

PARK COUNTY BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2022

Attendees: John Carr, President
Kim Burton, Secretary (by phone)
Christopher Byram, Park County IT
Steve Wesoloski, KZ Ranch
Amy Mitchell, County Commissioner
David Shipley, SPT/Highline
James Roberts, SPT/Highline
Karen Banta, SPT/Highline
Bill Boles, Board Member (by phone)
Emmy West, Communications Manager, Park County (by phone)
Nate Walowitz, NW Council of Governments (by phone)
Mark Northrop, Pikes Peak Council of Governments (by phone)
Joe Keen (by phone)

Next meeting: Monday, April 11, 2022, 10-12 am, Fairplay Community Center, 880 Bogue St, Fairplay, CO 80440

1. Announcements

n/a

2. Discussion

Chris Byram – Update on Park County

1. Chris is meeting with the facilities manager of Search & Rescue to get them connected to the Park County broadband fiber network in Bailey
2. He will set up a meeting with SPT/Highline at the Park County courthouse in Fairplay as they want wi-fi set up in the courtrooms
3. Public Health Building in Bailey – Fiber is run to the public health building; Chris was hooking them up today. They had been using CenturyLink

Emmy West

1. PCBAB website is revamped. Bailey Area Broadband Survey will be added shortly.
2. The Affordability Connectivity Program has been added to the Parkco.us/Broadband website. David Shipley pointed out that there may be an issue with residents who are on E Rate subsidies qualifying for Affordability Connectivity subsidies.

3. Suggestion to hand out flyers at Mad Jacks and other places to promote the Bailey Area Broadband Survey (Kim sent Emmy the flyer that we used last year)
4. John will connect Emmy with Karen Banta of SPT
5. John will also connect Emmy with Bev Long, the Elk Creek Falls grant leader

David Shipley, SPT/Highline

1. Burland – 1300 residents. Broke ground in November, but the weather stopped progress. They will resume at the first thaw. The permits are submitted. There is a hurdle in that aerial leads are on private property. CORE electric has an easement, but SPT still needs permission from landowners. There are 60 in this set.
2. Staunton kicking off in June – 800 homes
3. Silverheels Ranch broadband installation is complete
4. Reconnect Grant – Highline/South Park Telephone has applied to the Federal Communications Commission ReConnect program for funding a project to cover most of South Park with Fiber to the Home broadband internet service, applied March 9 – \$25 million, 3400 homes in Placer Valley, Alma, Mosquito Gulch, Valley of the Sun, Glacier Ridge, Fairplay, Foxtail Pines, Warm Springs, Camo Ground of the Rockies, Ranch of the Rockies, Red Hill Forest, Buffalo Ridge, South Hartsel, and Wild Wood Village. This project will cover most residents and businesses in the South Park area with broadband speed internet services.
5. Hartsell Springs Ranch – Comnet is replacing the existing cell tower with a new higher mono pole to support the First Net emergency communications network in that area of South Park.
6. South Park application is being held up by an environmental study
7. SPT/Highline has paired with AEG (Atlantic Engineering Group) for turnkey fiber build solutions. This makes them ideal for projects in the area.
8. David wants a fiber map/red line – John will provide some information. JKL should have provided this information as they've done most of the fiber work

Amy Mitchell

1. Volunteered to help with communication
2. Concerned that the FCC Regulations are outdated – they are from 1996

Nate Walowitz

1. Reiterated DOLA grant is 50/50 match
2. Looking at future broadband funding source to get CDOT fiber in Aspen Park down into Bailey.

Mark Northrop

1. Check out their website for information on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
2. There is a tri-county broadband study occurring – Park, Teller, and El Paso counties

Bill Boles

1. Looking for internet in his area. Peak Communications in Woodland Park may provide broadband services to the Lake George area.

John Carr

1. We are exploring grants to install Middle Mile fiber from Grant to Bailey and on to Pine Junction, then off 72 and 43. Will prepare information for the American Rescue Plan programs. Goal is the Middle Mile Expansion Plan ready September 1.