



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
OFFICE OF BROADBAND ACCESS & EXPANSION

**Connect New Mexico Council Meeting Minutes**  
**July 20, 2022, | 2:00PM – 3:30PM**  
**State Capitol, Room 307**

Meeting called to Order 2:04PM

**Council Members Present**

In person: Kimball Sekaquaptewa, Peter Mantos, Jeremy Lovato, Launa Waller, Ovidiu Viorica, Godfrey Enjady.

Remote: Eli Guinnee, Bogi Malecki, Alex Greenberg, Raja Sambandam, Joseph Navarrete, Katherine Crociata, Steve L. Grey, Jim Ruybal.

Absent: Luis Reyes

**Approval of the July 20, 2022, Meeting Agenda**

**Motion to approve made by Launa Waller**

**Second by Katherine Crociata**

**Approval of the June 15, 2022, CNMC Meeting Minutes**

**Motion to approve made by Jim Ruybal**

**Second by Ovidiu Viorica**

**Chair Remarks & Council Member Updates**

Recognize incoming DoIT Cabinet Secretary Designate Peter Mantos. Mr. Mantos provided a brief introduction and discussed priorities for the Department of Information Technology.

Representative Christine Chandler thanked the council for their hard work, noting her involvement in the creation of the Office of Broadband.

Chairwoman Sekaquaptewa welcomed new Director Kelly Schlegel to the Office of Broadband and to the Connect NM Council, she was appointed July 11, 2022, by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. Mrs. Schlegel was the Chief Engineer for Boeing and comes with a wealth of knowledge and is looking for alternative technologies and robust Middle Mile. Mrs. Schlegel noted collaboration is key, and all community engagement is imperative.

**Office of Broadband Update**

Director Kelly Schlegel provided an update on the Digital Equity planning proposal which was submitted on July 12, 2022. OBAE requested \$740,000 for a four-phase digital equity plan. Ms. Schlegel noted this proposal positions the Office of Broadband for Digital Inclusion and could result in \$40million for the State of NM. Letters of intent were also submitted on July 12, 2022, adding that two-thirds of NM Tribes applied for \$100,000 in digital equity funding. Director Schlegel is encouraging additional engagement to reach the remaining tribal entities so they may apply.

The Governor's letter of intent positions the Office of broadband for BEAD funding for last mile. The

Letter of Intent also integrated Digital Equity and BEAD planning. Director Schlegel indicated she is searching for consultants and Subject Matter Experts to join the Office of Broadband.

OBAE is also working on the architecture and strategy for the Middle Mile, which is due September 30<sup>th</sup>, the office is looking to have a state managed statewide network for the Middle Mile – the funding will be in the arena of \$40 - \$75 million. Collaboration is imperative so the entire State can apply.

Director Schlegel also indicated she is looking for an early win to assist with unserved and underserved and would like to link approximately a thousand homes.

**Godfrey Enjady Question/Comment:**

Q: Mr. Enjady noted that he is concerned not all Tribal Entities have applied, what can OBAE do in the form of engagement?

Director Schlegel will work with IAD and NTIA to determine which Tribal Entities did not respond. Member Enjady noted the Tribes do not understand what Digital Equity is and is tasked with educating the tribes so they can understand fully and asked OBAE to work with Tribal Entities to bridge the gap with the Middle Mile efforts and include all tribal entities. Suggestion is to have a gathering to discuss the plan.

**Kimball Sekaquaptewa Question/Comment:**

C: Chair Sekaquaptewa discussed the possibility of holding a tribal broadband summit to help tribes understand the plan and mentioned she also assisted the pueblos with the completion and submission of the Digital Equity Planning Program Letters of Interest (LOI).

**Secretary Mantos Question/Comment:**

C: Noted that counter parts in other states have reached out to DoIT, there are areas in the Navajo Nation and NM will collaborate with Utah.

**Kelly Schlegel Question/Comment:**

C: Director Schlegel mentioned the tribal liaison positions has been created and will be starting with OBAE. Note: FCC is holding a tribal workshop in Tulsa, Oklahoma and would like to work to bring the workshop to NM.

**Steve Grey Question/Comment:**

C: Noted how important outreach is, there is the Alliance for Navajo broadband – Joy Thompson, Executive Director is working with tribes on planning. Navajo broadband conference will also be taking place late September or early October.

