

A meeting of the McKenzie Valley Broadband Planning group was held on April 7, 2016.

Attendees included:

Kevin & Vicki Allard – Goodpasture Rd
Ben Sunderland – Upper Deerhorn Rd
Chuck Tannenbaum – Walterville
Jim Baker – Blue River
Will Rutherford – Below Leaburg Dam
Gerry Aster – Goodpasture Rd
Kitti Price
Ashley Adelman – Rainbow
Marilyn Cross -- Nimrod

Agenda:

- 4:30 Welcome and Introductions
- 4:40 Agenda Review
- 4:45 Work to be accomplished
 - Planning
 - Organizing
 - Funding
 - Communication
- 5:15 Logistics
 - When and where to meet
 - Project leadership
 - Getting educated
- 5:30 Begin focusing on the scope of work
 - Brainstorm possible things to include
 - Narrow and prioritize the possible items
- 6:00 Adjourn

The meeting quickly moved away from the agenda to a focused discussion of the scope. The consensus was that rather than explore the alternative technologies that might be applied in the McKenzie Valley, the first effort will focus on what it might cost to have CenturyLink expand their plan to include some of the areas that are not now included. In general, CenturyLink is installing their “new” technology along the McKenzie Highway corridor but will not improve service to those who are on the opposite side of the river from the highway or not within acceptable distance of one of the planned five nodes. Examples of areas that may not be reached by the CenturyLink plan include Camp Creek, Deerhorn, Goodpasture Road and Lakeview Drive, and sections of Rainbow and McKenzie Bridge.

The group agreed to develop profiles of some of the areas that are not currently within the areas CenturyLink is known to be expanding to. The areas that will be investigated are:

- School – Marilyn Cross will reach out to Jim Thomas and Jason to understand what the requirements will be for synchronous video communications in distance learning
- Clinic – Jim Baker will reach out to the clinic to determine requirements for telemedicine capability (both local equipment and network requirements)
- Goodpasture – Gerry Aster, Kevin & Vicki Allard will work to understand the community profile for the residences and businesses on the bank of the McKenzie that CenturyLink is not now planning to address
- US Forest Service, Deerhorn Ranch Acres, Shangri-La – Ben Sunderland will work to understand the community profile for the residences and businesses on the bank of the McKenzie that CenturyLink is not now planning to address

At the meetings, attendees discussed the potential for a community education session on broadband. Another option is developing a list of frequently asked questions or broadband technology guide.

Subsequent to the meeting, Gerry Aster and Marilyn Cross discussed the use of Survey Monkey to collect the profile of residential and business areas. Survey Monkey is a free online tool in which surveys can be setup and respondents can provide information which is then analyzed by online tools. Gerry has started working on a questionnaire and Marilyn will set it up in Survey Monkey. Those who are willing to respond can then go online through a link e-mailed to them to provide their information. Information is provided anonymously.

Marilyn Cross will contact Karen Stewart of CenturyLink to describe the approach the McKenzie Valley is taking and discuss who from CenturyLink might respond and when. We will also clarify exactly what CenturyLink said about the timeframe for upgrades they are currently designing for the McKenzie Valley based on their participation in the FCC CAF II program.

Members of the group requested additional information about the success stories in Sherman County and at Klamath Community College. The first step to understanding their approaches can be found in the presentation material from the Oregon Rural Broadband Conference. Links directly to that material follow:

PowerPoint from Sherman County: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/files/MichaelSmith-SHERMAN-COUNTY.pdf>

PowerPoint from Klamath County: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/files/JulieMurray-Jensen-KCC.pdf>

If appropriate and there is interest, we should be able to schedule a Skype conference with either presenter to understand more about their approach.

Information was also requested about LCC, Lane County and LCOG interests in this area. Information about both can be found at these links:

Lane Online Information:

https://www.lanecc.edu/laneonline?utm_source=megamenu&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=megamenu

LCOG Board Information: <http://www.lcog.org/343/Board-of-Directors>

Ashley Adelman pointed out that McKenzie Schools have been paying for a seat at LCOG for the last two years but not sending a representative. Marilyn Cross followed up with Jim Thomas and the school did not renew their membership this year. Given the services LCOG provides, it would be beneficial to have community representation on the Board.

Marilyn Cross will establish a next meeting to bring together our data collection and plan the meeting with CenturyLink in about 2 to 3 weeks. The meeting will be in the evening (6:30 – 8:00 maximize participation.

Subsequent to the meeting, Marilyn Cross learned that Charter is upgrading their cable technology in her area. Prior to the next meeting, she will try to understand what Charter's plan is for both her area (Nimrod) and others in the McKenzie Valley. A digital cable service can deliver broadband speeds higher than those of DSL but effective speed is dependent on contention (the potential maximum demand to the actual bandwidth) which has less impact on DSL.