

## **ATIC Board Agenda for Wednesday, June 12, 2024**

### **1. Administrative**

- 1.1. Self-Introductions
- 1.2. Modifications to and Acceptance of Agenda Draft
- 1.3. Acceptance of Minutes from May 8, 2024, 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
- 1.6. Review of Outstanding Action Items as Documented in May 8, 2024, 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. Digital Equity Initiatives & Opportunities
  - 3.1.3. ACA Broadband Strategy & ATIC Role/Support
- 3.2. Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network (Steve Peters)
  - 3.2.1. AZBSN Digital Access Task Force Updates
  - 3.2.2. 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 (Michael Holcomb)
- 3.6. Government Affairs
  - 3.6.1. Arizona Broadband Policy Update (John Kelly, 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**

**June 12, 2024**

### **Attendees:**

#### **ATIC Board Members:**

Mark Goldstein, Henry Goldberg, Oris Friesen, Ron Schott, John Kelly, Kirk Busch, Corey Christians, Jerry Crow, Heather Floyd, Rob Gallegos, Holly Henley, Andy Phelan, Dario Solis, PJ Way, Laura Etter and Oris Friesen as proxy for Nan Williams.

#### **ATIC Associates & Guests:**

Mala Muralidharan (State E-rate Administrator for Public Libraries, Arizona State Library), Steve Peters (Coordinator, AZBSN Digital Access Task Force), Bill D'Agostino (Senior Adviser, Wireless Infrastructure Association), Caroline Klebacha (Compliance Specialist for Broadband Projects, Arizona State Historic Preservation Office), Vaughn Croft (Assistant Professor, Northern Arizona University and Outreach Business Community Liaison, Fred Acosta Job Corps Center), Brian Daly (Assistant Vice President for Wireless Technology and Standards, AT&T), Angeline Kaiyo (Community Partnership Director, Black Chamber of Arizona), Denise Shorey (Consultant, City of Tucson Broadband Initiative), Eileen Harris (Senior Philanthropy Manager, Human IT), Mike Edmonds (Mayor and Council Assistant, City of Tucson), Tom Del Giorno (Regional Sales Manager, Tel Rep Marketing), Steve Johnson (Executive Vice President of Program Management, DC Deployed), Andy Tobin (Consultant, Wecom Fiber and rural Arizona communities), Julie Emms (Administrative Director, NSF-ERC Center for Quantum Networks, University of Arizona College of Optical Sciences), Maria Garcia (Acting Director, NACOG Community Services Department), Katrina Parker (Program Director, Triad Wireless) and Michelle Simon (Director, Pima County Office of Digital Inclusion).

Quorum Met with 16 ATIC Board Members Present including 1 proxy (Quorum = 10). Note that Zoom terminated the meeting after 70 minutes due to a technical glitch and agenda was not completely gone through. A replay of the meeting to that point is available at [https://youtu.be/gfQaD1\\_9VLA](https://youtu.be/gfQaD1_9VLA). 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 ATIC Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 10, 2024, virtually. The schedule of ATIC Board Meetings for the balance of 2024 can be found towards the end of these minutes.

## 1. Administrative

**Editor's Note: Due to an unexpected technical difficulty the Zoom Session for this meeting was unexpectedly terminated after roughly one hour. Consequently, there are no minutes for the following sections:**

- 3.2 Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network (Steve Peters)
- 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 (Michael Holcomb)
- 3.6.2 Federal Broadband Policy Update (Nicole Umayam/NTIA, Mark Goldstein)

For these sections we repeated the minutes from the May 8 meeting with a note explaining that there are no minutes for the June 12 meeting.

Since Mala Muralidharan supplied a written report for Section 3.4, it serves as a replacement for the minutes for that section.

### 1.1. Self-Introductions

See the list of attendees above.

### 1.2. Modifications to and Acceptance of Agenda Draft

**MOTION: To accept the Agenda**

**MOVE: Heather Floyd**  
**SECOND: PJ Way**  
**Passed Unanimously**

### 1.3. Acceptance of Minutes from May 8, 2024, 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 as a draft for review, comment, and approval.

**MOTION: To accept the Minutes**

**MOVE: Heather Floyd**  
**SECOND: PJ Way**  
**Passed Unanimously**

Historical minutes from past Board Meetings can be found on the website at <https://www.arizonatele.org/board-minutes.html>.