**Office of Broadband Update -Open DoIT positions**

Director Schlegel noted there are four Staffing positions available: Grants Manager, Compliance Officer, Deputy Director and Director. The Director will be changed to eliminate the confusion between her title and the current Director position that is being advertised (title will change). Kelly noted the position will be more administrative and financial. This position will report to Kelly.

**Jeremy Lovato Comments/Questions:**

Q: Is there a Grant and NOFO timeline? Director Schlegel noted it had been stalled a bit but there will be some small changes and will be sent for approval but would like to have it out the first week in august.

**Ovidiu Viorica Comments/Questions:**

C: Ovidiu discussed the grant process and noted members agree that personnel need to be in place to manage the funding.

**Launa Waller Questions/Comments:**

C: OBAE should be central point for permits, this process could hold up all progress. State permitting is currently going through the rulemaking process and wrapping up phase one of the permitting process and will be complete in August.

**Steve Grey Questions/Comments**

C: Steve noted the importance of engaging the Bureau of Indian Affairs as they play a key role.

**Dashboard Demo – John Di Ruggiero**

Please see full dashboard demo in the Connect NM Council Zoom recording (56:13 / 2:07:27)

[Connect NM Council Meeting Zoom recording](#)

You may also visit [www.broadbandfornewmexico.org](http://www.broadbandfornewmexico.org)

**BEAD Letter of Intent**

Governor approved and the document was submitted, in that request was \$5 million for planning with a high-level budget included.

**Working Group Structure Resolution**

1. The Council would like structure within the working groups and should be working frequently to set goals and deliverables within specific time frames and set up the common protocols.
2. Council Member should be Chair of the Working Group.
3. Administrative support to send out the meeting invitations
4. Council Member will facilitate the agenda
5. Note taker assigned to the group and documents returned to OBAE Office
6. Each Working Group will include an OBAE participant
7. Volunteers will need to be approved by the council as active working group participants
8. Godfrey Enjady proposed adding a Tribal Work Group
9. Permits, Pole Attachments and Rights of Way will be added as a new work group
10. Suggestion in zoom comments to have a co-chair written into the resolution
11. Suggested the work group have an opportunity to add a co-chair arrangement utilizing outside leadership
12. Kimball –move to approve the resolution contingent on adding language for the co-chair role
13. Council Members Raja Sambandam and Katherine Crociata asked what brought on the need for this resolution- Kimball noted this is a way to increase the leadership in the group. If we make a commitment to lead a group can each group have a delegate.
14. Language includes the working group to be led by a council member, but a non-council member only act as a chair.
15. Council Member asked why a council member would need to co-chair, but rather be made a proxy should the Chair not be available to attend.
16. Chair Kimball Sekaquaptewa suggested each Working Group submit a mission statement, goal and/or objective, timeline and deliverables.

**Motion to approve the Working Group Resolution Structure**

Cabinet Secretary Designate Peter Mantos moved to adopt resolution

Second made by Godfrey Enjady

**Request to add the Tribal Working Group**

Motion to approve made by Godfrey Enjady  
Second by Katherine Crociata

**Request to add Permits, Rights of Way and Pole Attachments Working Group**

Motion to approve made by Ovidiu Viorica  
Second by Kimball Sekaquaptewa

**Chair Appointments**

Katherine Crociata Chair of the Regional Planning & Community Engagement Working Group  
Cabinet Secretary Designate Peter Mantos Chair of the Mapping Data & Evaluation Working Group  
Eli Guinee Chair of the Digital Equity & Inclusion Working Group  
Godfrey Enjady Chair of the Tribal Working Group  
Ovidiu Viorica Chair of the Permits, Rights of Way and Pole Attachments Working Group

**[Working Group Resolution](#)**

**Public Comment**

Aaron Moore noted the (NDIA) National Digital Inclusion Alliance Resource includes webinars that may be helpful, also the Institute for local self-reliance.

Mr. Moore comment regarding the participation of the Working Group –expertise not on the council and it may be helpful to consider the ability for a broad diversity of viewpoints and expertise.

**Q &A or Chat**

NA

Meeting adjourned at 4:07

No