**SC BAT Meeting Notes**

**August 24, 2017; 1-3 PM**

**Stevens County IT Conference Room**

**NOTE: All meetings are held at TEDD, 986 S. Main St, Colville, WA 99114
(Remote access is described at the end of this document.)**

Participants:

Debra Hansen Mayor Dorothy Knauss

Bert Klimas Commissioner Wes McCart

Frank Metlow Kinsey Coots

Dave Klimas Andrew Engel

Bryan Lentes Kevin Jacka

Brandon Rainey Monica Babine

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

* Welcome Bryan Lentes, representing Northeast Washington Health Programs, and welcome also to Frank Metlow, Assistant Planning Director for the Spokane Tribe. [See item a.]
* BCAT progress. [See item b.]
* BAT/BCAT at IACC in Wenatchee! Tech Teams are a great way to streamline processes. [See item c.]
* Bert summarized a webinar on mapping digital inclusion assets and resources. This information will be part of the new BAT page! [See item d.]
* Mapping data with information from Maine, New Mexico, and Stevens County IT. [See item e.]
* We are working on a BAT page! [See item f.]
* Workforce Development Council inclusion? [See item g.]
* Discussion about engaging service providers. [See item h.]
* Time for another Tech Expo? [See item i.]
* SC BAT attended a rural broadband roundtable in Spokane with elected officials and industry insiders [See item j.]
* A follow up call with Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers’ DC staffer David Smentek has been scheduled. [See item k.]
* Kevin Jacka has a new position. [See item l.]
* Talking points about programs and policies that may be relevant with the current administration’s planned focus on infrastructure. [See item m.]
* BAT Fun Fact

**Meeting Notes:**

1. Welcome new BAT members. Bryan Lentes takes care of all things IT for Northeast Washington Health Programs (NEWAHP). Frank Metlow is the Assistant Planning Director for the Spokane Tribe. He is also on the Tri-County Economic Development Board (as are Mayor Knauss, Commissioner McCart, and Debra Hansen). Frank is also liaison to Western Rural Development Center which covers 13 states and three US territories. (<https://wrdc.usu.edu>)
2. BCAT progress: About a third of the Stevens County team has logged on and answered some questions. Some participants jumped in at the beginning while others are still trying to find the time. There are conference calls on a semi-regular basis to discuss any issues or bugs. The last call also included a discussion of privacy and how it relates to the results of the BCAT beta. (An email from Karen Perry was forwarded to participants. It included the info below about the privacy discussion.)

The 14th of September will be the ***DEADLINE*** for participants to be mostly finished with their entries. That will allow Debra and Bert time to work with those who may need some special attention plus allow them time to consolidate the team responses.

**Privacy and Open Data in re the BCAT responses**

* For the beta, the data is our data. NTIA will have access to the data but has no plans to publish the data. We will use the data to evaluate the tool and process, not to evaluate your responses.
* All users on our team have access to our data and responses.
* For the question in the Getting Started module that asks for the name, organization, and email for team members, that information will be transfer to your final report. Feel free to include only name, or name, title, and organization.  Emails are not needed.  You can leave this question blank if you don’t want the team member’s names in the report.
* There was general agreement on the phone that opening up the data to partners and policy makers may be useful.  Most importantly, Karen asked if this group would participate in a post--beta discussion about data use and privacy policies to help us formulate a comprehensive policy for use, protection, and sharing.  This will be an important part of the post-beta evaluation and next steps.
1. **BAT/BCAT at IACC:** The BCAT project has been accepted at the NTIA IACC conference in Wenatchee in October. The Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping Washington communities and tribes identify and obtain resources they need to develop, improve, and maintain infrastructure. It consists of staff from state and federal agencies, local government associations, and nonprofit technical assistance organizations. Vendors, lenders, and other parties are also there.

The SCBAT is partnering with Lincoln County and White Center – the other Washington participants) to present about what we’ve learned in the quest for broadband. IACC is usually focused on traditional infrastructure such as water/sewers/roads/etc. so this will be one of the first – if not the first – to deal with broadband itself. The conference runs Oct. 23-26 in Wenatchee.

Monica also described Tech Teams. They take place the morning before the official conference kickoff. A community or tribe submits an application outlining the project they need help with. If it is chosen for one of the time slots, a team from the relevant agencies will be assembled along with the community representatives. All parties sit down and discuss how to make it happen including possibilities for funding, who else might need to be involved, order of processes, etc. The BAT isn’t in a stage yet to present for broadband, but it was brought up that the Spokane Tribe might be in a position to apply. Deadline to apply is September 22, 2017. Contact Cathi Read (360) 725-3016 or cathi.read@commerce.wa.gov. More information about this year’s conference is at <http://infrafunding.wa.gov/downloads/2017_IACC_Brochure.pdf>

The Spokane Tribe will be attending the conference. They have two grants pending related to their broadband project and they expect to hear about them soon. Their focus is on tower construction and primary infrastructure since the geography precludes digging in fiber everywhere. The current plan doesn’t include the last mile yet.

