ATIC Board Agenda for Wednesday, April 12, 2023

1. **Administrative**
   1.1. Self-Introductions
   1.2. Modifications to and Acceptance of Agenda Draft
   1.3. Acceptance of Minutes from March 8, 2023, Board Meeting
   1.4. Treasurer's Report (Ron Schott)
   1.5. ATIC Board Membership Considerations
       1.5.1. ATIC Broadband Providers Working Group Meeting & Next Steps
       1.5.2. ATIC Board Elections scheduled for April 12, 2023
   1.6. Review of Outstanding Action Items as Documented in March 8, 2023, Minutes

2. **Informational Presentations**
   2.1. None Scheduled

3. **Activity Reports**
   3.1. Arizona Broadband Office Report (Sandip Bhowmick)
       3.1.1. Broadband Grants, Rural Community Outreach & Projects
       3.1.2. ACA Broadband Strategy & ATIC Role/Support
   3.2. Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network (Steve Peters)
       3.2.1. AZBSN Digital Access Task Force Updates
           3.2.1.1. Updates to AZBSN Task Force Report (11/20)
       3.2.2. AZBSN Leadership Group, Committees & Initiatives
       3.2.3. Outreach Activities with Newsletters & Webinars
   3.3. Technology in Education/eLearning
       3.3.1. Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA) (Nan Williams)
       3.3.2. Greater Arizona Educational Leadership (GAZEL) (Steve Peters)
       3.3.3. Sun Corridor Network (SCN) (Laura Etter)
   3.4. Arizona State Library (Holly Henley, Mala Muralidharan)
   3.5. Telehealth (Janet Major)
   3.6. Government Affairs
       3.6.1. Arizona Broadband Policy Update (Mike Keeling, Mark Goldstein)
       3.6.2. Federal Broadband Policy Update (Nicole Umayam/NTIA, Mark Goldstein)

4. **Information and Action Plans**
   4.1. ATIC Website & Teleconferencing (All)
       4.1.1. AZBSN Communications & Newsletter
   4.2. ATIC Mailing List & CRM (All)
   4.3. New Business and Motion Considerations (All)
5. **Events Attended and Upcoming Meetings**
6. **Announcements**
7. **Adjourn**

ATIC Board Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2023

Attendees:

ATIC Board Members:

Mark Goldstein, Henry Goldberg, Oris Friesen, Ron Schott, Kirk Busch, Corey Christians, Michael Cohen, Jerry Crow, Laura Etter, Heather Floyd, Holly Henley, John Kelly, Andy Phelan, and Nan Williams.

ATIC Associates & Guests:

Mala Muralidharan (E-rate Specialist, Arizona State Library), Erin Lorandos (Digital Inclusion Librarian, Arizona State Library), Catalina Trujillo (Business Account Manager, Triad Wireless), Nicole Umayam (Federal Program Officer for Arizona Broadband & Digital Equity, NTIA), Jim Soudriette (Interested Citizen), Brent Nelson (Navajo Nation Department of Education).

Quorum Met with 14 ATIC Board Members Present (Quorum = 9)

A replay of the meeting is available https://youtu.be/dLYBcNJccjM.

Many thanks to Nan Williams and the Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA, http://aztea.org/) for the use of their Zoom Video account for video conferencing and dial-in capabilities and to the Arizona State Library for providing additional support.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 10, 2023, virtually. The schedule of ATIC Board Meetings for the rest of 2023 can be found towards the end of these minutes.

1. **Administrative**

   1.1. Self-Introductions

   See the list of attendees above.

   1.2. Acceptance of Agenda Draft

   MOTION: To accept the Agenda

   > **MOVE: Kirk Busch**
   > **SECOND: Oris Friesen**
   > **Passed Unanimously**

   1.3. Acceptance of Minutes from March 8, 2023, Board Meeting

   Oris Friesen writes the draft minutes, after which they are reviewed carefully by Henry Goldberg, and Mark Goldstein does a final edit of the draft minutes before issuing them to the Board for review, comment, and approval.

   MOTION: To accept the Minutes

   > **MOVE: Kirk Busch**
   > **SECOND: Corey Christians**
   > **Passed Unanimously**

   1.4. Treasurer's Report

   Ron Schott, Treasurer, circulated via email the Desert Financial Credit Union statement with account and transaction details for Board reference, which are included at the back of these Minutes. Ron reported that current funds on hand total $10,133.54.

   Steve Peters was absent and will report on the balance in the GAZEL AZBSN Task Force account at the next ATIC Board Meeting. Gazel is used to manage the finances for AZBSN. Steve has launched a sponsorship drive to raise further funding (https://www.arizonatele.org/funding-request-2020.html) and needs to become more active in securing some sponsorship renewals and new sponsorships.

