

## Central Sierra Connect Steering Committee Meeting Notes

November 21, 2014

Attending in person or by phone: Kathleen Haff, Scott Vanderlip, Greg Falken, Dave Thoeny, Darrell Slocum, Jennifer Penrose, Connie Williams, Daniel Richardson, Shelly Hance, Dean Friedli, Troy Ashton

### Agenda:

1. Update on the possibility of extending our broadband grant
2. Ongoing Broadband Improvement Project (BIP) and goal
3. Broadband Public Policy Adoption by County
4. Creating a Local Broadband Advocacy Committee for counties in our region that wish assistance
5. Update on Tele-Health in our Region

### Meeting Notes

- Offer from CPUC for an extension of the grant with funding CSC has not yet spent, which would enable us to continue our work with internet service providers and facilitate the process of ISPs seeking funding possibly through August 2015.
- CPUC changed the ISP grant funding process to a rolling deadline, beginning December 1, 2014, which means we need to work fast with service providers to get their applications in while funds are still available.
- Local ISPs have been waiting for CVIN to light up.
  - Sonora Branch Library will hopefully be connected soon.
  - Backbone lit in Amador County; sites slowly going live.
- We have so much more to do! New providers, new projects. CVIN not yet completed.
- Responsibility to the future to put adequate infrastructure in place.
- Broadband is necessary for advancement, safety, education, health. "We're going to need more and more bandwidth and we're not even on the escalator yet." --Kathleen

### Broadband Public Policy Adoption by County

- There may be some education and outreach to perform so that elected officials truly understand the importance of broadband. It has become a "need" vs something nice to have.
- CSC can assist jurisdictions in their planning for broadband. It is much easier for counties and cities to encourage broadband infrastructure build outs with a customer friendly plan in place.
- CSC is here to assist counties and cities in adding broadband in more elements of their General Plan and in their Ordinance Code where feasible.

### Creating a Local Broadband Advocacy Committee for counties in our region that wish assistance

- We will be kickstarting one Broadband Committee probably in Tuolumne County first....to be used as a pilot program. We will be offering to help all other counties in the region to initiate a broadband committee for their community, with key leadership invited to participate.
- Having a Broadband Committee in each jurisdiction should help facilitate and streamline the process for any ISP wishing to build infrastructure in the community; aid

jurisdictions interested in adopting broadband policy; add broadband-friendly items to the general plans, etc

#### Update on Tele-Health in our Region

- Staff is reaching out to hospitals and clinics to evaluate needs and uses regarding Tele-Health.

#### Review of Broadband Maps developed by ATCAA staff

- The maps show a lot of red (low/no coverage), which is not great for current businesses and residents, but does stand out as an opportunity for expansion to ISPs.

#### Redding Rural Regional Forum Update

- Local supervisors came along from Alpine, Amador and Tuolumne Counties
- More education must be done regarding the necessity of broadband.

#### Additional notes

- Funding is only available to un-/underserved. We need accurate maps!
- Local providers are struggling to keep up with demand and constrained budgets/staff; we need to be open to outside investors.
- There is an Android app for cell phones available for testing cell signal strength in certain areas where projects may be conducted. We may be calling for help to get samples from those areas using CalSPEED. We will send out an action alert calling for help once we know for certain the neighborhoods that need to be tested
- CalNet's whitespace "air fiber" may be an option in many of our region's areas. Cal.net is finalizing their project list and will be submitting applications to CASF for projects in as many as 4 of our 5 counties.