Monica, Debra, and Frank will discuss the idea of tech teams further after the meeting.

1. Bert attended a webinar on “Mapping Digital Assets.” It turned out to be a discussion on knowing where the community can take advantage of public Wi-Fi, classes, etc. Bert had already started on organizing a list of public Wi-Fi locations in the county so the tips given there (keep it simple to use and maintain) were timely. Also included will be a list of places that have classes to help bridge the digital divide. This information will be part of the new BAT page on the WSU Extension webpage. It may also be possible to tie it in to the TEDD app.
2. Mapping – Vinalhaven, Maine is another BCAT community. They’ve mentioned that they have had some success mapping providers and speeds. Bert contacted them and they are willing to work with us, but additional information has not been easy to collect. Monica pointed out that tourist season in coastal Maine is probably their #1 priority right now.

Another aspect of mapping that came from a BCAT connection is Bert has been put in touch with the (now retired in New Mexico) go-to person for mapping. He is still interested in broadband and is willing to share what he knows once we are a little farther along.

Hopefully all these resources will be able to provide information or help us understand how to collect data so that we can ask the Stevens County IT department for a GIS map with multiple layers of Stevens County. A base map of the county could include layers for census outlines, 2015 fire outlines, zip code outlines, topo, city limits, election precincts, etc.

Will Saunders (formerly of the WA state broadband office and now with the Office of Privacy and Data Protection) will be in the area next week. Those of us interested in mapping can meet then.
3. Yes, a BAT page is underway! Initial pages will include an overview of the team, information about legislation and emerging technologies, links to sites focusing on rural organizations, an overview of past work, and archives for notes from previous meetings. Another possibility is to include grant or project opportunities on the webpage. Watch this space!
4. Mayor Knauss remarked about the Catch 22 that attracting jobs requires broadband but you can’t seem to get it without the “demand.” Commissioner McCart brought up the possibility of involving the Workforce Development Council for their leverage. Step one is to put them on our email list.
5. Discussion about engaging service providers. Another BCAT participant in Kansas City, Missouri has experience in this; Debra, Monica, and Bert have a conference call scheduled with her September 27th. The BCAT tool has a module about providers that will help draw out this information, too.
6. Time for another Tech Expo? Spring 2018 with a Chewelah location might help draw in more south county participation. (Charter’s high speed internet should be in place by Thanksgiving.)
7. A Cathy McMorris Rodgers/Mary Dye/Telco roundtable discussion was held in Spokane August 15th. BAT members present included Commissioner McCart, Mayor Knauss, Dave Klimas, Debra Hansen, Monica Babine, Tiger Peone, Frank Metlow, and Bert Klimas. Topics covered included legislation attempts and emerging technologies such as Microsoft’s TV White Space and AT&T’s Air Gig. Providers both at the table and in the audience included AT&T, FatBeam, Microsoft, Verizon, and Charter/Spectrum. Provider comments were pretty much about how much they had spent and how difficult it is to deal with the regulatory process.

A video of the entire round table is available at <https://www.facebook.com/mcmorrisrodgers/videos/10155656386649772/>

1. One thing that caught most ears was when Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers mentioned “mapping.” We will be following up with one of her DC staffers, David Smentek, for clarification. The phone call will coincide with a date when Will Saunders will be available for an in-person meeting. Several aspects related to mapping will be the topic.
2. Kevin Jacka has changed positions and is now working for the Rural Alliance, a partnership of rural school districts, higher education, and the college and career-readiness community in Washington state. <http://ruralalliancewashington.org> Brandon Rainey will be working with him as a consultant while continuing in his consulting role for the Mary Walker School District. Both are staying on as BAT members.
3. The discussion transitioned to talking points about programs and policies now that the current administration will be discussing broadband. Monica has her known items but she asked participants for their perspectives on programs and policies. We were each asked to submit a few bullet points to Monica that she can use in discussion with her colleagues and contacts. An email was sent to BAT members after the meeting and responses were forwarded to Monica.

**BAT Fun Fact for the Month**: The first webcam was at Cambridge University’s computer lab. The primary purpose was to monitor the coffee pot in order to avoid a wasted trip to an empty pot. (I would have used it to ID and shame those who take the last cup without making another pot – Bert).

**Next Meeting**: BAT Meetings are *usually* held the second Thursday of each month from 1 to 3 pm. However, *the September meeting will be held* ***Tuesday, September 26th****.* Location: The TEDD office at 986 S. Main St, Colville, WA 99114.