

Grant County Digital Network Coalition
January 21, 2020
6:00 PM
John Day Fire Hall, 316 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day

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

CONSENT AGENDA

4. **NONE**
 - None

ACTION ITEMS

5. **FUNDING & GENERAL REPORT**
Attachments:
 - Income and Expenditure Report
 - 2019 Community Connect Award Announcement
 - Satellite Subsidies will Widen Digital Divide in Rural America
6. **OPC / ROUTE MAP FOR AIRPORT & INNOVATION GATEWAY**
Attachments:
 - Route Maps
7. **JOHN DAY FIBER-TO-THE-HOME PROJECT**
Attachments:
 - None
8. **EDA GRANT**
Attachments:
 - None

OTHER BUSINESS & UPCOMING MEETINGS

9. **OTHER BUSINESS & UPCOMING MEETINGS**
 - February 18 Board Meeting – 6 P.M. @ Fire Hall

TO: Grant County Digital Network Coalition

FROM: Nicholas Green, Executive Director

DATE: January 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Consent Agenda Item #4: None
Attachment(s)
• None

BACKGROUND

No items on the consent agenda.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

N/A

Consent Agenda. None.

Recommendation: None.

TO: Grant County Digital Network Coalition

FROM: Nicholas Green, Executive Director

DATE: January 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Agenda Item #5: Funding & General Report
Attachment(s)

- Income and Expenditure Report
- 2019 Community Connect Award Announcement
- Satellite Subsidies will Widen Digital Divide in Rural America

TOPICS FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION

Funding. We are halfway through the fiscal year. Our cash balance is \$1.56M as of December 31, 2019. We have spent \$32,515 in expenditures this year: \$13,277 on personnel services; \$12,169 on materials and services; and \$7,068 in capital outlay. We have earned \$19,188 in interest to offset these costs, resulting in a net expenditure of \$13,327. The Coalition is operating extremely efficiently with 0.8% of net working capital devoted to operating expenses so far this year.

ReConnect. We are reserving up to \$1 million over the next five years as matching funds for the \$6M ReConnect grant. We have not yet entered into negotiations with OTC Connections on the scope of that award and have not signed an agreement to commit funds. These funds will be committed upon reaching an agreement that gives the Coalition license to access the network and will be distributed as OTC reaches specific milestones in the build.

Community Connect. The USDA invested \$24 million in the 2019 Community Connect round. Grant awards were made to 9 states:

- Kentucky – two grants totaling \$4.7M
- Minnesota - \$1.95M
- North Carolina - \$1.93M
- North Dakota – \$844,023
- Oklahoma - \$845,400
- Pennsylvania - \$637,500
- Texas - \$2.3M
- Virginia – two grants totaling \$6M
- West Virginia – two grants totaling \$4.96M

USDA did not notify us that our grant was not declined and we have not been given any feedback on how to improve should we choose to reapply. I have been in touch with staff from Senator Merkley, Senator Wyden, and Congressman Walden's offices and with Oregon's USDA Rural Development staff – John Huffman, John Holman and Erin McDuff. We are trying to coordinate a debrief with USDA on our application to see if there is a way to improve our results in the future. No meeting has been scheduled with USDA yet.

Advocacy. We continue to advocate for legislative changes that will strengthen deployment of high speed internet to rural communities across the country. We were recently highlighted in a MuniNetworks article on the effect of satellite subsidies on the digital divide, which is enclosed for the board's review.

TO: Grant County Digital Network Coalition

FROM: Nicholas Green, Executive Director

DATE: January 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Agenda Item #6: OPC/Route Map for Airport Road & Innovation Gateway
Attachment(s)

- None

BACKGROUND

Commstructure has developed an opinion of probable cost and route map for fiber to the airport and fiber to the Innovation Gateway. We will review their work product during the meeting and discuss how best to fund these projects in the context of the other work we're doing.