   Mark has commented that ATIC needs to pursue its own funding, which would include sponsorships. ATIC needs to initiate a financial campaign for sponsors and other sources of funding to support and undertake new projects. Mark noted that in the past ATIC has been paid to host rural broadband workshops, and has pursued various projects when it had more funds.

1.5. ATIC Board Membership Considerations

Mark previously asked Sandip Bhowmick, State Broadband Director at the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA), and Nicole Umayam, Federal Program Officer for Arizona Broadband & Digital Equity at NTIA, to consider becoming ATIC Board Members. Sandip asked for some clarification of commitments involved and Mark sent him a copy of ATIC duties and procedures, the conflict-of-interest policy and other background information. Brian Sherman of ACA approved the application and Sandip is ready to join the ATIC Board of Directors. Nicole has declined the request due to NTIA policy procedures.

MOTION: To accept Sandip Bhowmick as a Member of the ATIC Board.

> **MOVE: Mark Goldstein**
> **SECOND: Heather Floyd**
> **Passed Unanimously**

We would like to expand tribal and rural participants on the ATIC Board – Brent Nelson of the Navajo Nation and EJ John of the ASU Indian Policy Institute have attended ATIC Board meetings and Mark will follow up with them as possible tribal representatives.

1.5.1. ATIC Broadband Provider Working Group Meeting and Next Steps

As reported previously, an outcome of the January 2022 ATIC Board meeting was to create an ATIC Broadband Provider Working Group whose function would be to provide a platform for providers to share information, meet & network, and engage on policy issues since there is no telecom service provider trade association in Arizona. The goal of this working group is to focus on addressing common issues and opportunities for the broadband service providers in Arizona. The group was launched on April 6, 2022, with a hybrid gathering hosted at Big Data Southwest's DataCenter & SmartCity IoT Infrastructure Summit

Mark has started a Slack channel populated with a list of about 160 provider representatives across about 80 companies from his spreadsheet. Mark will circulate this spreadsheet to Sandip Bhowmick and Nicole Umayam for additions/changes.

Mark convened a second meeting of the ATIC Broadband Provider Working Group, as a part of the Big Data Southwest's DataCenter & SmartCity IoT Infrastructure Summit (#USDC23, https://www.bigdatasw.org/) on January 26, 2023, at the Desert Willow Conference Center in Phoenix. He has activated the Slack channel and about fifteen people have joined it, but it is not very active yet.

At a previous ATIC board meeting Mark suggested we might create parallel Slack channels for two working groups: The Broadband Providers Working Group (mentioned above) will focus on concerns of the communications providers, as initially planned. The second group would deal with topics and issues of economic development that include localized concerns as well as those that transcend county boundaries.

1.5.2. ATIC Board Elections scheduled for April 12, 2023

Mark noted that we need to do our annual election of officers. Five positions are up for election. They are:

Chair: Mark Goldstein (incumbent)
Vice Chair: Henry Goldberg (incumbent)
Secretary: Oris Friesen (incumbent)
Treasurer: Ron Schott (Incumbent)
Lobbyist: Mike Keeling (Acting) has retired and will not continue as ATIC Lobbyist.

Mark, Henry, Oris and Ron agreed to run again. There were no nominations of others to run for ATIC officer positions.

MOTION: To re-elect Mark Goldstein, Henry Goldberg, Oris Friesen and Ron Schott to their respective positions

   MOVE: Jerry Crow
   SECOND: Kirk Busch
   Passed Unanimously

Since Michael Keeling is leaving the post of Lobbyist, Kirk Busch asked if John Kelly would be interested in fulfilling that position. John asked for a list of duties the position entails. Mark outlined what Mike Keeling had done at the legislature, especially in the area of telehealth and said the role would evolve to meet current ATIC interests. John noted that his firm TriAdvocates track legislature activities and have current clients Verizon Wireless and WANRack so he would have to be careful about declaring conflicts-of-interest if he were the ATIC Lobbyist. John said he would consider this with his TriAdvocates associates and get back to the ATIC Board later about it.

1.6. Review of Outstanding Action Items as Documented in July 13, 2022, Minutes

ACTION ITEM - Mark had an Action Item to contact Robert Gallegos, the IT/Security Director for the Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG) and Joy Whiting, Apache County Schools Superintendent who participates in the AZBSN task force to sound them out about joining the board.

This Action Item remains open.

