

**Grant County Digital Network Coalition**  
**April 16, 2019**  
**6:00 PM**  
**John Day Fire Hall, 316 S. Canyon Blvd, John Day**

**AGENDA**

- 1. OPEN AND NOTE ATTENDANCE**
- 2. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES**
- 3. APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS** – At this time the Board will welcome the public and ask if there is anything they would like to add to tonight's agenda.

**ACTION ITEMS**

- 4. 2019 USDA COMMUNITY CONNECT UPDATE**  
Attachments:
  - Publicly releasable description
  - Letters of support
- 5. 2019 USDA RECONNECT UPDATE**  
Attachments:
  - None
- 6. AIRPORT LATERAL / COMMUNICATIONS APPROACH**  
Attachments:
  - None

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- 7. OTHER BUSINESS AND UPCOMING MEETINGS**
  - A/V equipment for broadcasting public meetings
  - Board Meeting – Tuesday, May 21 – 6 P.M. Fire Hall

**TO:** Grant County Digital Board of Directors

**FROM:** Nicholas Green, Executive Director

**DATE:** April 16, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item #4: 2019 USDA Community Connect Update  
Attachment(s)

- Publicly releasable information
- Letters of support

## **BACKGROUND**

We submitted our application for the 2019 Community Connect Grant on April 14<sup>th</sup>. The application has been accepted by USDA Rural Utilities Service and is now under review. A publicly releasable statement on the grant along with the letters of support are enclosed.

## **DISCUSSION**

Now we wait...

## **NEXT STEPS**

We will begin the environmental review and permitting process for both Community Connect and ReConnect during the time it takes for USDA to review and score the grants. This will allow us to proceed with solicitations for construction if we receive funding.

**TO:** Grant County Digital Board of Directors

**FROM:** Nicholas Green, Executive Director

**DATE:** April 16, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item #5: 2019 USDA ReConnect Update  
Attachment(s)

- None

## **BACKGROUND**

We are in discussions with both Ortelco and Link Oregon about the possibility of submitting a combined application under ReConnect. Details of this potential revision to the PFSA and teaming approach are below.

## **DISCUSSION**

**PFSA.** The trunk line would begin in Seneca at the point-of-presence (POP) at the Seneca City Hall. It would follow OTEC's 69KV line north to the POP in John Day. From there, the line would tie into OTC's existing fiber optic network to Mt. Vernon and Dayville. A new trunk line would be constructed north to Long Creek and then eventually west to Monument, Kimberly and Spray. The Dayville spur would also extend west to Mitchell. Along with the route from Seneca to Burns, this would position us to eventually create a redundant, resilient ring around Grant County with connections to the main internet in the south, northwest, west and east. It would also connect nearly every incorporated city in Grant County to a fiber optic trunk line from which individual households and businesses could then receive service.

**Approach.** The goal of this proposed approach is to maximize the competitiveness of our application by connecting as many ranches, farms, businesses, residences and education facilities as possible. It also streamlines the permitting process, since the state historic preservation office (SHPO), Malheur National Forest, Bureau of Land Management and other permitting agencies would be evaluating a single application. This revised approach may have to be constructed in phases, depending on our ability to meet the 25 percent matching funds requirement under ReConnect.

**Team.** OTC would be the primary internet service provider under this proposal. Link Oregon is also evaluating whether they could participate by providing operations and maintenance, connectivity to the state research network, and potentially data transport from Grant County to the Pittock internet exchange in Portland. We have retained the Cohen Law Group to advise us on the legal process of structuring this approach, which would be a public private partnership between an intergovernmental agency (GCD), a for-profit company (OTC) and a non-profit (Link Oregon).

**Subscribers.** CTC will have the pre-subscriber forms available by the end of this week. This proposal would include additional education facilities in Long Creek (increasing our score) and would maximize farms, businesses and ranches along the trunk line.

**OPC.** Commstructure is working on a revised OPC for this proposal to help determine if we would need to construct it in stages. Grant County Digital has \$1 million in available cash for matching funds and we have requested additional funding from the state.

**ISPs.** The primary ISP for this route will be OTC, however, CenturyLink could also participate through a double-bonded copper offering. OFP could potentially provide service to the CCFs though there are fewer and would likely require less bandwidth.

**State Broadband Activity.** I have requested documentation for the state broadband activity requirements under the grant.

**Due Date.** Application deadline is May 31.

**TO:** Grant County Digital Board of Directors

**FROM:** Nicholas Green, Executive Director

**DATE:** April 26, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item #6: Airport Lateral / Communications Approach  
Attachment(s)

- None

## **BACKGROUND**

There have been some individuals in the county who have stated that the City of John Day denied access to Ortelco for use of our conduit up to the airport. That is not correct. The conduit is available to any provider who wishes to use it.

## **DISCUSSION**

We have done the field surveying for the route to the airport, however, because it is within a census block area already connected to fiber, we cannot use federal funding to build this lateral. As reviewed previously with the board, the cost to connect the airport through that conduit exceeds the cost to use the existing aerial power lines, and since there are only three potential customers at the industrial park and one at the airport, the cost at this time cannot be recovered in user fees.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

My recommendation to the board is that we wait on the results of the ReConnect and Community Connect grants and then evaluate when and how to connect the airport to fiber as part our broader strategy to review all communications nodes in the county and how to connect each one to fiber.

**TO:** Grant County Digital Board of Directors

**FROM:** Nicholas Green, Executive Director

**DATE:** April 16, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item #7: Other Business and Upcoming Meetings  
Attachment(s)

- None

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- A/V equipment for broadcasting public meetings

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Board Meeting – Tuesday, May 21 – 6 P.M. Fire Hall