

LOVELAND BROADBAND TASK FORCE
September 1, 2016 Minutes
Platte River Power Authority / 2000 E. Horsetooth Road / Ft. Collins, CO
10:00 a.m.

Task Force Members Present: Mindy McCloughan, Dave Kavanagh, Dick Toftness, Doug Rutledge, Fernando Pedroza, Jason Frisbie,

City Council Liaison Present: John Fogle

Task Force Members Absent: Julie Klein, Paul Langfield

City Staff Members Present: Steve Adams, Bill Westbrook, Briana Reed-Harmel, Tom Hacker, Alicia Calderon, Kim O'Field, Kathy Gross

Consultant Present: John Honker from Magellan via telephone

Audience: Ken Chaiken, Ken Lazear (at 10:30)

Call to order at 10:02 by Mindy McCloughan. Mindy acknowledged the sudden loss of Dr. Dan Maas and stated that she is willing to continue in her role as chair next year, as Dan was vice chair, unless someone else would like to volunteer to take on that position. There were no volunteers. Mindy shared that there is a scholarship initiative through the school district in the memory of Dan and his wife Loan; Mindy will keep the group apprised of progress on that project.

Approval of the minutes: Dave Kavanagh motioned and Jason Frisbie seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

BROADBAND ASSESSMENT AND FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS

John Honker from Magellan spoke of their progress on the feasibility study and how that has been performed in two stages: 1) Assessment of Loveland's current system. 2) Community outreach which will occur on September 6, 7 and 8. Magellan has senior staff coming to Loveland these dates to meet with individual stakeholders, one-on-one, along with City staff. Additionally on September 7 there will be two community focus group business meetings with Magellan and City staff. What is hoped to be gleaned from these meetings regarding their broadband is: what do businesses have today, how are they using technology/broadband, what are they paying for services, what's holding them back, how can the City improve that, what can make them more efficient? This information will help finalize the needs assessment.

John checked Open City Hall from the City's website to examine the numbers of survey results. We are at 871 for residential and 167 for business; business has gone up substantially. The goal for business is 350 responses.

John also presented a color-coded map to show households that are and are not subscribing to at least a 10MB service. Most of the city is 10MB or greater. This data assists with the assessment.

PRPA's FIBER POSITION

Paul Crosby of Platte River Power Authority provided a system overview and touched on activities currently being worked on. Paul gave a history of PRPA's communication system for the four cities. Paul provided a list of fiber services currently provided to Loveland, and described specific projects that PRPA is working on. Their fiber system inventory should be complete in Loveland by the end of October.

Next Paul talked about the Fiber Optic Business Plan. Being considered a local government, PRPA is not exempt from SB152 and they have no way to exempt themselves through an election from SB152 as the cities did. Paul described a possible Fiber Optic Business Plan. The plan proposed an equitable way to divide the assets among the cities and frees up PRPA to be an agent of the cities instead of an owner of the fiber. A great deal of thought and discussion needs to take place among the cities to complete the plan. Meetings will take place for this purpose.

UPDATE ON CITY'S PROJECT STATUS

Briana Reed-Harmel gave a quick broadband update on the City's feasibility study with Magellan and stated that the City is on track with that. Briana summarized the community outreach portion, and stated that an outstanding item is to connect with folks that haven't yet responded to the survey. The plan is to have the feasibility study done by late this year/early next year. The City-owned asset inventory is complete – we are now moving into the inventory we share with PRPA. Briana told the group that the regional broadband cooperation meetings that take place with the cities and county has resulted in Larimer County having an upcoming ballot measure to override SB152. She shared that the City's broadband team will make presentations at the Business Appreciation Breakfast in October 13, where we will ask the audience to participate in the survey, and at Water and Power's Annual Key Accounts Meeting in December. On October 25 and December 13 she will be taking updates to City Council. The task force is encouraged to attend the Business Appreciation Breakfast and the council meetings. Finally, Briana noted that the new website for the task force is where we will put all information for the group. This will replace SecureShare and is a one-stop shop for all broadband information – minutes, agendas, documents and webpages will all be stored here.

Dick Toftness inquired whether anyone attended the Ft. Collins study session presentation. He did attend and has the presentation to share; it will be posted on our website.

FUTURE AGENDA/OTHER DISCUSSION

The next meeting will be held at the Loveland Chamber of Commerce, 5400 Stone Creek Circle.

Future topics include economic development impact of fast data access and/or E911 and FirstNet for first responders.

Fernando Pedroza has an ongoing conflict with the time of these meetings, and asks if we might be able to change the start time of meetings to one hour earlier – begin at 9:00 a.m. instead of 10:00 a.m. A Doodle poll will be sent by Kim O’Field to board members to see if this is a viable option. Results will be announced before the next board meeting.

Jason says that at some point, this group needs to start giving thought to what Platte River is proposing about how long hauls should be divvied up. Think as a group about best way to utilize that asset, as it will be a collaborative effort between PRPA, municipalities and this group to decide.

The group then stopped the meeting to go on a tour of Platte River’s facilities.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Gross
Recording Secretary
Loveland Broadband Task Force