2. **Informational Presentations**

   2.1. None were scheduled.

3. **Activity Reports**

   3.1. Arizona Broadband Office Report (Sandip Bhowmick)

   3.1.1. Broadband Grants, Rural Community Outreach & Projects

   Gila River Telecommunications has issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for their Digital Connect Initiative, serving the Gila River Indian Community and other indigenous communities, which is due by April 28. The RFQ is for needs assessment, evaluation and digital inclusion planning as well as digital equity advisory support services.

   3.1.2. ACA Broadband Strategy & ATIC Role/Support

   Sandip Bhowmick, the State Broadband Director for Arizona, was unable to attend. Mark Goldstein discussed the US Treasury Capital Projects allocation of $192 million to Arizona stating that $100 million of that amount was used for the Arizona Broadband Development Grants (ABDG) last-mile infrastructure grants, but Henry Goldberg commented that Jeff Sobotka reported in the past that the ABDG funding came from ARPA.

   The BEAD funding is the most important source of funds at $42.45 billion, which is to be allocated by June 30, with Arizona likely to get $700 to $800 million as its share based on projections Mark has seen. NTIA may hold some of this back because there may be additional challenges to the FCC Broadband Map. The State Broadband Office and Governor's Office will decide how much of the BEAD funding goes to competitive broadband infrastructure grants for communities and how much to state-managed middle-mile projects.

   Nicole Umayam reported that the ACA State Broadband Office has selected KPMG as the contractor to lead the development of the State BEAD Plan. KPMG will use Connected Nation as a subcontractor to assist with data gathering. Listening sessions will be coordinated between the BEAD and Digital Equity planning teams. There will be formal consultations with tribes on BEAD in May.

   The Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) has hired GIS specialist, a grants compliance person and Cindy Hogan as Digital Equity Program Manager. Two other positions, a broadband projects manager and a tribal liaison, are

still unfilled.

John Kelly said Governor Hobbs has reinvigorated a kind of infrastructure council as a sub-cabinet broadband advisory group to develop a strategy on how funds will be spent. Mark noted that this is something that ATIC has urged to be done in the past.

3.2. Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network (Steve Peters)

3.2.1. ASBSN Digital Access Task Force Updates

Steve Peters, AZBSN Coordinator, was unable to attend. Henry said Steve is focusing on coordinating the groups working on the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) outreach. Four grants have been awarded by the FCC for ACP outreach to the City of Phoenix Community and Economic Development who contracted with Common Sense, Chicanos Por la Causa, Promise Arizona and Navajo County. Erin Lorandos noted that the Arizona State Library is working with the state public libraries on ACP outreach, digital literacy, and volunteer digital navigators in Navajo County. The UofA also received a Connecting Minority Communities grant from NTIA.

3.2.1.1. Updates to AZBSN Task Force Report (11/20)

Progress here is slow – Karen Ziegler, Jan Schiller & John Kelly have seen no recent progress here.

3.2.2. AZBSN Leadership Group & New Initiatives

Steve said at a previous meeting he will report on these topics after the updated plan has been issued.

3.2.3. Return to Outreach Activities with Newsletters & Webinars

3.3. Technology in Education/eLearning

3.3.1. Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA)) (Nan Williams)

Nan Williams serves as Executive Director of AzTEA (https://aztea.org/) and sits on the EDTech Committee for the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) which is rewriting the Educational Technology standards this year. She is also participating in the ADE Technology Task Force on the Digital Learning Subcommittee and she is part of the ISTE policy group on digital equity access. She has also been working with the Arizona Rural Schools Association and their Final Mile Project (https://www.finalmileproject.com/).

Nan reported at our previous meeting that AzTEA is becoming a Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) chapter and is working with the Department of Education to ensure that the technology departments in every Arizona school will be a member of CoSN and eligible to receive its benefits. See https://www.azed.gov/odtl/cosn-membership .

AzTEA is also preparing for its annual Spring Conference to be held on April 28 (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1I1J9SjaCMS9d0zlOh7Kg6Jj6Opn1ao7_PCWnWsgXdik/edit?usp=sharing) where cybersecurity will be discussed.

On May 9 AzTEA will partner with the Department of Education and Rubrik at the leadership conference on cyber security and will be doing a K-12 ransomware tabletop simulation. See https://arizonak-12savethedata.splashthat.com/ froor details.

3.3.2. GAZEL Innovative Learning Collaborative Initiatives (Steve Peters)

Steve was not present to discuss his plans to re-activate the GAZEL Board, but Mark emphasized the importance of attending to this matter as soon as possible. The GAZEL Board hasn't met since early 2022 and needs reactivation and refreshing to further operationalize GAZEL. The Board still needs to acquire Directors & Officers (D&O) insurance for good governance and proper protections.