#### **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 \$7790.02. All major bills have been paid including the monthly Century Link bill.

At the October Board meeting John Kelly had commented that ATIC might wish to consider dropping the Directors & Officers insurance since it may not be necessary for our type of organization. John stated he spoke to an insurance broker about this, and this may be an expense ATIC does need to have. John said there seems to be no risk-associated tasks that ATIC is engaged in, such as consulting, operational, or financial exposure. Henry Goldberg stated he does not feel comfortable dropping this insurance since the directors/officers are doing this work pro-bono and have no protection against any possible lawsuits, and some officers such as Mark and Henry are doing or may do consulting work in areas that relate to ATIC activities. Mark pointed out that the consulting he does is not for ATIC, and he carries his own professional liability insurance for his consulting firm. Kirk said that if we decide to do some tasks for ACA that may change our risk status so we should probably keep it for now. Mark also noted that we may be involved in some new state broadband and digital equity projects. John explained that the insurance does not protect us against frivolous lawsuits other than if, as officers, we act in ways that are incompatible with our fiduciary responsibilities, and his firm carries liability insurance protection against lawsuits rather than Directors & Officers Insurance. He suggested that we talk to our broker about this. Mark stated that the Directors & Officers Insurance, which costs about \$1000 per year, is ATIC's biggest expense. He commented that ATIC likely needs to keep this insurance especially if ATIC undertakes digital equity projects going forward.

Steve Peters reported at a previous meeting that there are no funds remaining in the Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network account and no new sponsorship funding has been contributed. Steve clarified that there is about \$2,000 remaining in the account to cover AZBSN expenses but no funds available to pay his salary. The most recent sponsors were Karen Ziegler Consulting Services and Triad Wireless. 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. He is speaking with Sandip Bhowmick (State Broadband Office Director) and others about obtaining funding.

Mark has noted at previous meetings that the ATIC bank balance has been drifting down, but with remote ATIC Board meetings we no longer have to pay for lunches for attendees. Mark has commented in the past 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.

Mark indicated that he feels bound to initiate a campaign to address this issue by reaching out to members in the commercial broadband arena.

### **1.5. ATIC Board Membership Considerations**

Mark Goldstein reviewed some recent changes to the ATIC Board membership noting that Mike Keeling has retired and resigned from the Board, Janet Major has retired and has been replaced by Michael Holcomb, Interim Director of the Arizona Telemedicine Program, Dario Solis of ASU has been elected to the Board and Tamara Rosenberg of Resound Networks, was elected to the Board at the May meeting.

Mark said that we can consider Brian Daly, Assistant Vice President for Wireless Technology and Standards at AT&T, as a candidate for Board membership. Mark noted that Brian was elected a Board member last year but had to resign because his management did not support this at that time. Brian noted that in addition to his position at AT&T, he co-leads the 6G Working Group of the FCC Technology Council and is also newly appointed to the FCC Communications, Security, and Interoperability Council. Brian stated his ATIC Board Membership is now definitely supported by AT&T management and its local teams that support Arizona. His goal is to bring work going on in the evaluation of wireless technology as it moves towards 6G as developed at AT&T and the FCC as well as the potential for broadband services in rural and underserved areas.

**MOTION: To nominate Brian Daly to become an ATIC Board member**

**MOVE: Mark Goldstein**  
**SECOND: Kirk Busch**  
**Passed Unanimously**

This brings our current Board membership to 29. Our bylaws allow for 30 Board Members plus 5 officers, and so there is still capacity for up to 6 additional Board members.

Mark also said that Brian Fickett of the Tohono O'odham Utility (<https://toua.net/>, [brian.fickett@hq.toua.net](mailto:brian.fickett@hq.toua.net)) has attended some ATIC/AZBSN meetings and has expressed interest in joining the Board. Mignonne Hollis of the Arizona Regional Economic Development Foundation (AREDF, <https://www.aredf.org/>, [hollism@aredf.org](mailto:hollism@aredf.org)) who organized the recent "Arizona Broadband for All" meeting and is located in Sierra Vista remains interested and Mark has encouraged her to engage with ATIC and attend future ATIC Board meetings. Mark is still waiting to hear from Brent Nelson of the Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education (<https://www.navajonationdode.org/>, [brentnelson@nndode.org](mailto:brentnelson@nndode.org)) and from Joy Whiting, the Apache County Superintendent of Schools ([joy.joywhiting@gmail.com](mailto:joy.joywhiting@gmail.com)), about joining the ATIC Board.

