

Sequim Broadband Action Team

Meeting Notes

Thursday, 9/26, 5:00 to 6:00 PM

Burkett Community Room, Sequim Civic Center, 152 W. Cedar Street

Notes from June meeting in green

Notes from July meeting in blue

Notes from September meeting in red

1) Introductions

2) Develop Strategic Direction

a. Why do we care about broadband?

It is important for school students and commerce. Having good connectivity for software development, remote workers, etc. It is helpful for commerce in general. It is transformative in the way that people do business and education. So many devices are dependent upon being connected to broadband. One could consider it a national security issue – system updates are critical and poor connectivity makes it less likely people will do updates. Real estate without access has a lower market value. There is no cable in certain neighborhoods. The phones and televisions are internet connected. There is little available here over the airwaves. There is a sense of fairness and equity for all citizens to have access. It is good for tourism. So many internet services are streaming services now – you need a good connection to receive them. Not caring about it means the economy will suffer and disappear. The internet of things – interconnected devices, including cameras, cars, etc.

b. What data questions do we have? – Bob Lake will help us collect this data. 2010 Census data could be used – by census blocks.

How many households in Sequim? 2010 census - 3,340

How many households in greater Sequim? There are 23,000 parcels in the Sequim School District. Bob will break it down by businesses vs. residential.

How many customers does Wave serve in Sequim? Michael from Wave Cable will assist with some of this data.

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How many customers do the other ISPs serve? There might be a way to look at PUD fiber by ISP. NoaNet could provide more insight.

How many businesses are underserved? This could be a part of a business blitz. It could also be survey. Is it adequate?

Follow-up discussion with new information. Make use of American Community Survey data from Colleen. Also follow-up with the FCC.

Satellite service is something to monitor for the future.

List of Potential sources for data:

City of Sequim – we can share information on business licenses in the City of Sequim. Desired data is number of businesses, NAICS code, revenue by code, contact information, level of service need and how does it vary by code?, how about home based businesses? City staff are looking into how data might be able to be shared.

Future data from the Center for Inclusive Entrepreneurship (CIE) will be helpful.

How about Clallam County? Can we get it from the State? The County cannot get this data right now.

How do we reach people who aren't on the "radar"? Remote workers working for a business elsewhere. Larger industry headquartered elsewhere. We need to bring this up with the consultant on the CERB Planning Grant.

PUD 31,310 meters (CL200 amp service for residential electricity). Some of these places are very remote. The meters are probably 80 to 85% of the total household count. The census is a better count for households.

Sunland & other water districts, local utility districts (LUDs) would be helpful contacts (structure used to finance broadband) We need to develop a contact list. We could ask if they have service as a district and who the provider(s) are. People report underservice in some of these outlying areas. It would be good to give them a voice. These partners also have mailing lists and could be good partners for a future survey.

It would be good to talk with other districts about how they set up their LUDs (ex. Kitsap). Perhaps we could invite Kitsap to a future meeting. ESSB 6034 – water, sewer, and wholesale telecom in a county with an area less than 500 square miles – only Kitsap qualifies for the type of assistance they have been providing to LUDs. This is a good topic for the consultant. Michael with Wave will reach out to Sunland.

Murray's Disposal – who is paying online? That could be a way to find out some information about tech savviness of residents. The City of Sequim will follow-up on this one.

ISPs Wave, Olypen, Nikola, etc. – yes, bringing these folks to the table

Sequim Chamber of Commerce – survey partner, focus group partner, could help us with a broadband workshop to enhance business access and understanding

Workshop with residents and ISPs to talk about costs and tools to get service – PUD potentially as wholesale provider to LUDs (last mile)

Community foundations to help with LUDs and anything else they want to fund

Community oriented banks

Kitsap contact on LUDs David will take this on. Angela Benning is the contact.

Real estate data would be helpful - City of Sequim will follow-up.

For the broadband study – what are the regulatory barriers? Getting a handle on the overall situation is important. Looking at pilot projects as a potential outcome, with some evaluation of them after the fact. Stick with the FCC standard for bandwidth (it is for residential service). Cost (of service) is a critical factor as well. What about the different needs of business vs. residential vs. remote working? What about service levels?

Kitsap PUD's Local Utility District (LUD) – the cost was \$10-\$14,000 per house from their LUD. It is paid through the County over time. Kitsap has done 8 or 9 LUDs and has some special powers.

Mason PUD's LUD – neighborhoods ask for the survey. If interested, they have a \$25 fee per month on their ISP bill for 12 years if they receive service. It comes to \$3,600 over time. Why does Mason PUD have a lower cost? It is based upon service subsidization.

Clallam PUD – we don't have the demand for fiber to justify a trencher like they have at Mason PUD.

There is additional spectrum for service becoming available from old analog channels that are going away (tv).

Kitsap's exemption is because they don't provide electric service. There might be an opportunity to do something different with changes to state law. You can possibly petition the PUD for retail service if you cannot get adequate service as a residence. There is an interesting conversation we could explore at a future meeting, especially as we have more data.

There is a service divide between residential and commercial (commercial gets better service).

We need a clear view into the rate structure for various retailers. We at least need to know where the barriers for service are located.

Jamestown Networks can provide retail service to commercial, but not residential.

c. What are our priorities and goals?

With the problem defined then ask these questions:

- Is this a project worth pursuing? Yes, so far.
 - **What is underserved? Can you quantitatively determine what people would be willing to pay and what they want? How much are you willing to pay for better service? Remind people of what they are missing – potential Polco survey**
 - Limiting what we can do in the future would be unfortunate. Hopefully we can choose options that don't limit the future.
 - **City and county standards for development need to encourage broadband. Do we require development to tell us more about the service they will receive? Putting conduit, even empty, in the ground is a good move.** Look at Howard Street expansion in Port Townsend. Michael from Wave will follow-up on this with a contact.

- Will the ISPs share their projections for serving additional households? Conversation to have. Nikola is slowly growing and busy. Wave is busy as well. They installed 7 miles of fiber per month in 2018 (statewide with about 90% of that was east of Seattle). CresComm grew 29% last year (services west of PA).
- Where are specific pockets of underserved / unserved households? Analysis to conduct – strategy needed.

3) Update on CERB Planning Grant

The Countywide CERB Broadband Planning Grant is receiving funding. A consultant will be on board early next year. The City of Sequim must approve an Interlocal Agreement with the Port and other partners to participate.

4) Define Next Steps

- Review scope of work for CERB Planning Grant and discuss gaps we still want to address (Skype or phone option)
- Invite Mason PUD, Kitsap PUD, Councilor from Shelton

5) Set Next Meeting Time/Date

- Next meeting is Thursday, November 14th at 5:00 PM at the Sequim Civic Center