Work to produce a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between GAZEL and ATIC on the AZBSN has been on hold and a determination should be made about whether this is still necessary and if so, how to accomplish it.

3.3.3. Sun Corridor Network (SCN) (Laura Etter)

Laura Etter, Deputy Director of the Sun Corridor Network, gave a brief report. The Sun Corridor Network (SCN) is continuing to work on the Maricopa County ASU grant to expand broadband capabilities in Maricopa County, especially in the rural communities.

Regarding the Interstate middle mile work, the RFP issued by the ACA to select a third-party management team is due to close shortly and will likely get resolution on this in the Fall. Mark commented that it will be good to see execution of the earlier KPMG State Middle-Mile Report beyond the fiber deployed along I-17, I-19, and I-40.

The ACA State Broadband Office has selected Erin Carr-Jordan's Digital Equity Institute as the vendor to lead the design of the State Digital Equity Plan.

3.4. Arizona State Library (Holly Henley, Mala Muralidharan)

Mala Muralidharan, E-rate Administrator for Public Libraries at the Arizona State Library, reported on E-rate and Arizona State Library activities.

Mala reported that the Arizona schools and libraries had applied for about $120 million in E-rate funding for the 2022-23 fiscal year. To date about $73 million has been approved. The E-rate deadline for applications occurred on March 28, 2023, for the next E-rate year beginning July 1, 2023. The Arizona schools and libraries submitted over 1200 applications for $116 million. The discount we will receive based on these applications is about $86 million. We are seeing a decrease in individual applications but an increase in school/library consortia applications. This is good for the smaller schools and libraries because they can access technical expertise that would not be available to them on an individual level and it reduces the costs of the Internet networks.

There is an annual E-rate survey being conducted by Funds for Learning at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2023USF. These surveys have considerable influence in guiding future policies of FCC, USAC and other agencies and Mala urged interested parties to participate.

FCC is also working on simplifying tribal applications, especially for small libraries who can't afford consultants to fill out applications. Comments are due by April 24. Mala has been advocating for a Category 2 (Internal Connections) rolling deadline separate from the Category 1 applications.

Cybersecurity is a continuing issue. The comments deadline was March 30 and there were many suggestions about using Category 2 funding for cybersecurity. SHLB asked for $60 million to be allocated to cybersecurity funding. A related constraint is that the base funding sources of the Universal Service Fund (USF) are too small to support the infusion needed for various USF programs including E-rate and rural healthcare.

The Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition policy roadmap is available at https://www.shlb.org/policy/roadmap. SHLB is advocating for "To and Through" networks for communities to take advantage of fiber deployed at schools and libraries for low-cost broadband access.

Erin Lorandos reported that they are still working on outreach with print material going to all libraries in the state to increase awareness about ACP. Erin also provided a link (https://azsos.libcal.com/) to a calendar of all State Library events.

For more details, see the State Library Report below, submitted by Mala

ATIC Board April 12, 2023, Mala's State Library Report

1. **E-RATE**
   A. **2023 Applications**

- For 2022 -AZ Schools and Libraries applied for S120 M – and so far in the first 42 waves about $72.8
  Million has been committed
- Funding Year (FY) 2023 FCC Form 471 application filing window will open on Wednesday, **on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. ET**.

  Applications for this current cycle 2023-4.
  Total request made by Schools and Libraries in Arizona
  - 1222 Applications
  - Pre-discount $116,773,033
  - Discounted $86,640,702

  The pre-discounted shows the value of the internet requested/ required for AZ to run their Schools and Libraries.
  Discounted is what they will be reimbursed, if approved for all that they applied. The remaining amount will have to be borne by them.
  State Master Contracts has helped lower costs and imcrease availability. Increase in consortial applications has also contributed to lower costs per mbps, manage networks and takes the burden off of small Libraries.
  $913 million in requested funds and more than half are reviewed and ready

   B. **FY2023 E-rate Applicant Survey**: Funds for Learning does an Annual Survey of E-rate Applicants. Their feedback is important. It is available here. How have recent events impacted your organization's technology plans? How important is E-rate funding to your organization? Individual responses with are confidential and kept anonymous. After the survey closes, the results will be submitted to FCC and share them with the public. By sharing your views you can help improve the application process. It is your personal feedback that will make the difference. E-rate survey is online at this address: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2023USF

   C. **Tribal Libraries and Schools E-rate** FCC is working on simplifying Tribal Schools and Librarie Applications Comments due Apr 24
   (extended by 1 week. CoSn/ ALA /SECA all filing co:ments
   Tribal CollegeLibraries serving as public should be eligible - They identified 19th
   Most other comments are streamlining –
   - Should there be a carve out for Special window and
   - 85%to 90 for Cat 2 and increase the floor.

