

## Broadband Advisory Meeting - Aug. 8, 2019

### Attendees:

Allen Boaz welcomed everyone and asked for old business

George asked about the grant and there was a discussion about the receipts and grant reimbursements process. Traci asked George and BRT to followup with her about the fiscal management needs and processes to ensure

George, Allen and Andy Dooley met with Riverstreet this past month about the \$47.5 M in FCC CAF funds that they had won for the Huddleston area of Bedford County and many other rural counties. Out of that, Bedford County, Pittsylvania County and Gretna has an allocation \$6.3M. (The grant has a sunset on it meaning they have finish the work by a certain date. They are looking for localities to provide \$50k to do the study for broadband and get involved with potential funding to help them do the fiber work faster than 10 years which is how long it takes without funding.)

Aug. 2 meeting at Claytor Nature Center regarding Broadband opportunities. Their current Internet provider is Scionet and they are interested in Briscnet and what can be done to help them. George will stay in touch with them and followup.

BRT introduced Eric Williams, Head of Marketing for Briscnet/BRT. He is going to publish details and launch dates soon.

Sean briefed the advisory team on the Aug. 8, 2019 progress report and discussed pending lease terms with the various wireless carriers that are signing leases. T-Mobile is the first and they are in talks with US Cellular. This is worth roughly \$48,000 a year in revenues to be shared with the county. See Blue Ridge Towers Progress Report in separate link.

Pole Attachments are still being worked on with AEP.

“We’re kicking off construction in Big Island and the first of fiber next week in Montvale. It’s exciting to be 4mo ahead of schedule.

George talked about three properties. Wheat’s Valley, McGhee Rd., and New London water tank. At Wheat’s Valley, there were some questions about fall zones to ensure it didn’t damage the dam and George looked into that and provided documentation.

Sean reported on all of the actions taken regarding the land issues and solutions taken. George commended Sean on the successful work he has taken on for this project.

Shentel will connect to Verizon on southside of Hales Ford Bridge. Shentel is putting fiber in from Moneta to Bedford per the map of current Shentel Coverage Area. On 122, we’ll see Verizon and Shentel fiber activity strand.

New Business – George asked if anyone had any new business. Question was raised about the meeting Allen and Robert Hiss had with SCS. Traci read Robert’s response about the outcome of that meeting. Where is the lease and what are the terms?