TO: Grant County Digital Network Coalition

FROM: Nicholas Green, Executive Director

DATE: November 19, 2019

SUBJECT: Agenda Item #7: John Day Fiber to the Home Project
Attachment(s)

- None

BACKGROUND

We are in discussions with OTC about developing a multi-phase deployment strategy to bring fiber to every premise in John Day. The first phase diagram, connecting Charolais Heights to Patterson Bridge Road via Valley View Drive, is shown below and will be reviewed with the board.

DISCUSSION

The intent is to use grant funding to accomplish these builds and/or complete the trenching to allow OTC to install conduit and pull fiber to areas of John Day that are currently disconnected. The John Day City Council approved the purchase of a mini-excavator and trailer and the equipment is now in John Day and ready to use (pictures enclosed). OTC would plan to take care of all of the bores for the Valley View project to avoid damaging the pavement as we go under the intersections.



We would like to include this scope in the EDA grant if possible. I am currently exploring that possibility with the program office. OTC estimates a total cost of \$3 million (non-prevailing wage) to connect every premise in the City. As John Day is excluded from both CAFII funding and USDA funds, this disaster recovery grant may be the only opportunity to get grant funding for a project like this within city limits.



TO: Grant County Digital Network Coalition

FROM: Nicholas Green, Executive Director

DATE: January 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Agenda Item #8: EDA Grant
Attachment(s)

- None

BACKGROUND

The FY19 Disaster Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) came out in August 2019. Major Disaster Declaration 4452 includes Grant County. EDA has allocated \$587 million in Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program funds under this Disaster Supplemental NOFO among its six Regional Offices that cover the applicable disaster areas.

The Seattle office as \$190 approved to spend and we are discussing the scope of our application with them now. The City is currently receiving funding under the FEMA disaster recovery program for the 4th Street (Airport Access) Road repairs and other damages resulting from the April 2019 flooding. The City is also seeking disaster recovery funds from the EDA for economic assistance related to the flood. This agenda item provides some updated information on the broadband scope from the last time it was discussed in November.

DISCUSSION

Subject to the availability of funds, this investment assistance will help communities and regions devise and implement long-term economic recovery strategies through a variety of non-construction and construction projects, as appropriate, to address economic challenges in areas where a Presidential declaration of a major disaster was issued under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 5121 et seq.)

There are no submission deadlines. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until the publication of a new Disaster Supplemental NOFO, cancellation of this Disaster Supplemental NOFO or all available funds have been expended. EDA intends to review applications within 60 days of receipt.

EAA funds can be awarded to assist a wide variety of activities related to disaster recovery, including economic recovery strategic planning grants, and public works construction assistance. It is a flexible resource that responds adaptively to pressing economic issues and is well-suited to help address challenges faced by regions recovering from natural disasters. Through this program, EDA can support both the development of disaster recovery strategies and the implementation of recovery projects identified with those strategies, including infrastructure improvements and by capitalizing revolving loan funds (RLFs).

To be competitive, applications must clearly incorporate principles for enhancing the resilience (as defined under Section A.4, below) of the relevant community/region or demonstrate the integration of resilience principles into the investment project itself. Resilience is an essential component of any strategy for mitigating the potential for future disaster-related losses and adverse economic impacts for communities. Therefore, inclusion of resilience principles in the project is a necessary step to improve the capacity of the region to recover more quickly from future disaster events. Specifically, as described in Section D.2.a, applicants must include a narrative attachment as a part of their application materials,

describing in detail the nexus between their proposed project scope of work and disaster recovery and resilience efforts.

The strength of the nexus to the disaster is drawn from the consequences of the relevant disaster(s) and the intended project outcomes that fulfill the community's specific post-disaster needs.

Since Grant County is designated as a Presidentially-declared disaster area in the aftermath of the spring flooding, any disaster recovery application from Grant County must demonstrate how the project addresses the recovery and resilience priorities and objectives established under a strategy acceptable to EDA. Projects that consider an all hazards approach are encouraged, but their scope must address the direct consequences of the relevant disaster itself.