Steve Peters commented that David McLevain, Land Use Manager for the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation (<https://fmyn.org/>, [dmclevain@fmyn.org](mailto:dmclevain@fmyn.org)) has attended some AZBSN meetings and could be considered as a possible tribal representative on the ATIC Board. Mala has spoken with Sonia Nez, the Navajo Nation Broadband Manager (<https://www.navajo-nsn.gov/>, [sonianez@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:sonianez@navajo-nsn.gov)) and urged Mark to reach out to her and invite her to the next ATIC meeting since she is interested in ATIC.

John Kelly suggested reaching out to Rene Guillen, Deputy Director of the League of Arizona Cities & Towns (<https://www.azleague.org/>, [rguillen@azleague.org](mailto:rguillen@azleague.org)) as well as someone from the Arizona Association for Economic Development (AAED, <https://aaed.com/>). Mark will also contact Joy Whiting again. Mark also plans to talk to Jeff Mirasola of Lumen Technologies ([jeff.mirasola@lumen.com](mailto:jeff.mirasola@lumen.com)) about staying on the Board or providing a replacement.

Mark has also spoken with Shaun Story of Calix Networks ([shaun.story@calix.com](mailto:shaun.story@calix.com)), who is potentially interested in becoming a sponsor of ATIC and/or AZBSN. Regarding tribal representation, at a previous meeting Shereka Jackson mentioned a Native American as a possibility, whose coordinates are RJ Huskey, of Hozho Cybersecurity ([www.gohozho.com](http://www.gohozho.com), [rj@gohozho.com](mailto:rj@gohozho.com), 602-999-9369). Mala also suggested Mikhail Sundust of the Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. (<https://gilarivertel.com/>, [msundust@gilarivertel.com](mailto:msundust@gilarivertel.com)) as a potential tribal board member

### **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 had started a Slack channel populated with a list of about 160 provider representatives across about 80 companies from his spreadsheet. Mark circulated this spreadsheet to Sandip Bhowmick and Nicole Umayam for their reference and any 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 with the Broadband Providers Working Group focusing 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.

Mark noted that the Slack Channel has not taken off as he had hoped and he is open to taking comments on this and/or suggestions for alternate broadband provider engagement strategies/initiatives. Mark referred to this effort as "hibernating."

Mark spoke about the difficulty in getting this off the ground. He asked if there was anyone in attendance who had some thoughts on how to move forward on this.

Kirk Busch said he reserved a breakout room on December 5 to again engage a potential ATIC broadband provider working group onsite and virtually at this year's Big Data Southwest's National AI DataCenter Summit (<https://www.bigdatasw.org/>, #AZDC24, #AIDC24) to be held on December 4-5 at the Goodyear Civic Center.

**1.6. Review of Outstanding Action Items as Documented in the April 10, 2024, Minutes**

Nothing to report

**2. Informational Presentations**

2.1. None were scheduled.

**3. Activity Reports**

**3.1. Arizona Broadband Office Report (Sandip Bhowmick)**

Sandip Bhowmick, State Broadband Director at the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) State Broadband Office, was unable to be present. Mark provided a brief update.

ACA is nearing the end of the Challenge Process for the BEAD Project State Map of unserved and underserved households. May 15 was the final date for challenges and ISP rebuttals were open until the end of May, and now ACA is sorting out the results. The state map classifies the broadband-serviceable household locations to be unserved (under 25/3 Mbps), underserved (under 100/20 Mbps) or served. The state map classifies Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) as served if they have at least 1 Gbps symmetrical service. Challenges are what people believe to be false positives or false negatives. False positives are where a service provider declares they are serving locations that are currently showing as unserved/underserved or they have a funded grant or enforceable commitment to service a location. False negatives are where the map shows a location is served but an entity (e.g., a community) declares that the service provider has not delivered the service or provided the appropriate speed (as measured by speed tests).

