

Broadband Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes 2/16/23

Megan DelGaudio  
Mary Ellen Sheffield  
Joe Brown  
Dion Reed  
Todd Mohn  
Ed Cummins  
Ben Schaffle  
Alison Davis  
Andrew Costello  
Ed Clower

Moved to start meeting. Ed Clower 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:07pm

Approval of minutes from 1/19/23. Andrew motioned to approve Dion Reid 2<sup>nd</sup>.

5 members are up for renewal. Three positions are advertised. Could use someone from District 1 and possibly a "Broadband Expert".

Dion made a motion to approve Alison Davis and Ed Cummings to continue their positions on the Advisory Council and Ed Clower 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Megan will follow up with resumes next month so we can have some recommendations. Alison said possibly the James Benson from Kennersley Farms may be interested. Megan will ask him. Megan asked that current members look for others to suggest who would work well with the Council.

Long Driveway Program:

GIS worked up a map to see how many homes this may serve. State has said the infrastructure grants are still being worked on as well laptop program. This program may not come out until Spring or early Summer. Megan wants to get in front of the Commissioners, so we are ready when it comes out.

Reviewing Long Driveway Program on screen. Long Driveway Category 3. Megan added the ISPs that are available here versus Charles County. Arbitrary date for the end date to qualify for reimbursement. The ISP will bill everyone – the resident and the County. We will vet through the ISPs and make sure they are willing to work with this. May need to clarify the wording on page 7. Any amount that exceeds the service drop fee, the 90% of the total will be paid by the County. Need to find out what is a normal cost; Megan will look for Charles County's strategic plan. - \$14,000 where did that come from?

Everybody down long driveway longer than 300 feet = 1,680 locations. Should we include commercial entities? AG only? Some of those people may already have access. Removing those located within an Infrastructure Grants would take off 363; remove people from RDOF areas total is down to about 950.

State Grants 3 years to build. RDOF leaves some room. This year 40%; 2024 60%; 2025 80% - reassess after 2025.

One of the requirements is that you have an ISP currently servicing the road your house is on.

Dion: are we giving minimum specs for the drops down the driveways? Copper vs Fiber the quality and to what speed it will be able to adhere to. Also, on the map there are quite a few clusters. This could be accounted for by shared driveways. This may make the numbers go down as well. There are special considerations for easements. Do we need to keep an eye on what the ISP's choose to build: either a long driveway when there is another shorter access? Dion will work on the document and get it back to Megan with his ideas.

Would want to restrict it to one end point. If they want to pay for any additional buildings that would be between them and the ISP.

Try keeping it to Residential to start. Someone should be living there. Not like a hunting lodge etc.

Who would be reviewing the applications? The Broadband Committee? Approve then send to the Commissioners? May need to get information from P&N for example. The commissioners would only have to be involved to actually allocate the money.

How did they come up with the funding amount in Charles County?

State will have \$24 million. Estimating each County could potentially receive \$1 million.

Made progress will need another round of review.

Charles County podcast: beginning to discuss this program at 4:40.

Hope to hear something from the State before the next meeting.

Megan will check with Talkie to see where they are. Also, Breezeline to get a timeline for Tilghman's Neck.

Comcast the Franchise agreement must be the same as the one the County signed with Breezeline. Do we know where they are willing to go? For it to be equitable they would have to go everywhere.

Motion to adjourn by Alison Davis 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dion Reed at 5:01 pm.