



**Office of the Governor
Economic Development & Tourism**

Governor's Broadband Development Council Meeting

March 18, 2021

Office of the Governor | Economic Development & Tourism

P.O. Box 12428 | Austin, TX 78711 | (p) 512.936.0100 | gov.texas.gov/business |      @TexasEconDev

AGENDA
Governor's Broadband Development Council

March 18, 2021
1:30 PM

VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

Governor's Broadband Development Council (" Council ") members will be meeting via videoconference.

Members of the public who would like to attend the meeting may join by videoconference using the following information:

Free Web Link for Videoconference:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZTlkNGZjMjMtYWZmOS00ZWZkLTg5YzEtMjc0ODMwOTBjMjBm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2254cb5da6-c734-4242-bbc2-5c947e85fb2c%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22bc6eb630-bc65-4377-b472-df8f2396b720%22%7d

Members of the public attending the meeting via the videoconference information provided will be able to hear audio of the meeting and can provide comments during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. The Council will also record the meeting, which will be made available to members of the public.

All agenda items are subject to possible discussion, questions, consideration, and action by the Council. Agenda item numbers are assigned for ease of reference only and do not necessarily reflect the order of their consideration by the Council. Presentations may be made by the identified staff or Council member or others as needed.

ITEM

I. Call to Order

II. Chair welcome, remarks and roll call

III. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Minutes from the Council meeting on January 28, 2021 (Tab 1).

IV. Comments by Representative Ashby and/or his staff providing information relating to Council's areas of research, identification, study, and analysis under Tex. Gov't Code § 490H.006, including information relating to distribution of broadband in unserved areas of Texas, and Council review, discussion, consideration and/or possible action regarding same

V. Comments by The Pew Charitable Trusts staff providing information relating to Council's areas of research, identification, study, and analysis under Tex. Gov't Code § 490H.006, including information relating to distribution of broadband in unserved areas of Texas, and Council review, discussion, consideration and/or possible action regarding same

VI. Comments by Chairman Sproull relating to prospective Council meeting schedule for the remainder of the calendar year, and Council review, discussion, consideration and/or possible action regarding same (Tab 2)

VII. Review, Discussion, Consideration and/or Possible Action on Council Next Steps for Following Meeting(s) - Chairman Sproull

VIII. Comments without Deliberation:

Public comment may be received on any matter under the Council's jurisdiction without regard to whether the item was posted on the agenda.

IX. Adjournment

Link to March 18, 2021 Council meeting documents:

<https://gov.texas.gov/business/page/governors-broadband-development-council>

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting, who may need auxiliary aids or services, or who need assistance in having English translated into Spanish, should contact Philip Rocha at 512-936-0246 at least 2 days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Personas con discapacidades que asistirán a esta reunión y requieren servicios o instrumentos especiales, o necesitaran traducción al español, por favor de comunicarse con Philip Rocha al 512-936-0246 por lo menos 2 días antes de la reunión para hacer los arreglos necesarios.

Tab

1

GOVERNOR'S BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Minutes of January 28, 2021 Meeting

Videoconference Meeting

10:00 AM

VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

GOVERNOR'S BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

William "Bill" Sproull (Chair), Juli Blanda, Frank Moreno, Lindsey Lee, Marshall Harrison, Marty Lucke, Kirk Petty, M.D., Greg Pittman, Jennifer K. Harris, Kenny Scudder, Mike Easley, Edward Smith, Steven Johnson, Ph.D., Saurin Patel, M.D., Kirk Petty

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Lindsey Aston, Philip Rocha , Sam Schornack, Michael Treyger, Joe Magruder, Larry McManus, Ryland Ramos

The Governor's Broadband Development Council ("Council") proceeded on posted agenda items in the order as follows:

Agenda Item I. CALL TO ORDER

Bill Sproull, Chairman of the Governor's Broadband Development Council, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. A quorum was present online.

Agenda Item II. CHAIR WELCOME, REMARKS AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Sproull welcomed the Council for their fourth meeting and briefly outlined the agenda for the meeting.

Agenda Item III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING ON OCTOBER 19, 2020

The Council reviewed minutes from the meeting held on October 19, 2020.