The BEAD-ready version of the map will incorporate these changes resulting from the Challenge Process. ACA will then bundle the unserved/underserved locations into geographical areas for bids from ISPs for BEAD grants. NTIA and ACA definitely prefer FTTH solutions but in extremely rural areas where the cost of deploying fiber is high a cost threshold will be set (such as \$8,000 per home) and if the cost of FTTH exceeds that then other technology solutions such as fixed wireless or satellite can be proposed. In non-high cost areas a 25% match from the service provider is required, but in high-cost areas no match is required although there will be a scoring benefit if a match is provided.

Mark expects the bidding process to start in 4Q 24. NTIA has allocated Arizona \$993 million for the BEAD program. Arizona may choose not to award all of the



\$993 million in the first round of grants. There may be a primary wave of bidding and later a secondary clean-up wave of bidding. Heather Floyd mentioned that ACA has invited all broadband providers to attend an in-person meeting on July 15 to discuss ACA plans for the rest of the year and discuss the possible timing of when the bidding process will start.

PJ Way commented that there is a need for more transparency on the results of the BEAD Challenge Process (which challenges were accepted and declined and the reasoning behind it) as well as transparency on whether the BEAD funding will be sufficient to serve all the unserved/underserved locations. Mark replied that the pending final ACA State BEAD Map will provide the locations that resulted from the Challenge Process.

An ACA Arizona Digital Equity Plan has been approved by NTIA, with Arizona currently receiving \$16.1 million of funding for the Digital Equity Capacity Grants Program in the initial allocation and an anticipated smaller second allocation to follow later. Non-profit organizations, local/regional government organizations, and state agencies may apply for these grants. ACA has submitted a Digital Equity Capacity Grants application to NTIA on how the Digital Equity Plan grants process will be implemented, but this application has not yet been approved. Steve Peters noted that the ACA has issued a survey to get an idea of organizations that may be interested in applying for these digital equity capacity grants.

Steve Peters expressed concern about the lack of a long-term continuity plan for digital equity funding, after the Digital Equity Capacity Grants funding is exhausted. Steve has talked to Local First Arizona about helping communities write grant applications. Steve also commented that organizations applying for Digital Equity Program funding will have significant reporting requirements, which may prove difficult for smaller organizations. Steve has spoken with larger entities about assisting smaller entities with addressing these reporting requirements.

The State Broadband Office has about eight staff members, but the tribal liaison recently resigned so they have one opening.

### **3.1.1. Broadband Grants, Rural Community Outreach & Projects**

The content for this section is included above in Section 3.1.

### **3.1.2. Digital Equity Initiatives & Opportunities**

The content for this section is included above in Section 3.1.

### **3.1.3. ACA Broadband Strategy & ATIC Role/Support**

The content for this section is included above in Section 3.1.

## **3.2. Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network (Steve Peters)**

### **3.2.1. AZBSN Digital Access Task Force Updates**

**[Ed. note: Due to technical issues, we were unable to report on this section. The following text is from the May 8 Meeting Minutes.]**

Steve Peters, Coordinator of the AZBSN Digital Access Task reported at a previous meeting that the Task Force continues to meet every Thursday morning at 8 am. In addition to presentations at meetings, the AZBSN Task Force regularly receives briefings from the Arizona State Broadband Office, the State Library, Arizona Department of Education, and others involved in broadband and digital equity work in the state. Steve sends out a newsletter after every meeting that recaps the most recent meeting and conveys information about upcoming events, policy reports, and other relevant information and links to recordings and transcripts of the weekly Task Force meetings.

Steve reported that he plans to change the format of the weekly AZBSN Task Force meetings. He is doing this in response to suggestions from members of the Task Force. The meetings format will alternate between weeks where updates are provided by state agencies (not needed every week) with invited presentations as in the past, and weeks where we have panel discussions intended to promote action on important areas. For example, the next meeting will feature a panel and open discussion on community planning at the county level with Michelle Simon, Executive Director of the Pima County Office of Digital Inclusion, PJ Way, Broadband Program Manager of Yuma County, and Joy Whiting, Apache County Schools Superintendent. They will discuss the path forward especially as it relates to questions like: What has enabled your county plans to be successful? What obstacles have you encountered? What are your plans going forward? and what can AZBSN do to help with their planning? The intent is to have an open dialog and be action-focused. AZBSN will also have sessions on telehealth and municipal networks. Steve concluded saying AZBSN wants to become more action-focused rather than only sharing information and hosting presentations.

