



Lancaster County Broadband Authority
Minutes of Board Meeting
August 24, 2023
5:00 p.m.
8311 Mary Ball Road, Lancaster, VA 22503

August 24, 2023

1. Call to Order: Chérie Kiser called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the County Administrator’s conference room located in the County Administration Building. Chérie Kiser, Keith Kidd, Kevin Bean, Michele Craddock, and Don Gill were present. Nicholas Pascaretti attended by video conference.

2. Public Comment: Chérie Kiser invited the public to make comments. Todd Booth inquired about the status of broadband to his residence. The directors discussed the status of broadband in that location with Mr. Booth.

3. APB Presentation: Tom Innes, Senior Vice President of All Point Broadband (APB) provided an update on the status of the Lancaster County/Northern Neck project.

Timeline for Completion

Mr. Innes reported that the timeline for substantial completion of the project is now May 2024 for Lancaster County. (Ref P.13 APB NNPDC update)

The key dependencies for last-mile deployment are the completion of the middle mile by Dominion, the completion of the utility pole make ready process, and having a significant queue of constructable miles for release to construction.

- Dominion has mostly completed the middle mile.
- The make-ready process is well underway and the Timmons Group, a Richmond, Virginia engineering firm, is assisting with the process.
- The construction subcontractors are extremely busy with all the broadband projects in Virginia and elsewhere. They require a significant queue of constructible miles to begin work in a given area.

Service Levels and Pricing

APB will offer three service levels. The base price is \$59.99 per month. A \$30 per month discount is available for residents that qualify for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Information is available at Affordableconnectivity.gov

Customers may pre-register for service, without obligation, at APBFiber.com. After completing the registration form, you must click “go to survey” to submit it.

Installation

The installation fee will be \$99 for runs up to 1,000 feet and \$2 per foot beyond 1,000 feet. The installation of fiber will generally follow the installation of electric lines. If the electric lines are above ground on poles, the fiber will be installed on the poles, and



if the electric lines are buried, the fiber will be buried. If the electric lines are on poles and a resident wants to have the fiber buried, APB will charge an additional fee for the installation.

APB will schedule the installation with the customer. Miss Utility will mark the underground public utility lines on the property. The customer is responsible for identifying and marking all private utilities (these include lines running to a detached shed or garage, septic tanks, plumbing lines, propane tanks and associated lines, and invisible pet fences).¹

Additional Unserved Areas

APB is working to identify additional unserved areas outside of its 2022 VATI area. APB is looking at funding the deployment of broadband to those areas through direct investment by APB, FY2024 VATI grants, and the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) rural broadband funding program. If APB can cover an unserved area that it passes it will do so at the time of initial construction.

New Construction

APB included existing subdivided lots in its VATI grant application, and it built in capacity to serve those areas. Therefore, new construction on those lots will be served. If a lot was later subdivided, it may be eligible for service through ABP's direct investment.

A copy of APB's presentation is attached.

4. Provider Projects:

- a. Nicholas Pascaretti provided an update on BTS's Fixed wireless deployment related to the County's CARES Act project. BTS has enrolled 299 subscribers and the service is stable and good. Additionally, all of the smart poles, except the smart pole at the Nutsville location, are in service.
- b. Nicholas Pascaretti provided an update on Breezeline's future funding plans. The LCBA is working with Breezeline to obtain a 2024 VATI grant to provide funding for 81 of the 86 homes that were not funded by the 2023 VATI grant. The other 5 homes now have Breezeline service available to them.
- c. Additionally, the directors discussed identifying and obtaining funding for additional unserved areas.

¹ See <https://va811.com/private-utilities-explained/> for additional information about public vs private utility lines.



The LCBA is working with APB and Breezeline to identify homes within the few census blocks which were awarded under RDOF to Starklink and Starry. Those RDOF awarded census blocks were previously excluded from VATI funding but are now eligible for VATI and BEAD funding.

5. Approval of Minutes: Keith Kidd made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2023 meeting. Kevin Bean seconded the motion. The directors voted in favor of the motion by a vote of 4-0:

- Chérie Kiser – voted in favor of the motion.
- Keith Kidd – voted in favor of the motion.
- Kevin Bean – voted in favor of the motion.
- Michele Craddock – voted in favor of the motion.

6. Website: Keith Kidd discussed the improvements he has made to the LCBA’s website.

7. Bylaws: Chérie Kiser proposed an amendment to the Bylaws for the purpose of ensuring greater flexibility in selecting a qualified member to maintain and manage the LCBA’s website. The proposed changes eliminate the requirement that the Vice Chair maintains the website and instead authorizes the Chair to appoint a qualified member to maintain the website. Specifically, the proposed changes include:

- (1) Adding to the end of paragraph 3.11 of the Bylaws, “The Chair shall appoint any qualified board member to maintain or supervise the maintenance of the Authority’s website.”
- (2) Deleting the final sentence of paragraph 3.12 of the Bylaws, “In addition, the Vice Chair will maintain or supervise the maintenance of the Authority’s website.”

The directors discussed the proposed changes. Chérie Kiser made a motion to approve the proposed changes to the Bylaws. Keith Kidd seconded the motion. The directors voted in favor of the motion by a vote of 4-0:

- Chérie Kiser – voted in favor of the motion.
- Keith Kidd – voted in favor of the motion.
- Kevin Bean – voted in favor of the motion.
- Michele Craddock – voted in favor of the motion.

8. Closed Session: At 6:30 p.m., we entered a closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidate for employment, assignment, . . .of any public body and Section 2.2-3711(A)(29), discussion of public contracts. The specific matters discussed were limited to the discussion of prospective candidates for assignment to the LCBA and public contracts. The closed meeting concluded at 6:10 p.m. Each director certified that the matters specified above were the only matters discussed.



5. Schedule the next meeting and adjourn: Kevin Bean made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kevin Kidd seconded the motion. The directors voted in favor of the motion by a vote of 4-0:

- Chérie Kiser – voted in favor of the motion.
- Keith Kidd – voted in favor of the motion.
- Kevin Bean – voted in favor of the motion.
- Michele Craddock – voted in favor of the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the Board/Commission meeting room of the County Administration Building.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M Craddock".

Secretary