EDA's top priorities under this application are:

- 1) **Recovery & Resilience:** Projects that assist with economic resilience (including business continuity and preparedness) and long-term recovery from natural disasters and economic shocks to ensure U.S. communities are globally competitive.
- 2) **Critical Infrastructure:** Projects that establish the fundamental building blocks of a prosperous and innovation-centric economy and a secure platform for American business, including physical (e.g., broadband, energy, roads, water, sewer) and other economic infrastructure.
- 3) **Workforce Development & Manufacturing:** Projects that support the planning and implementation of infrastructure for skills-training centers and related facilities that address the hiring needs of the business community -- particularly in the manufacturing sector -- with a specific emphasis on the expansion of apprenticeships and work-and-learn training models. Also includes projects that encourage job creation and business expansion in manufacturing, including infrastructure-related efforts that focus on advanced manufacturing of innovative, high-value products and enhancing manufacturing supply chains.
- 4) **Exports & FDI:** Primarily infrastructure projects that enhance community assets (e.g., port facilities) to support growth in U.S. exports and increased foreign direct investment—and ultimately the return of jobs to the United States.
- 5) **Opportunity Zones:** Planning and implementation projects aimed at attracting private investment – including from Opportunity Funds – to grow businesses and create jobs in Census tracts that have been designated as Opportunity Zones. This includes targeted projects located within an Opportunity Zone; projects that, while not located within an Opportunity Zone, have a clear intent of benefitting nearby Opportunity Zone(s); and regional projects that encompass an area containing at least one Opportunity Zone with a clear intent of benefitting that Opportunity Zone. Opportunity Zones are designed to spur economic development by providing tax benefits to investors. For more information on Opportunity Zones and Opportunity Funds, see <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/opportunity-zones-frequently-asked-questions>

The Economic Development Administration's disaster supplemental provided \$190 million to the Seattle office (our regional office) for economic recovery. These funds are reserved for communities under a federal disaster declaration. Specific language from the notice of funding availability is provided below.

EAA funds can be awarded to assist a wide variety of activities related to disaster recovery, including economic recovery strategic planning grants, and public works construction assistance. It is a flexible resource that responds adaptively to pressing economic issues and is well-suited to help address challenges faced by regions recovering from natural disasters. EDA encourages the submission of applications based on long-term, regionally oriented, coordinated and collaborative economic development or redevelopment strategies that foster economic growth and resilience. Except for a

strategy grant as described above, each project funded under EAA must be consistent with the region's current CEDS or equivalent EDA-accepted regional economic development strategy meeting EDA's CEDS or strategy requirements.

In terms of economic development, EDA's definition of resilience is broadly defined as the ability of a community or region to anticipate, withstand, and bounce back from various disruptions to its economic base. These disruptions can be caused by a variety of things, including a downturn in the national economy, a decline in a particular industry, or a natural or man-made disaster. Enhancing resilience is a multi-dimensional effort emphasizing engagement and support from all aspects of the community, including economic development practitioners. Some examples include efforts to broaden the industrial base with diversification initiatives, enhance business retention and expansion programs to strengthen existing high-growth sectors and industries, development and construction of high-performance and resilient infrastructure and buildings (e.g., broadband, energy, flexible and natural infrastructure, safe development practices, business incubators) to mitigate future risk and vulnerability, and comprehensive planning efforts that involve extensive engagement from the community to define and implement a collective vision for economic recovery. The development and adoption of new technologies play vital roles in strengthening economic resilience: deploying technologies (e.g., through more robust telecommunications networks or earthquake-ready buildings) enables resilience in the face of natural disasters, and nurturing technology ecosystems supports dynamic, diverse economies that better withstand acute disruptions.