#### **3.2.1.1. Updates to AZBSN Task Force Report**

Steve said at a previous meeting that Karen Ziegler and John Kelly had

been unable to get traction on the proposed project. So, there has been no progress on working on an update to the November 2020 AZBSN Digital Access Strategy Report and there is nothing new to report.

### **3.2.2. AZBSN Leadership Group & New Initiatives**

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

Mark Goldstein urged Steve to initiate some action on re-constituting the AZBSN Leadership Team and involve some additional people to generate strategic and operational plans as well as assist in making this happen so the full load is not carried only by Steve. Steve agreed.

### **3.2.3. Return to Outreach Activities with Newsletters & Webinars**

No new action to report in this area.

## **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 EDTechCommittee 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/>).

**[Ed. note: Due to technical issues, we were unable to report on this section. The following text is from the May 8 Meeting Minutes.]**

Nan reported that the ADE and AzTEA Technology Town Hall will be held tomorrow on cyber-trends and suggestions on how best to communicate. AzTEA is also putting a survey on what systems for communication different organizations are using.

AzTEA is also conducting virtual Professional Development (PD) sessions and there will be one on AI.

### 3.3.2. Greater Arizona Educational Leadership (GAZEL) (Steve Peters)

**[Ed. note: Due to technical issues, we were unable to report on this section. The following text is from the May 8 Meeting Minutes.]**

The GAZEL Board hasn't met since early 2022 and needs reactivation and refreshing to further operationalize GAZEL. Steve has been in touch with existing Board members in an effort to revitalize the Board as a functional entity. The Board still needs to acquire Directors & Officers (D&O) insurance for good governance and proper protections especially if funded projects are to be undertaken.

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. Mark Goldstein stated that GAZEL needs to be reinvigorated including its interaction with ATIC on the AZBSN Digital Access Task Force. Steve stated he is looking into reactivating the GAZEL Board, and is talking to past GAZEL Board members to come up with a plan as well as engage new Board members.

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

The Sun Corridor Network (SCN) is Arizona's Research & Education Network supporting the state universities, education, healthcare, government and CAIs. Laura Etter's contact points are: Sun Corridor Network - <https://suncorridor.org/> and [Laura@suncorridor.org](mailto:Laura@suncorridor.org).

**[Ed. note: Due to technical issues, we were unable to report on this section. The following text is from the May 8 Meeting Minutes.]**

Laura Etter was absent and there was no report.

At the previous board meeting Henry Goldberg reported that he met with Kelly Chung Mukherjee, who manages the Maricopa County Broadband Initiative and its broadband mapping portal AZ-1 as discussed by Laura Etter at the February ATIC Board meeting. Kelly suggested that she could include ATIC and/or AZBSN as a supporting resource/partner listing on the AZ-1 portal if we send her the organization's logo and a brief description of what the organization does to support broadband and digital inclusion in the state. Henry e-mailed Mark and Steve Peters about this, and the ATIC logo and description have been added to the AZ-1 resources section.

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

[Ed. note: Due to technical issues, we were unable to report on this section.]

However, Mala submitted the following written report after the meeting

#### **ATIC Board Meeting June 12, 2024, State Library Report**

##### **E-RATE :**

**E-rate Survey** : The 14<sup>th</sup> annual nationwide survey of E-rate applicants being conducted by Funds For Learning. It is an opportunity to make your voice heard and help shape the future of the E-rate program. Here is the link to the survey. **SURVEY LINK:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024USF>

You can see the results of earlier annual surveys results at:

<https://www.fundsforlearning.com/e-rate-data/trendsreport/> **The survey is open until June 30, 2024.**

**REASONS WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT:** Many new services are likely to be added to the eligible service School Bus Wi-Fi ; Cybersecurity Pilot Program; Hot Spots (or other technologies) for patrons until Fiber is built out throughout Arizona. That is why I am personally asking for each of you to fill the survey. Last year, a total of 2,110 applicants participated in the survey, including 62 applicants in AZ. The results of the 2023 survey were presented to the FCC. See ex parte presentation.

**FCC Cybersecurity Pilot Project** : On June 6, FCC in the open Meeting discussed a host of issues:

1. The FCC voted (3 approve, 2 dissent) to approve the Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program, so members will be on the lookout for the final Report and Order in the coming weeks.