2. **Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)** is an FCC benefit program that provides a discount of up to **$30 per month** toward internet service for eligible households and up to **$75 per month discount for households** on qualifying Tribal lands. **Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount** of up to **$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or table**t from participating providers if they contribute more than $10 and less than $50 toward the purchase price. ACP is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household. Eligible households must both apply for the program and contact a participating provider to select a service plan.

   As of Apr 4th 388,683 (Feb 27th 370,889) households enrolled in the program. Erin Lorandes, from the State Library will be taking it forward and working with Lyle Ishita on the outreach program for AZ. The updated ACP Enrollment and Claims Tracker is located at https://www.usac.org/about/affordable-connectivity-program/acp-enrollment-and-claims-tracker/

   ACP Media and Resource Tool Kit : Connect-Arizona.com https://connect-arizona.com/acp . CommonSense media has also created a training kit.

3. **SHLB Discussions on Universal Services Funding:**
   A. Stabilize the funding mechanism by requiring all mass market broadband internet access service (BIAS) providers to contribute their equitable fair share to support the USF program.
      1. Providers of Broadband Internet Access Service (BIAS) should be required to contribute based on their revenues.
      2. The FCC should consider other mechanisms to generate revenue in the public interest.
   B. Expand the beneficiaries of the USF to include all types of anchor institutions, not just schools, libraries and rural health care providers.
      1. For instance, the Rural Health Care program should include urban healthcare providers (but not for-profits)
      2. Community colleges should be eligible, Public housing, Community centers, recreation centers, public safety, prisons? municipal buildings? Other public social services? Public Transportation depots? public facing institutions?
      3. Perhaps create a single program within the USF called the Anchor Institution Connectivity Program. (AICP)
      4. Applicants should be able to submit a single application to deploy networks and provide service to multiple anchor institutions.
      5. Congress should amend the USF goals in section 254 to bring to bring multi-gigabit connectivity to all anchors
   C. Rural broadband providers should receive support to ensure that they provide affordable broadband service to everyone, as long as they verify that they are doing so.
      1. The FCC should increase the accountability and transparency of recipients of high-cost funding support.
      2. Additional rural investments specifically for Middle Mile connections and for carrier hotels.

3. Open access should be required/encouraged for those receiving USF support to build networks.

4. **SHLB Policy Road Map :** FINAL2023-PolicyRoadmap (Final) (1).pdf (shlb.org) Highlights below

1. BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE
- Engage with state broadband offices and other leaders regarding the role of CAIs under BEAD and digital equity projects, including funding those institutions that lack gigabitlevel connectivity.
- **Advocate for mapping** the availability of broadband for CAIs on the **FCC's National Broadband Map and maps generated individually by the states.**
- Continue to promote long-lasting open access broadband infrastructure that is available for interconnection and shared use. SHLB believes these funding programs should adopt the **approach of deploying broadband "to and through" anchor institutions to reach surrounding homes and businesses**.
- **Promote the success of the Capital Projects Fund (CPF) administered by the U.S. Treasury**

2. DIGITAL EQUITY
SHLB will: 1.
- Support digital equity efforts at the local level, and highlight the amazing work CAIs do to connect all patrons in need. We believe that, if provided with the right resources, CAIs can provide the local leadership and expertise to build a strong "digital inclusion ecosystem" in every community. 2.
- Support digital equity efforts at the federal level for marginalized groups, including long-term funding solutions to maintain the Affordable Connectivity Program, which provides subsidies to bring down the cost of broadband access to people in need. 3.
- Advocate for the smart implementation and planning of digital inclusion work by participating in the NTIA's Digital Equity Act comment proceeding. 4.
- Support passage of the Digital Equity Foundation Act, which would establish a trust fund to promote long-term digital equity.
- E-RATE and ECF
- Advocate to make **cybersecurity products and services eligible** under the E-rate program. In December of 2022, as SHLB and others requested, the FCC sought comment on whether and how to make cybersecurity an eligible expense. SHLB will urge the FCC to allow schools and libraries to incorporate cybersecurity needs into their 2024 E-rate funding year applications. 2.
- Advocate for **E-rate support for Wi-Fi on school buses**. By making E-rate funding available for school bus Wi-Fi, students that have long commutes to and from school

(such as those in rural markets) will have an additional opportunity to do homework and enhance their learning. 3.

