

**Grant County Digital Network Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, March 16, 2021
6:00 PM
Virtual Meeting**

As ordered by Governor Brown under Executive Order 20-05 and guidelines issued for workplaces, schools, care facilities, and other community-wide mitigation efforts to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, this public meeting will offered via teleconference only. Public participation is encouraged by phone or internet using the access information below.

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1. **OPEN AND ROLL CALL**
2. **APPROVAL OF PRIOR BOARD MINUTES**
3. **APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS** – 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. **GC DIGITAL OVERVIEW PRESENTATION**
Attachments:
 - GC Digital Overview – March 2021
6. **EDA GRANT UPDATE**
Attachments:
 - None

OTHER BUSINESS & UPCOMING MEETINGS

7. OTHER BUSINESS & UPCOMING MEETINGS

Attachments:

- Next Board Meeting – April 20th, 6 P.M. Virtual Meeting

TO: Grant County Digital Network Coalition

FROM: Nicholas Green, Executive Director

DATE: March 16, 2021

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: March 16, 2021

SUBJECT: Agenda Item #5: GC Digital Overview Presentation
Attachment(s)

- GC Digital Overview – March 2021

BACKGROUND

This PowerPoint provides an overview of Grant County Digital and our current broadband efforts. It will be reviewed by the board and presented by Chair Walker at the April 1 Community Advisory Team (CAT) meeting based on the board's feedback.

TO: Grant County Digital Network Coalition

FROM: Nicholas Green, Executive Director

DATE: March 16, 2021

SUBJECT: Agenda Item #6: EDA Grant Update
Attachment(s)

- None

BACKGROUND

The EDA Regional Director reviewed the recommendations made by the Investment Review Committee (IRC) and sent us a “carry forward” letter, which will require us to make adjustments to the application and resubmit no later than March 22nd.

I will review our responses to the EDA and provide project updates to the board during this agenda item.

DISCUSSION

During the application process, the IRC asked us to make several changes to the application, including removing the Ironwood Estates housing development (4 jobs) and requiring OTC to competitively bid the application (3 jobs, \$270,000 in private investment). The net result was to remove the “private” side of our proposed public private partnership, which eliminated just over 10 percent of our required 20 percent match and removed the private sector job creation commitments we had secured through our proposal.

I resubmitted the application on January 7 and received the carry forward letter attached, which requires us to make some tactical and strategic decisions with regard to this grant for each application task.

Updates to this item from the March 04 board meeting are highlighted:

Task 1 – Community Broadband

- EDA is requiring OTC to competitively bid for this work. We can draft a solicitation and compete it but this will remove their \$270,000 match;
- Paul Gray, County Emergency Response Coordinator, reached out with an offer to assist with a portion of the County’s \$1.3M received in the most recent legislation;
- I also submitted a request for the additional 10 percent match to the Oregon Broadband Office;
- Under this model, OTC would pay an annual fee to the board for use of the dark fiber network, but the amount of that fee would be subject to negotiation following their bid (i.e. we would calculate the number of potential customers to be served over the life of the lease agreement of apx. 20 years and determine an equitable annual lease cost for OTC to use the network vs. having to build their own);
- HECS provided an ED-900B form for \$5 million in private sector investment with 8 jobs created and 6 jobs saved over the next 10 years if this project is awarded.

Task 2 – GCECA Emergency Communications Equipment Upgrades

- EDA requested we consult with FirstNet (<https://firstnet.gov/>) and coordinate all project components; Valerie Maynard and I have completed this and will have a letter from FirstNet to that effect;

- FirstNet provided a quote for \$756.27 to connect all three radios to FirstNet (via external modems);
- The GCECA recording software has crashed and needs immediate replacement;
- EDA requested we provide additional information on how all 9-1-1 emergency usages are compliant with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) communications requirements; we have FCC licenses for our radios and can submit that they are compliant and this request will not affect our licenses.

Task 3 – GC Coworks Co-working Space

- EDA noted we will need to have title to the property in John Day or a 15-year lease agreement;
- John Day's city council approved the building purchase, subject to EDA awarding the grant;
- EDA asked for a stronger nexus to COVID – the Cyber Mill impact survey should suffice.

TO: Grant County Digital Network Coalition

FROM: Nicholas Green, Executive Director

DATE: March 16, 2021

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

- None

OTHER BUSINESS

- None

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Next Board Meeting – March 16, 6 P.M. Virtual Meeting