Cybersecurity tools are eligible for discounts as part of the Pilot Program:

The Order states that applicants have the “flexibility to determine which [cybersecurity] solutions best serve their needs”. In this regard, the FCC has developed a Pilot Eligible Services List (P-ESL), which is in Appendix B in the Order.

The list specifies over seventy eligible cybersecurity tools and services divided into four categories:

- Advanced/NextGeneration Firewalls,
- Endpoint Protection,
- Identity Protection, and
- Authentication, Monitoring, Detection, and Response.
- Other eligible costs include maintenance, operation and support, and installation and activation charges. Like the regular E-rate program, equipment and services

must be competitively bid (see question below). Since basic firewall services are currently eligible for E-rate discounts, they are not eligible for the Pilot Program.

### **Funding for the Pilot**

The Pilot will be funded at \$200 million over its three-year timeframe using extra E-rate funds not expended in previous program years..

- Schools and Districts can receive up to \$13.60 per student with a minimum of \$15,000 and a maximum of \$1.5 million.
- Libraries and Library Systems can receive a minimum of \$15,000. Library systems with more than 11 sites will be eligible for up to \$175,000.
- Consortia. In a consortium of schools and libraries, schools will be eligible for \$13.60 per student and libraries will be eligible for \$15,000 per site. Consortia solely comprised of schools or having both schools and libraries are subject to the \$1.5 million maximum for schools. Consortia solely comprised of libraries will have a \$175,000 maximum per participating library system.

### **Application Process:**

Two step application process.

- The 1<sup>st</sup> step is filing an intent and a summary of the project. After selecting the Pilot participants, we direct the Bureau to announce its selections through a Public Notice that will provide further detail about the Pilot Program requirements, including **providing additional information and instruction regarding Pilot requirements for submitting**
- **The 2<sup>nd</sup> step of the application:** competitive bidding, submitting requests for funding, and invoicing, as well as the Pilot-specific data and metrics reporting requirements discussed herein and the format for those reporting and metrics requirements.

Additional resources for the Cybersecurity Pilot Program are now available:

- **FCC Cybersecurity Pilot Program webpage with links to the draft Order and pilot Eligible Services List:** <https://www.fcc.gov/cybersecurity-pilot-program>
- **USAC Cybersecurity Pilot Program webpage with link to sign up for newsletters:** <https://www.usac.org/e-rate/cyber-security-pilot-program/>
- **ALA FAQ on the draft Order:** [https://www.ala.org/sites/default/files/2024-06/ALA\\_FAQ\\_CybersecurityPilot.pdf](https://www.ala.org/sites/default/files/2024-06/ALA_FAQ_CybersecurityPilot.pdf)

2.. HOTSPOTS : No Progress - SHLB suggested that the FCC establish a new “Category 3” budget to fund its proposed hotspot initiative under E-Rate.

### 3. WiFi on School Buses – No progress

ECF Members expressed their questions and concerns about a government funding bill that was passed in March 2024 rescinding \$1.768 billion in “unobligated” funds from the ECF program.

### Rural STEM Learning – June 4-7, 2024 (Mala was an exhibitor.)

- It was a wonderful emerging conference on the importance of STEAM/STEAM/STREAM in every thing we do.
- Steve Zylstra – AZ Tech Council – mentioned about Arizona’s \$993 million BEAD allocation and 16 Million in DE grants, and other NTIA and USDA grants. The state should start planning on sustaining the broadband grant program beyond the current surge of generational federal spending. Leveraging existing funding like E-rate and Digital Inclusion training through Libraries and non-profits like Chicanos Por la causa.
- Exhibitors/ sponsors had a table at lunch and people chose which table and moved from table to table
- Sessions to remember was Reetika Dhawan – Workforce challenges... we need trained workforce now.. connecting Students to STEM careers especially BioSciences, Aerospace, Telecommunication
- GAO wanted to hear about challenges for federal grants – Very interactive session – challenges included – grant writing was burdensome especially for smaller organizations- Need-based grants instead of competitive, Grant templates/ Evaluation templates and simple application process
- Lisa Lewis AZLA Pres/ Florence Lib Dir – spoke about the role of libraries in STREAM - LSTA subgrants, pilot projects, mini grants, Coding, Maker spaces, robotics, collaboration with AZ Science center, Sci-Tech festival, Go where the children go like Minecraft
- Erin Lorandos spoke about BEAD and DE grant funding and the subgrantee process
- Made a number of contacts for Telehealth projects with U of A and NAU

### End of Library Report

### 3.5. Telehealth (Mike Holcomb)

**[Ed. note: Due to technical issues, we were unable to report on this section. The following text is from the May 8 Meeting Minutes.]**

Mike Holcomb Interim Director of the Arizona Telemedicine Program (ATP, <https://telemedicine.arizona.edu/>) and newly elected to ATIC’s Board, was absent, and there was no report.