- **Oppose the E-rate competitive bidding portal**. The proposed federal E-rate competitive bidding portal would undermine local decision-making and impose unnecessary burdens on E-rate applicants. 4.
- **Waive the E-rate cost allocation rule**. **Fiber networks connecting schools and libraries often have capacity available after school hours that could be used to provide backhaul for community broadband networks. But the E-rate rules discourage communities from tapping into this enormously valuable asset.** Waiving the cost allocation rule would make it easier to deploy networks "to and through" the anchor institution and provide low-cost broadband service to communities in need.

POLE ATTACHMENTS

- Urge the FCC to issue an order in its current pole replacement proceeding to reduce costs and streamline application processing. SHLB has already filed comments with the FCC asking it to adopt pole attachment principles, fairly allocate pole replacement costs, and speed up the resolution of pole complaints. 2. Recommend that states implement a working group whereby various stakeholders can discuss deployment plans, investigate pole attachment issues, and resolve disputes under strict time limits.

MAPPING

- Continue to meet with the FCC and Congressional leaders to find ways to include CAIs that purchase mass- Continue to meet with the FCC and Congressional leaders to find ways to include CAIs that purchase mass-market internet service on the Map. 2.
- Meet with the NTIA and encourage state broadband leaders to develop their own maps (including CAIs) so that they can challenge and correct the FCC's Map. 3.
- Encourage states to conduct an inventory of assets that includes CAIs to build connectivity to those lacking gigabit broadband service into their BEAD project planning

End of Library Report

3.5. Telehealth (Janet Major)

Janet Major, Associate Director for Innovation and Digital Health, Arizona Telemedicine Program and Southwest Telehealth Resource Center (https://telemedicine.arizona.edu/), is the lead for the Arizona Telehealth Broadband Action Team (BAT).

Janet was attending a webinar on "Navigating Telehealth Legislative and Policy Changes Beyond the Public Health Emergency" and could not attend. A recording of the session will be archived at https://telemedicine.arizona.edu/webinars/previous.

Janet submitted some material prior to this meeting, which is summarized below.

The 49th Annual Arizona Rural Health Conference will be taking place in Flagstaff. You may participate through a zoom/hybrid connection if you have internet connectivity.

The Arizona Telemedicine Program and Southwest Telehealth Resource Center will be at the conference through Wednesday to promote telehealth, do some quality networking as well as sponsor and host the statewide telehealth alliance quarterly meeting. There will also be a brief broadband update and table discussion on Tuesday, June 6, and a Telehealth Access Point (TAP) mapping discussion as well.

Please register here to attend the next Quarterly NATA/SATA/AZ Telehealth Alliance Meeting Monday June 5, 2023 from 2 pm – 4 pm https://telemedicine.arizona.edu/event/meeting/2023-06-05-natasataaz-telehealth-alliance-meeting

And here is the link to register for the AZ rural health conference June 6 & 7, 2023: https://crh.arizona.edu/events/49th-annual-arizona-rural-health-conference.

Mala reported there are no updates regarding the telehealth in libraries project for the Navajo and Tohono O'odham tribes, which is expected to ramp up in the summer months.

3.6. Government Affairs

3.6.1. Arizona Broadband Policy Update (Mike Keeling, Mark Goldstein)

Mark reviewed the three broadband elements that Governor Hobbs' included in her budget:

1. $5 million in E-rate matching funds as an E-rate enabler for financially struggling schools.

2. $50 million one-time allocation to establish a matching fund for federal BEAD grants projects, called the Rural Broadband Accelerated Match Fund. There is a 25% match requirement for BEAD broadband infrastructure grants, and some rural communities/broadband providers will be able to use this for matching funds.

3. $16 million one-time allocation to enhance broadband capabilities at state facilities in rural Arizona.

John Kelly said he supports the $5 million proposed by the Governor for E-rate matching funds since it might be leveraged as in the past for the E-rate Modernization program where the federal government provided major E-rate

subsidies if state matching funds were provided. Representative Matt Gress is supportive of this being renewed.

John also spoke about the HB2144 Striker Bill which is intended to streamline with a 30-day time frame the broadband permitting process in small cities and towns with unserved or underserved communities to be consistent with BEAD timelines. The legislation is a work in progress to ensure that aerial transmission via pole attachments is covered.

John mentioned that Representative Gress introduced a bill to ban the use of TikTok by state agencies and contractors. The proposal is based on a bill introduced in the Texas legislature and it has raised some questions that are now being negotiated. Meanwhile Governor Hobbs issued an executive order banning the use of TikTok on state-owned devices. It is uncertain whether the Gress legislation will survive.