ACTION: Motion to approve the October 19 meeting minutes by Greg Pittman, seconded by Frank Moreno. Motion to approve the minutes carried unanimously.

Agenda Item IV. COMMENTS BY OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY STAFF PROVIDING INFORMATION RELATING TO THE COUNCIL’S AREAS OF RESEARCH, IDENTIFICATION, STUDY, AND ANALYSIS UNDER TEX. GOV’T CODE 490H.006, INCLUDING INFORMATION RELATING TO DISTRIBUTION OF BROADBAND IN UNSERVED AREAS OF TEXAS, AND COUNCIL REVIEW, DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SAME

Brian Whitacre from Oklahoma State University shared remarks and gave a presentation regarding factors that impact broadband availability. Mr. Whitacre focused on rural areas and explained policies that may have contributed to other states’ broadband efforts. Mr. Whitacre shared data based on different state-level policies.

Mr. Whitacre answered questions from several members of the Council regarding state broadband offices and other aspects of states’ broadband efforts.

Agenda Item V. COMMENTS BY GROW ASSOCIATES, LLC STAFF PROVIDING INFORMATION RELATING TO COUCIL’S AREAS OF RESEARCH, IDENTIFICATION, STUDY, AND ANALYSIS UNDER TEX. GOV’T CODE 490H.006, INCLUDING INFORMATION RELATING TO DISTRIBUTION OF BROADBAND IN UNSERVED AREAS OF TEXAS, WHICH INCLUDES AN UPDATE ON OPERATION CONNECTIVITY, AND COUNCIL REVIEW, DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SAME

Gabby Rowe from Grow Associates provided an update on Operation Connectivity and student connectivity in Texas. Ms. Rowe addressed infrastructure, technology, and the status of Operation Connectivity’s phased plan.

Ms. Rowe answered a few questions from the members of the Council.

Agenda Item VI. COMMENTS BY CONNECTED NATION STAFF PROVIDING INFORMATION RELATING TO COUNCIL’S AREAS OF RESEARCH, IDENTIFICATION, STUDY, AND ANALYSIS UNDER TEX. GOV’T CODE 490H.006, INCLUDING INFORMATION RELATING TO DISTRIBUTION OF BROADBAND IN UNSERVED AREAS OF TEXAS, AND COUNCIL REVIEW, DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SAME

Lindsay Conrad from Connected Nation gave a presentation discussing the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Ms. Conrad discussed the background of the program as well as funding availability and timeline. Ms. Conrad walked the Council through the results of the Fund’s “Phase 1” and and also discussed the Fund’s “Phase 2.” She also noted that Texas ranks #9 of states in money allocated to broadband.

Agenda Item VII. REVIEW, DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CHAIRMAN SPROULL RELATING TO COUNCIL'S AREAS OF RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION, STUDY, AND ANALYSIS UNDER TEX. GOV'T CODE 490H.006, INCLUDING INFORMATION RELATING TO DISTRIBUTION OF BROADBAND IN UNSERVED AREAS OF TEXAS, WHICH INCLUDES INFORMATION RELATING TO BROADBAND LEGISLATION

Chairman Sproull informed the Council of two bills filed in the Texas Legislature by Rep. King and Senator Perry. Chairman Sproull noted that he would keep track of the bills as they move through the process.

Agenda Item VIII. REVIEW, DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION ON COMMITTEE NEXT STEPS FOR FOLLOWING MEETINGS – CHARIMAN SPROULL

Suggestion from Chariman Sproull that the Council continue the sub-committee structure going forward and that the Council meet monthly.

Agenda Item IX. COMMENTS WITHOUT DELIBERATION:

Public comment may be received on any matter under the Council's jurisdiction without regard to whether the item was posted on the agenda.

No public comment

Agenda Item X. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Sproull called the meeting to a close at 11:21 AM

Date

_____ Bill Sproull, Chair

Tab

2

Proposed Governor's Broadband Development Council meeting dates for 2021

April 15, 2021

May 20, 2021

June 17, 2021

July 15, 2021

August 19, 2021

September 16, 2021

October 21, 2021

November 18, 2021

December 16, 2021



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