Submitted projects are evaluated by an Investment Review Committee (IRC) based on the following factors:

- i. The strength of the nexus of the project's scope of work to the major disaster designation;
- ii. The extent to which the project is responsive to the needs of communities impacted by the relevant disasters regarding disaster relief, long-term economic recovery, resilience to future disasters, and restoration and enhancement of infrastructure;
- iii. The project's feasibility, which may include the availability and committed nature of proposed matching funds;
- iv. The project's sustainability/durability, including the extent to which the project demonstrates support from regional stakeholders (private, public, and non-profit entities, etc.);
- v. The project's alignment with the regional CEDS or other CEDS equivalent EDA-accepted economic development strategy, including the extent to which the project is aligned with and integrated into other public or private investments currently ongoing or planned for the community and region;
- vi. The project's demonstrated alignment with EDA's current Investment Priorities as outlined at <https://www.eda.gov/about/investment-priorities/disaster-recovery/> and described in Section A.2 of this Disaster Supplemental NOFO;
- vii. The significance of the impact upon the region from the relevant disaster;
- viii. The project's demonstrated ability to foster job creation and promote private investment in the regional economy;
- ix. The likelihood that the project is capable of starting quickly and the immediacy of its impacts;
- x. The applicant's organizational capacity, including its financial and management capacity;
- xi. The extent to which the project will enable the community/region to become more economically diversified, prosperous, and resilient to disasters; and

xii. The extent to which the project is based upon regionally-oriented and collaborative economic development and redevelopment strategies.

PROPOSAL

We are proposing to structure a grant that meets these development priorities to assist with our recovery from the spring flood event. The grant will consist of the following components:

- 1) A revised wireless communications strategy and assessment that assumes fiber is connected to key locations and critical community facilities in Grant County where fiber is currently lacking (i.e. Seneca, Fall Mountain, Grant County Airport, Monument, Long Creek)
- 2) Construction of fiber to the Grant County Airport and John Day Industrial Park, with termination points at both locations.
- 3) Construction of fiber from the Fire Hall to the new John Day Wastewater Treatment Facility and north to a multi-port service terminal that will supply fiber to the future light industrial park (currently Iron Triangle property) for development of that infrastructure and relocation of the treatment plant out of the 100-year floodplain.

NEXT STEPS

We are coordinating with the Grant County Emergency Communications Agency (GCECA) to develop a wireless communications strategy to address Item 1 above. Commstructure is developing an Opinion of Probable Cost (OPC) for the fiber construction to both locations under Items 2 and 3. Chair Walker and Director Green will coordinate with the Grant County Sheriff's Office and Grant County Road Department with regard to relocation of certain assets at Eagle Peak to the proposed location at the Grant County Airport.

We're looking for a couple of products from Day Wireless based on our last meeting with them:

- 1) An as-is network architecture/condition assessment of our current system (both the wireless radios and the PSAP)
- 2) A to-be network architecture with equipment upgrades to both the network radios and PSAP, which will be IP-based and leverage the fiber optic backbone from the BUILD grant. This could include new towers but mostly will focus on the existing towers and how those could be upgraded or eliminated from the network if no longer needed.
- 3) A budgetary cost estimate to create the to-be architecture and some narrative language I can use in the grant application.

The overarching goal is to create one network, with multiple channels for various user groups, but one owner and one responsible entity.

Also, as we discussed, we'd like the various users on board with a basic understanding of:

- 1) Why we need to do this? (we have a 30-year old monster that puts us at risk and still doesn't provide our first responders with the ability to communicate in multiple areas of the county)
- 2) Why now? (we have a window of opportunity under the federal disaster declaration to apply for a pot of money to throw at this)
- 3) Who benefits and how does it affect them? (basically everyone, improves our ability to communicate and hopefully saves us money on manpower, operations and maintenance, while giving us a more reliable, secure and resilient county-wide communications system)

TO: Grant County Digital Network Coalition

FROM: Nicholas Green, Executive Director

DATE: January 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Agenda Item #9: Other Business and Upcoming Meetings
Attachment(s)

- Business Oregon Survey

OTHER BUSINESS

- None

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- February 18 – Board Meeting, 6 P.M. @ Fire Hall