3.6.2. Federal Broadband Policy Update (Nicole Umayam/NTIA, Mark Goldstein)

Nicole Umayam is the Arizona Broadband Liaison Federal Program Officer (FPO), for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). As such she serves as the interface for the state of Arizona to the NTIA at the national level, supporting the State Broadband Office on the BEAD and Digital Equity Programs. Nicole has shared with NTIA key activities in Arizona such as those of the Arizona State Library and the ADE Final Mile Project.

Nicole Umayam reported that the NTIA Digital Equity Program Request for Comments is open until May 1. NTIA is holding a number of listening sessions on this, which will be important in setting priorities on how grants are awarded.

Regarding the Digital Equity Program, a notice of unallocated funds was announced and Arizona has $8,000 to accept if they wish it to be added to their $1.1 million award for development of the State Digital Equity Plan.

The initial round of FCC ACP Outreach grants have gone out. Another round for FCC ACP outreach grants will be issued in a few months with funding of $10 million.

The Department of Labor on April 5 announced $80 million of funding in what they call the Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program.

Mark reported that the USDA is in the decision round for Reconnect Round 4 for grants up to $35 million that had been applied for several months ago. Reconnect Round 5 is looming and will be published in late 2023 or early

2024.

USDA also has announced a new round of Community Connect grants of up to $5 million to single communities, that are open for applications due by June 20. See https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-connect-grants for details.

USDA has launched a new Broadband Technical Assistance (BTA) grant program with $20M available over 3 categories: Technical Assistance Providers to benefit rural communities, Technical Assistance Recipients for project studies & design & Projects Supporting Cooperatives. Deadline is 6/20/23 with details available at https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-programs/broadband-technical-assistance-program FYI.

At NTIA the Middle Mile Grants are close to being announced within the next few weeks.

The NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) Round 1 grants of $1 billion initially and a second $1 billion added are still in the process of being awarded and there will be a TBCP Round 2 with another $1 billion awarded by the end of 2023. See https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources/grant-programs/tribal-broadband-connectivity-program for details.

Mark said there is bipartisan legislation being discussed to make the BEAD infrastructure funding and US Treasury Capital Projects funding non-taxable.

Heather Floyd reported that there is an NTCA World Broadband Association legislative and policy session next week. Valley Telecom received a New Mexico grant for broadband in Columbus, New Mexico..

Corey Christians announced that the Altice lease for providing broadband in four communities in northern Yavapai County has been terminated due to non-performance. The RFP will be re-issued and the funds will be re-allocated. Cox is performing well in southern Yavapai County in Congress and will be starting soon in Black Canyon City. The National Association of Counties will attend the groundbreaking ceremonies at Black Canyon City on June 28.

4. **Information and Action Plans**

    4.1. **ATIC Website & Teleconferencing (All)**

    The ATIC website was recently again infected with a virus and/or some form of malware or adware and cannot be accessed safely.

Mark said the site will probably need to be migrated to a different platform.

Kirk Busch confirmed that the problem is a combination of adware and malware. His team can secure the website and we will need to restructure the site and then move it over to a different platform. We definitely need to get off of Weebly and migrate to a more modern platform where it is secure and easy for ATIC editors to make changes.

As noted previously by Mark and Steve, the ATIC website is aging a bit so this is an opportunity to clean it up and restructure it. The website is shared with AZBSN.

The website needs to be leveraged to publicize the Digital Access Task Force Report recommendations as well as using it for communications and public engagement, such as newsletters.

4.1.1. AZBSN Communications & Newsletter

Mark at a previous meeting suggested that we should think about how to leverage some of the information sessions from the Monday morning AZBSN-COVID Digital Access Task Force meetings.

There remains a continuing need for volunteers to work
(1) on regular maintenance of the Weebly ATIC website and
(2) on providing a regular newsletter about all that's going on in the broadband world.

4.2. ATIC Mailing List & CRM (All)

Steve is discussing with Mark and Kirk Busch subscribing to a CRM/E-mail management service to meet the needs of the AZBSN Task Force.

4.3. New Business and Motion Considerations (All)

ATIC vs. AZBSN Roles and AZBSN Governance.

