



Lancaster County Broadband Authority

Minutes of Board Meeting

May 12, 2022

5:00 p.m.

8311 Mary Ball Road, Lancaster, VA 22503

May 12, 2022

1. Call to Order: Cassie Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Board/Commission meeting room of the County Administration Building. Cassie Thompson, Michele Craddock, Kevin Bean¹ and Dr. Gary Silverman were present. Chérie Kiser and Nicholas Pascaretti attended by conference.

2. Public Comment: Cassie Thompson invited the public to make comments.

Edward DeFreitas stated that Breezeline is running cable down his street but stopped short of his house. Mr. DeFreitas asked why Breezeline would not cover the entire street. Cassie Thompson and Dr. Gary Silverman explained that certain homes were not identified as unserved due to Breezeline's mapping issues and were not included in the VATI grant.

Wally Dawson stated that he created a chart containing data he collected on the smart pole operations and disputed the smart poles were operable at certain times. He also stated that the telephone number for Breezeline on the smart pole signs is incorrect.²

Chuck Rusinak stated that he sent a request for usage data on the smart poles to the LCBA in August, September, and October 2021 and wanted to know who at the LCBA is responsible for the smart poles.³

3. Approval of Minutes: Michele Craddock made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2022 meeting. Dr. Gary Silverman seconded the motion. The directors voted in favor of the motion by a vote of 3-0:

- Dr. Gary Silverman – voted in favor of the motion.
- Chérie Kiser – abstained.
- Cassie Thompson – voted in favor of the motion.
- Kevin Bean – was not yet present at the meeting.
- Michele Craddock – voted in favor of the motion.

¹ Kevin Bean joined the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

² See discussion of smart poles below at paragraph 4(c).

³ *Id.*

4. Discussions:

- a. Nicholas Pascaretti provided an update on the regional VATI grant project between the LCBA for Lancaster County, Breezeline, and Caroline, Mathews, and Middlesex counties. The project is currently running ahead of schedule.
- b. Nicholas Pascaretti provided an update on the APB/Dominion project status. The project is on schedule and there are no further updates on this project. Dr. Gary Silverman stated that APB had been invited to present a status update at LCBA's next meeting.
- c. The LCBA monitors the County's smart pole project. Dr. Gary Silverman reported that as of the date of the LCBA's April meeting, there were operational issues with certain Smart Poles, which are serviced by BTS' wireless service. Dr. Gary Silverman monitors and inspects each pole on a weekly basis because the service can be inconsistent. If he finds any of the poles are not performing, he contacts BTS and requires BTS to address the issues. Dr. Gary Silverman stated it is frustrating that BTS does not provide usage data on the smart poles to LCBA. LCBA understands BTS does not have a software platform for tracking usage data. Despite the frustration, BTS' wireless service is much more reliable than the previous cellular service. Dr. Gary Silverman will fix the phone number for BTS on the smart pole signs.
- d. Dr. Gary Silverman provided an update on his investigation regarding which homes may not be covered by Breezeline and/or APB through the VATI grant projects. There will be approximately 80 residences that will not be covered by Breezeline and/or APB through the VATI grant projects. LCBA expects Breezeline and/or APB to provide service to approximately 40 of those residences even though they are not covered by the current VATI grants. The directors discussed funding options for bringing service to the remaining residences, including LECAP, a 2023 VATI grant (Breezeline and APB have expressed an interest in this), and private grants. The directors also discussed: (1) creating a map where residents could search their addresses to learn about which internet service provider has committed to bringing service to their residence; and (2) issues relating to service for new home construction.
- e. Nicholas Pascaretti provided an update on BTS's Fixed wireless deployment related to the County's CARES Act project. He reported that BTS has enrolled 217 subscribers.

5. Schedule next meeting and adjourned: Michele Craddock made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Gary Silverman seconded the motion. The directors present voted in favor of the motion by a vote of 4-0.

- Dr. Gary Silverman – voted in favor of the motion.
- Chérie Kiser – abstained.
- Cassie Thompson – voted in favor of the motion.
- Kevin Bean – voted in favor of the motion.
- Michele Craddock – voted in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30. The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday June 9, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the Board/Commission meeting room of the County Administration Building.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. B. Craddock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Secretary