



**Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity**

JB Pritzker, Governor

**Broadband Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2020**

Event/Meeting:

Broadband Advisory Council Regular Meeting

Date/Time: May 19, 2020 at 11:00 AM

Locations: Dial-In: 312-535-8110; Access Code: 804 679 655

Board Members Present: Deb Alfredson, Director Paula Basta, Bill Bodine, Karen Boswell, Melia Carter, Mayor Mike Chamberlain, Ryan Gruenenfelder, Steven Hill, Rick Holzmacher, Chris Nelson, Jeff Newell, Deno Peridou, Representative John Connor, Matt Schmit, Josh Shallenberger, Anne Slaughter, Lori Sorenson, Jim Zolnierik

Board Members Absent: David Antonacci, Director Theresa Eagleson, Zak Horn, Representative Keith Wheeler, Susan Satter, Senator Bill Cunningham, Senator Jil Tracy

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Staff Present: Margaret Croke

Governor's Staff Present: Jessica Himes, Molly Dunn

Call to Order and Introductory Remarks from Chairman: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Schmit at approximately 11:00 am. Chairman Schmit conducted the official roll call. After roll call, Chairman Schmit provided an overview of the Broadband Advisory Council ("BAC") agenda.

Chairman Schmit asked members of the public to hold comment until such time that the floor was opened. Chairman Schmit recognized that a quorum of members was present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Chairman Schmit asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2020 meeting. A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Lori Sorenson and seconded by Mayor Mike Chamberlain. Motion passed by unanimous decision.

Illinois State Board of Education: Jennifer Kirmes, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning for the Illinois State Board of Education provided an update on remote learning. Erich Grauke, a principal consultant in the Curriculum and Instruction department at the Illinois State Board of Education, gave an overview of the Illinois Communities Grant Program. The grant was designed to provide funding in

response to the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen the infrastructure for remote learning. School district eligibility requirements were also reviewed. The grant was released on April 18, 2020 with 90% of funds going directly to individual school districts. The remaining 10% will be distributed through a competitive notice of funding opportunity (“NOFO”) that will be released in mid-June. Funding will go to computing devices, professional development for teachers and parents, and connectivity.

Office of Broadband: Chairman Schmit gave an overview of the first round of the Connect Illinois Grant Program. Of 39 applicants, 37 applicants met the program eligibility criteria and were being scored on a merit basis. Approximately \$70 million was sought in funding with an impact of more than \$135 million through the grant’s matching requirement. Round one proposals, as well as mapping review challenges, are included as map layers on the [Connect Illinois website](#).

Federal Update: Gigi Sohn, Policy Fellow at the Benton Institute for Broadband & Society, provided an update on broadband-eligible CARES Act funding as well as components of proposed HEROS Act legislation.

Public Comment: Chairman Schmit opened the floor for public comment. No public comment was made.

Adjournment: Chairman Schmit announced the next Broadband Advisory Council Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15th via WebEx. Chairman Schmit asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Vice Chair Sorenson and seconded by Deb Alfredson. Motion passed by unanimous decision. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 pm.