ATIC Partnerships & Business Model Groups
October 2, 2017, Teleconference Report

Attendees: Oris Friesen, Henry Goldberg, Mark Goldstein, Mala Muralidharan, Michael Cohen, Steve Peters, Joseph Hobbs, Bill Bolin, Karen Ziegler, Jerry Crow.

This is a report on the conference call held Monday, October 2, 2017, at 10 a.m. to follow up on the Partnerships/Business Model Groups (Strategy Committee) topics.

1. We had a brief refresh and follow-up to the discussion held last month on ATIC organizational strategy regarding primarily Board membership and Officers – there was no discussion of funding/sponsorship.

   Mark noted that Cathy Poplin has joined the ATIC Board: Cathy is the Executive Director of the Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA) for K -12 technology professionals and former Deputy Associate Superintendent at the Arizona State Department of Education (ADE). Henry Goldberg has become Vice Chair of ATIC following the resignation of Craig Stevenson who continues as a Board Member. We have also invited Karen Ziegler, FirstNet manager and leader of state broadband strategic planning, and Marisa Walker, Arizona Commerce Authority Strategic Planning & Infrastructure, to become Board members. Mala Muralidharan has been invited to join the ATIC Board, upon approval of State Librarian Holly Henley, to represent E-Rate activities in Arizona. Mala has contacted Satish Pattisapu, Chief Information Officer at ADE, who may be interested in joining the Board. We still need to fill the position of ATIC Secretary and find a candidate to assume the responsibilities of Chair. We have contacted John Lucas, former Graham County CIO and a former Board Member, to get involved, begin attending Board and Working Group meetings, and consider becoming an officer of ATIC, but he is currently unavailable until at least January.

2. We discussed the ATIC assistance being given to Bonnie Maney of Mission Critical Partners (MCP) and Karen Ziegler, with the Office of Grants and Federal Resources at the Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA), to identify rural Arizona stakeholders willing to participate in focus groups for the State Broadband Strategy development. MCP has been contracted by ADOA to perform this activity.

   Mark has contacted Bonnie and Karen and brought Henry into the conversation. Mark and Henry shared several lists from 2014 regional broadband reports that ATIC Board members wrote with Bonnie for potential focus group participation including those of Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG), Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG) and Southeastern Arizona. Mark has two other lists that he will send to Bonnie today representing ATIC Board and Associate membership from a few years back. Henry forwarded Bonnie's focus group meeting announcement and invitation for the Oct. 11th – 17th focus groups in northern, southeastern, and western Arizona to ATIC members and interested parties to request they consider attending and invite end-user stakeholders to participate.

   A written report will be issued and workshop held at the conclusion of all the focus groups to summarize the findings. Karen reported they had a good response for the focus group already held in Payson and they are trying to generate more interest for the Parker (E-Rate is a priority in La Paz County) and Douglas sessions. She also

noted that there is interest in doing a telemedicine pilot in Douglas with Banner Health and Mark suggested contacting Janet Major and Mike Holcomb of the Arizona Telemedicine Program at the University of Arizona. Mala said she is organizing some state library personnel to attend, and added that Mary Alice Ball has been gathering stories from the American Library Association (ALA) and the state E-Rate task force. Her brother Tom is trying to place telehealth services into the libraries similar to what has been done in Pima County. They want to set up something in Douglas or elsewhere in Cochise County as well.

In response to questions about remote attendance at the focus group meetings, Karen said that the disadvantage is that they can't control the audience as the attendance is difficult to monitor. Karen would like to schedule a session with ATIC to summarize the results of all the focus groups.

3. Mark reviewed a draft he has prepared for the Arizona Technology Council's (AZTC) 2018 Public Policy Guide for recommendations on Broadband and other ATIC-related topic areas to inform the state legislative activity, and asked for comments.

   AZTC for five years has created a public policy guide used to inform the legislature of AZTC concerns and recommendations. Mark has authored most of the sections on broadband. Approval is complicated and must pass muster among other AZTC members. This year Mark wrote sections for the Guide on education, the workforce and work place; universities and higher education; transportation and digital infrastructure; and biosciences, health care and telehealth. Mark stated he has received comments on his draft sections from Henry and Oris, as well as positive support from Jeff Sobotka and Joseph Hobbs.

   Steve said we should be thinking about FCC and Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) commitment to E-Rate broadband infrastructure funding beyond July 2018. Karen noted that she recently met with Andy Tobin, an ACC Commissioner, about extending the ACC Arizona Universal Service Fund (AUSF) matching fund program beyond next year but he was reluctant to make this an ongoing program because of commitments that have been made to ACC stakeholders. Karen also asked Andy Tobin if funds left over after next year could be used for future rural broadband infrastructure, and he said that may be considered. Mark said he will consider further what to add about the ACC AUSF in the AZTC Public Policy Guide.

   Steve said that in the past ATIC has talked about leveraging state education funds to support overall broadband needs of rural communities. Mark responded he included Henry's suggested sentence on that in his draft. Karen has met with the Residential Utility Consumer Office (RUCO) but they are not very active. Karen will contact Gary Yaquinto, CEO of the investor-owned Arizona Investment Council and former Director of the Utilities Division at the ACC to talk about leveraging the Utilities GIS database for state broadband planning since the state did not get a very good response from telecom service providers asked to contribute information on their fiber deployments. Mala plans to meet with FCC representatives while in Washington, DC, concerning the possible effects of the recent hurricanes on

extending their E-Rate modernization program beyond next year.

4. Mark and Mala reported on the state of the ATIC website.

    Five people (Mark, Mala, Oris, Mike Whipple and Craig Stevenson) have the credentials to modify the website, but no real plan is in place. Mark has not had time to do much. Mala has downloaded the essential ATIC documents that could be placed on the website, and will take the lead on this. We need to have a bio and photo for each board member. She was wondering if we should continue with WordPress. Steve suggested using something simpler like Weebly. Mala will try to put together a plan shortly.

5. Oris and Mark reported on potential activities of the ATI Institute and John Kelly relating to (1) the Jim Simms proposal for a middle-mile fiber network for rural Arizona similar to a network being built by the State of Kentucky and (2) the possible opportunity for ATI Institute to partner with Matt Hanson, the State Grants Administrator, on managing some grants in the broadband area.

    Oris noted that Jim Simms has been in Belize and will return this week, so John will try to speak with him in the next few days and possibly report on that at the Oct. 11th Board meeting. There has been no substantive interaction with Matt Hanson.

6. The planned meeting to discuss renewal of the ATIC & GAZeL cooperation was cancelled.

    Steve suggested that cooperation between ATIC and GAZeL should be fairly low key and focus on activities such as continuing the shared use of Zoom for teleconferences, assisting GAZeL with its networking meetings, helping to promote the GAZeL conference next spring, promotion of ATIC events by GAZeL, possible use by ATIC of the Ryver online community, and partnering with Labster for virtual online labs provided for free throughout the state. Maybe ATIC could help make contacts for funding the Labster project, for example via the Science Foundation Arizona or the Arizona Technology Council Foundation.

    Henry suggested demonstrating digital science courses in combination with Labster virtual online labs, where ATIC might establish a rural demo project working with AzTEA and GAZeL. This should be discussed with Cathy Poplin for feasibility. Michael Cohen added there are possible grants available for digital curricula.