

BROADBAND ADVISORY COUNCIL

APPROVED MINUTES

August 28, 2023

10:00 AM

Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives Training Center

1293 Salem Church Rd

Palmyra, VA 22963

Virtual Option provided via Microsoft Teams

Members Present

Delegate Kathy Byron, Chair  
Senator Jennifer Boysko, Vice Chair  
Senator Ghazala Hashmi  
Senator Lynwood W. Lewis  
Delegate David Reid  
Delegate Thomas Wright, Jr.  
Delegate James Leftwich  
Secretary Matt Lohr  
Ray LaMura  
James Carr  
Mike Culp  
Kristie Proctor  
Casey Logan  
Steve Sandy  
Richard Schollman

Members Absent

Secretary Caren Merrick

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| Call to Order                                | Delegate Kathy Byron, Chair of the Broadband Advisory Council, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.<br><br>Delegate Bryon recognized Gary Wood of Central Virginia Electric Cooperative and Firefly Fiber Broadband to provide welcome remarks on behalf of the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives, who served as the meeting host. |
| Roll Call                                    | Chandler Vaughan, Senior Policy Analyst at the Office of Broadband, called the roll and stated that a quorum was present.  |
| Approval of Minutes:<br>June 9, 2023 Meeting | A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2023 meeting of the Broadband Advisory Council. The motion passed to adopt the minutes as presented.   |
| Office of Broadband<br>Updates               | Dr. Tamarah Holmes and Office of Broadband staff presented an update, including: Virginia Telecommunication Initiative FY24 Proposed Guidelines and Criteria Overview, the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment 5-Year Plan Overview, the   |

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|                       | Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Volume 2 Overview, the Line Extension Customer Assistance Program Updates, and Other Updates.  |
| Make-Ready Discussion | Jimmy Carr of All Points Broadband presented on the process and challenges of “Make-Ready” – the process of attaching to existing telephone/power poles during the process of aerial wireline broadband network construction. The presentation included an overview of the process of evaluating and gaining approval to attach to poles, and also the current challenges experienced in this process. |
| Public Comment        | Kirk Jones, representing the Communications Workers of America, spoke to the significant workforce needs of building state and federally funded broadband networks, and called for robust workforce and labor practices. Mr. Jones distributed a handout at the meeting titled “Building Future-Proof Broadband: Best In Class Technology, Good Jobs, and Public Safety”                               |
| New Business          | No new business was discussed at the meeting.  |
| Adjournment           | Upon a motion made and properly seconded, the meeting was adjourned.   |