

Leonard Manzanares
Alex Greenberg
Bogi Malecki
Luis Reyes, Co-Chair

OTHERS PRESENT

Kelly Schlegel, Broadband Director
Melessia Gutierrez, Project Manager
Renee Narvaiz, IT, Public Information Manager
Adam Baker, IT
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer
Jeni Santana (T-Mobile), Sonia Nez (Navajo Nation Office of Broadband) Daniel

Eaton (LTE Finder), Josane Cossio (Conterra), Guy Turley (Cellular One), Steven Morrell, Charlene Rimbert, Mark Hallamore (UPN), David Lieber (Viasat), Karl Koeppen (ADACEN), Kate Sneed, Kyle Biederwolf (Comcast), Kevin Winner (Pueblo of Jemez) Dan Sullivan (Lumen), Lenny Washington (Westwind), Heather Ingram (Accenture), Melanie Goodman (Sen. Ben Ray Lujan's office) Sandeep Taxali.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA AND MINUTES

MOTION A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

VOTE The motion passed on a voice vote.

The minutes were not available for a vote.

3. CHAIR UPDATES/COMMENTS

Chair Sekaquaptewa thanked everyone for being part of this day and our meeting. Your partnerships and input are important to us.

The Council members, staff and visitors all introduced themselves.

4. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

A. BROADBAND DAY RECAP

Ms. Schlegel said in 2020, two bills were passed, SB93 and HB10, that created this office and the Council. Broadband was really big that year, so they wanted to connect the unconnected in the state. The Council has an advisory role. The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) has 5 to 6 staff members and several contractors. Our charge is to create a five-year strategic plan. A three-year plan has been created and is on our website. The Legislature wants a five-year plan, and we are required to report to them each year. The five-year plan allows us to apply for funding. The State has \$123 million in ARPA funds on the table currently. In six weeks, we will have the results of our application for the second wave.

Ms. Schlegel said we had several Federal deadlines in 2022 and we made all of them. We have six more in 2023. We will build on the three-year plan, but we need to be more strategic and data-driven for the five-year plan. The National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) application will use this information. We must show that we are reaching the undeserved. The State deadline is August 1st for the Digital Equity Plan for the NTIA. We hope to do more community engagements to collect data.

Ms. Schlegel said \$400 million has flowed to New Mexico already. We are coordinating many of those projects. The second piece of what we are doing is capturing funds for new projects for the part funding by BEAD, and digital equity. We need a two-pronged attack from the OBAE and Connect New Mexico Council. We are focused on barriers, projects we have, capturing new money and being smart of technologies. We have a great team.

Ms. Schlegel said, based on the Governor's speech today, she gets what the situation is and what we need. The Legislators have picked up the banner with us. Partnerships are key for getting the right solutions in each region. We want feedback on the template we provided for the five-year plan. In early March we will have a feedback session.

B. BROADBAND BILLS RECAP

Mr. Baker said HB362 amends HB10 which is the OBAE Act.

Mr. Baker reviewed the changes to the Act.

Mr. Baker said HB262 amends the Connect New Mexico Act and redefines broadband infrastructure to include the internet. The following are the highlights of the amendment:

- Replaces the Office of Information Technology with the Broadband Office.
- There is now language about the Council administration and their attachment to the Department and staffing.
- End user is redefined.
- Language is added that defines underserved and unserved.
- There is an assignment of the right to make grants.

Ms. Schlegel said she attended the first committee hearing today.

Mr. Baker said there is also a Senate Bill that amends broadband access and expansion. He gave an overview of the bill.

Chair Sekaquaptewa asked "what is the pathway for Council members to make comments?"

Mr. Baker said during the committee meetings.

Ms. Schlegel said this is a call to action for everyone in the meeting today.

5. OBAE UPDATE

These issues were discussed previously.

A. WAVE 3, NEW DEADLINE

B. 3 YEAR PLAN REVIEW/FEEDBACK REMINDER

C. MARCH BROADBAND MONTH PROCLAMATION

6. PUBLIC COMMENT, Q AND A, CHAT

None.

7. ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Council the meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Kimball Sekaquaptewa, Chair

Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer