

## **Balancing Economic Development & Environmental Stewardship Meeting Notes October 12, 2010**

**Team Goal: Community members steward both a vibrant economy and our human and natural resources so that all generations thrive.**

**Attendance:** Cimbria Badenhausen, Pat Jones, Gunnar Berg, Bob Spurr, Dennis Quinn, Ray O'Brien, Noreen Downs, Carter Terenzini, David Little, T. Parssinen, Carol Miller, Mark McConkey, Cyndi Paulin

The October meeting focused on information about broadband and strategies that communities and residents can use to expand broadband service throughout Carroll County to support economic development as well as personal use. There was a presentation by and discussion with Carol Miller, Director of Broadband Technology, NH Division of Economic Development.

There are actions that communities and citizens can take to expand broadband coverage in their communities. The key actions recommended to expand to 'last mile' areas are:

- Changes in cable franchise agreements
- Track broadband within a town's Master Plan (may need to track by service type vs. provider name.)
- Working together with your neighbors and local providers to bring broadband to your neighborhood or town.
- Attend Broadband Internet Forum at Ossipee Town Hall, October 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m. to learn more about state's Broadband project. Contact Michelle Therrien (lrpc@lakesrpc.org) at the Lakes Region Planning Commission for further information.
- Help the state map broadband in our area by encouraging people to take the speed test at <http://www.iwantbroadbandnh.org/>; the more homes that participate the better the data.
- Watch for pending state legislation to create a broadband fund and help to support it.

### **Cable Franchise agreement renegotiation points:**

- Leave a window for renegotiation if the assets of the company are transferred to another entity.
- Get commitment for additional build-out on a yearly basis. (Conway example – they have a clause committing the company to add 1 ½ miles of cable a year.)
- Length of agreement – 10-15 years is long for towns (selectman turn over and broadband provider may change, maybe 2-3 times)

**Suggestions for working together with neighbors:** Communities need to rally and organize people to get broadband; work together, don't go it alone; don't wait, talk to your neighbors. Look to partner with a provider who can get the job done. Don't be afraid to look to people in your community who may have the means to help out. Engage your local politicians.

Two great examples of community members working together with local providers in Carroll County to expand broadband are Tamworth Wireless and CyberPine. With an access point, neighborhoods without broadband can get access through wireless point to point networks. (An access point can be a willing nearby neighbor who does have broadband!)

### Current landscape and other information:

- Wired broadband such as cable or DSL or wireless point to point networks are the current viable technologies for expansion in Carroll County. Fixed wireless (point to point) has higher speeds than 'cell-phone' wireless and satellite.
- High speed internet needed for tele-medicine/electronic medical monitoring, multi-media distance learning and home-based businesses. Is there any telemedicine for seniors in Carroll County?
- It is possible for almost anyone to get broadband but is it realistically affordable and attainable? (Running a cable for thousands of dollars is unrealistic for most.)
- NH has a \$44.5 million dollar grant for expanding broadband
  - Project focuses on the middle mile in all 10 counties and two local last mile pilot projects elsewhere in the state. (Project has to be deployed as proposed.)
  - Pilot projects are called Fast Roads NH - <http://www.newhampshirefastroads.net/>
  - The middle mile lines will be open access which will open up access to building out last mile.
  - There will be a "fiber holding company" established to hold the assets and manage access.
  - Microwave component for public safety will open up tower space.
  - Poles are almost entirely owned by PSNH, Fairpoint and other utilities – access to poles needed to complete project.
- E-rate – schools can get lower cost internet - <http://nheon.org/oet/erate/consortium.htm>
- People with broadband generally "don't care" about people who don't have broadband.
- Few municipal networks make money, takes long time to get return on investment. Partnering with local provider usually better option.
- Challenges for wireless network are the terrain (hills/mountains and leaves) and equipment location (access to the backhaul to run the system). Have had good luck working with people to set up neighborhood nodes, offering free service to the 'host' works well.

### Resources:

- For Broadband mapping Project: [www.iwantbroadbandnh.org](http://www.iwantbroadbandnh.org)
- For \$44.5 million Grant Project: [www.networknhnow.org](http://www.networknhnow.org)
- Local government center for templates for franchise agreements  
<http://www.nhlgc.org/index.asp>
- Watch for new tool kit for communities from the NH Division for Economic Development
- Speed Matters – promotes high speed internet access for all Americans  
<http://www.speedmatters.org/>
- NH 2009 Speed Matters report  
[http://cwafiles.org/speedmatters/State\\_Reports\\_2009/CWA\\_Report\\_on\\_Internet\\_Speeds\\_2009\\_new\\_hampshire.pdf](http://cwafiles.org/speedmatters/State_Reports_2009/CWA_Report_on_Internet_Speeds_2009_new_hampshire.pdf)

**Next meeting:** Tuesdays, November 16, December 14 at 8:00 am (Tri-County CAP Resource Center).  
November meeting will follow up on broadband as well as what we have learned from the town surveys.