

# **Broadband Feasibility Study Kickoff Meeting-10/21/2019**

## **Comments from Attendees**

### **Mary Margaret Revell-Goodwin – County Historian**

Needs: Women's Museum at Bloomfield Farm – interactive exhibits

### **Josh Combs – Queen Anne's County Public Schools**

Issues:

- a. Distance to Service
- b. Need options for students to have in their homes.

### **Rob Watkins-Sudlersville Middle School, Principal – North County**

Issues:

- a. There should be equal access to broadband
- b. All students have devices necessary for school work but the don't have access to quality and affordable internet.
- c. All grades from 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> need access; but for 11<sup>th</sup> graders and above means a lot – more homework online, access to testing....

### **Mike Wisnosky-Queen Anne's County Planning & Zoning-Director**

Issues:

- a. Developers assume that there is Internet access throughout the county when they come in for a plan.
- b. Growth in the County is hindered by lack of internet.
- c. The county is far behind where it should be in 2019
- d. Kent Island East and East of Kent Island is spotty – Go north and it is far worse

### **Alison Davis – Broadband Advisory Committee, Freelance Writer**

Issues:

- a. She assumed broadband would come when she moved here several years ago.
- b. There is not a business case for this to happen on its own.

### **Lee Bridgman – University of Maryland Extension – Queen Anne's County**

Issues:

- a. Farmers have difficulty accessing monitoring systems. I.e.: Chicken Houses
- b. Cannot utilize the GPS on their tractor without cell service.
- c. Hard for small business to compete without broadband.

### **Janet Salazar- Queen Anne's County Public Library-Director**

Issues:

- a. Many people have to come to the libraries to get access
- b. Library would like to provide a mobile library to areas in North County, but Internet access is not available
- c. Library hours are M-Th 9am – 8pm and Fri-Sat 9am -5pm & Sunday 1pm – 4pm

### **Scott Haas- Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services-Director**

Issues:

- a. The bulk of their data transfer from their fleet is through cell service
- b. Service is okay on Kent Island, Queenstown and Centreville, however, if you drift off the main corridor there is a lack of service.
- c. EMS transport units cannot connect to the hospital to send information, for example running and onsite an EKG reading. If there is no signal this information is not pushed until there is a signal. This shortens the notice to the hospital of the time frame of their arrival as well as giving the hospital less time to interpret the reading.
- d. Fire apparatus cannot access the database that shows closest hydrants or blue prints of buildings. Cannot pre-load due to lack of space on the iPad. Cell signal required to access remotely.

**Beverly Churchill- Queen Anne’s County Dept. of Human Resources – Director**

Issues:

- a. Employees need offsite access to benefits programs from home and work.
- b. Telework options are limited due to lack of access.

**Scott Gornall – Baon Enterprises**

Issues:

- a. His company offers Tech Training for school age children-can’t access without broadband
- b. Lack of broadband affects education
- c. Commercializing wireless technology to lower costs.
- d. Interested in how broadband increases real estate values

**Andrew Costello-Telcom-Broadband Advisory Committee**

- a. Sees the gaps of those with internet access and those without it

**Jeremy Reynolds-Queen Anne’s County Economic Development Commission**

Issues:

- a. His company on Kent Island spent a lot of money to connect to the Maryland Broadband. The Department of Defense has a loop that runs from Wallops Island and connects to Rte. 213; he worked with several businesses to bring that connection to where he is and now has up to 10GB.
- b. If a business needs it, it is there in some areas but is costly.
- c. For a tech park - can get those to MD Broadband Coop fiber
- d. EDC is looking at how to bring in new business if they need a large internet pipe –It helps if location is designated where the infrastructure exists now or somewhere near existing infrastructure and can extend if needed.

**Cathy Willis-Queen Anne’s County Dept of Community Services/Transportation-Director**

Issues:

- a. All buses are now equipped with I-pads for drivers to connect to a centralized system showing where they need to pick riders up. Riders can scan their cards for payment – all of this is reliant on cell service. Due to a lack of this service it is not being utilized efficiently.
- b. Senior centers have PC’s available but outreach at the home is an issue. When working with a client in their home it is not always possible to enroll them in programs or print paperwork due to having no or limited internet access.

**Dave MacGlashan – Queen Anne’s County DPW and Broadband advisory Committee**

Issues:

- a. Personally has two school age children and has to get his internet connection that is bounced off an old grain silo.