At a previous meeting Mark reminded everyone of the issue raised by Janet recently concerning AZBSN governance and oversight. Since Janet is not present today this will be moved to the October meeting agenda. Henry mentioned that Janet was concerned about the definition of roles for ATIC as opposed to AZBSN. For ease of reference, below is a copy (in blue text) of Janet's concerns as documented at the June 2022 meeting:

Janet would like to discuss the future role of ATIC. Janet feels AZBSN is subordinate to ATIC but that ATIC "has been 'lost' in the shuffle - and that all expertise is not 'owned' by AZBSN. Does ATIC still want to be an authority and resource for the general public? Does AZBSN want to be an affiliate of ATIC? Or

continue the outreach work of ATIC as telecom experts under the name of AZBSN?" Cybersecurity is one of the five pillars of digital equity on which AZBSN is focusing. Should ATIC also deal with cybersecurity? Kirk suggested that maybe we need to define the roles more specifically but it is important to build on the established AZBSN brand to avoid confusion. Mark agreed with Janet and Kirk that we should consider better defining the ATIC roles, and ATIC is creating a new broadband provider working group. Mark noted that AZBSN is a partnership of ATIC and GAZEL, but GAZEL no longer has an active Board. Steve noted that digital equity, including cybersecurity, will be a key mission for AZBSN. Mark commented that ATIC may partner with ACA on rural outreach and with the Arizona Telemedicine Program on telehealth events in the future.

Also at a previous meeting Mark added that we did start to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2020 and the Executive Committee held several meetings on this topic. One of the decisions that was made was to let the finances of AZBSN operate under the management of GAZEL. However, the GAZEL Board has not met for some time and is not effectively acting in an operational capacity. Kirk Busch asked about the state of the draft MOU and Mark said he would send him a copy.

5. **Events Attended and Upcoming Meetings**

Heather suggested that perhaps ATIC should be more vocal about the broadband bills that have passed and are out there on the verge of being deployed. Mark noted that this is the sort of thing that Jeff Sobotka would regularly report on and suggested that Sandip Bhowmick provide periodic updates on this.

6. **Announcements**

7. **Adjourn**

Upcoming ATIC Board Meetings

Upcoming ATIC Board Meetings for 2023 are scheduled for the second Wednesdays of the month (except August and December) from 12:00-2:00 p.m. and will be held fully virtually until further notice. Board Meetings are open for all to participate. Please plan to join us.

- **May 10, 2023 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **June 14, 2023 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **July 12, 2023 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **No Board Meeting in August (Summer Break)**
- **September 13, 2023 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **October 11, 2023 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **November 8, 2023 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **No Board Meeting in December (Happy Holidays!)**

ATIC Special and Public Meetings

AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force continues to hold meetings every Monday afternoon (except holidays) at 3:00 p.m. See the Planning page at https://www.arizonatele.org/covid19-planning.html for details.

Also see Task Force information and related resources at https://www.arizonatele.org/covid19-about.html.

Future AZBSN newsletter, webinars, and roundtables are under development.

desert FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION

Sign up for eStatements today!
Go green

Arizona T... ˅

Dashboard   My Accounts   Transfers & Payments   My Tools   Support

Online shopping? Here's why you should use your debit card.

Dashboard

Accounts   ⚙

Checking	$566.22
ATIC 434041	ⓘ ⌃ $566.22
04011-0400	$566.22
Savings	$9,567.32
ATIC 073206	⌃ $9,567.32
04081-0080	$9,592.32

ⓘ Pending Transaction   ⌃ Available Balance

Important Information

How to Save for Big Purchases

March 01, 2023

Get Down With the Digital Wallet

March 01, 2023

Quick Links

Credit Card Login

Investments (Raymond James)

Mortgage Loans (MLOS)

Identity Secure

Mobile App 101

Link External Accounts

Get Started

Last **15** days   ⚙

↩ Logged in 1 time

Desert Financial Credit Union

Arizona Telecommunications And Information
ATIC 434041 04081-0400

Transaction History

		Statement Period: **All Dates**	Date of Statement: **04/11/2023**

Pending Transactions (1)

Pending transactions may not be the final amount that posts to account.

DATE	DESCRIPTION		AMOUNT
04/11/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL		-$25.75

Posted Transactions (62)

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
03/14/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-$26.13	$566.22
02/10/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-$25.61	$592.35
01/10/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-$25.25	$617.96
12/13/22	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-$25.75	$643.21
11/10/22	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-$26.13	$668.96
10/11/22	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-$26.61	$695.09
09/12/22	ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER FROM 0000	$500.00	$721.70
09/12/22	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-$25.51	$221.70
08/10/22	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-$25.40	$247.21
07/22/22	DRAFT #2223 TRACER 46098424	-$400.00	$272.61
07/14/22	DRAFT #2222 TRACER 45948991	-$21.60	$672.61
07/12/22	DRAFT #2221 TRACER 45886391	-$924.00	$694.21
07/12/22	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-$25.63	$1,618.21
06/30/22	ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER FROM 0000	$1,000.00	$1,643.84