

MEDA Broadband Committee Meeting

April 12, 2021

2pm

Present: Russ Fletcher, Stephen Walter, Steve Simonson, Brian Obert, and Mehmet Casey, Bethany Chinadle, Allison Corbyn, Michael Mattmiller, and Gloria O'Rourke

Discussion

Russ:

- Check the federal funding that may override the state rule regarding municipalities providing internet.

Biden Announces His Broadband Plan—and ISPs Will Hate It

Municipally owned networks, nonprofits, and cooperatives would play a major role in the expansion pitched by Biden. <https://matr.net/news/biden-announces-his-broadband-plan-and-isps-will-hate-it/>

- TMobile is coming out with 5G Mobile and Internet.
<https://matr.net/news/t-mobile-ups-5g-ante-with-home-broadband-free-phone-upgrades/>

Steve S:

- Some competition is being proposed for Billings internet – a franchise from Wisconsin. TDS
<https://matr.net/news/wisconsin-fiber-optic-company-tds-metrocom-meets-with-billings-officials-plans-to-compete-with-spectrum/>

Brian:

- Hearing local governments might be given more of a voice with ARPA broadband funds.

Misc. Discussion:

- StarLink possibilities and PR value for Montana
 - Currently not allowing re-sellers for StarLink; if you install it, you are responsible for maintenance, repair, etc. Not feasible without a reseller agreement.
- Profit loss for larger internet companies
- Legislative session – wild times.
- Description of various levels and types of fiber – very complicated.
- Need a book titled: Broadband for Dummies
Broadband definitions <https://www.broadbandgenie.co.uk/broadband/help/broadband-glossary-technical-terms-explained>
- State position for broadband coordinator.

Action Item: email Gloria names for the possible broadband coordinator

Next meeting: April 19th, 2pm