### 3.6. Government Affairs

#### 3.6.1. Arizona Broadband Policy Update (John Kelly, Mark Goldstein)

Mark stated that two broadband-related funding areas were at risk in the state legislature broadband negotiation: 1) \$24 million set aside in previous legislature sessions for broadband such as middle-mile projects; 2) \$ 5 million had been appropriated a few years ago for E-rate specific construction matching for schools/libraries deployment of fiber, and this is being cut in half to \$2.5 million. Mala said that most of the E-rate funds have already been spent, but there is about \$75,000 remaining which has been designated to the Navajo County Library District for middle-mile and last-mile E-rate matching.

Mark asked John Kelly to provide an update on the budget negotiations. John observed that there is full-blown panic among the legislators. They need to come up with a solution to a \$1.3 billion deficit for the remainder of the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2024. Overall they propose budget cuts in the range of \$700 - \$800 million, which includes a general sweep ranging from a 1% to 5% budget cut for most state government agencies. The \$50 million ACA Competes Fund providing incentives for companies to invest in Arizona is also likely to be dropped. The bills to continue ACA, ADOT, and ADOA as state agencies still have not been passed but seem likely to move to a favorable conclusion.

Mark stated that he and John Kelly are on the committee developing the Arizona Technology Council 2024-25 Public Policy Guide, which is being drafted this month (earlier than usual). Mark writes the drafts of the state and federal broadband policy sections for this and has encouraged feedback and suggestions be provided as markups to last year's final version he has been distributing for review.

**[Ed. note: The meeting was abruptly terminated at this point.]**

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

**[Ed. note: Due to technical issues, we were unable to report on this section. The following text is from the May 8 Meeting Minutes.]**

Mark noted that under USDA the distance learning and telemedicine grants program is open. He also reported that the ReConnect Loan and Grant Program Round 5 is open until May 21. Steve Peters commented that the USDA Arizona General Field Representative gave a good presentation



overviewing all USDA grant/loan programs at the AZBSN May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

The NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) submission deadline for its second round for \$980 million has closed and no further round is currently funded.

Mark commented that it is unclear what future federal grant programs will come after BEAD since BEAD is funding broadband infrastructure to all unserved/underserved households and CAIs. Federal programs have not funded competitive overbuilds or middle-mile redundancy. However, it is likely that programs like USDA's Community Connect and ReConnect will have future rounds going forward.

#### **4. Information and Action Plans**

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

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. Kirk noted that he will continue to promote ATIC/AZBSN on LinkedIn and elsewhere.

Kirk Busch needs to update the website regarding board members who have left and new members who have been added. There are four people listed who are no longer ATIC Board members: Bill Bolin, Matt Dostal, Janet Major, and Mike Keeling. There are four new people that must be added as new ATIC Board members: Mike Holcomb, Dario Solis, Tamara Rosenberg, and Brian Daly (who was elected to the Board at today's meeting).

Kirk also needs to add the bios (as either a pdf or link to their LinkedIn profile) for all ATIC Board members. Kirk had e-mailed ATIC Board members to submit their bios.

##### **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 AZBSN 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 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**

#### **6. Announcements**

#### **7. Adjourn**

At 1:25 pm.

## Upcoming ATIC Board Meetings

Upcoming ATIC Board Meetings for 2024 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.

- July 10, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm
- No Board Meeting in August (Summer Break)
- September 11, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm
- October 9, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm
- November 13, 2024 from 12:00-2:00 pm
- No Board Meeting in December (Happy Holidays!)

## ATIC Special and Public Meetings

AZBSN Digital Access Task Force continues to hold meetings every Thursday morning (except holidays) at 8:00 a.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.

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## Accounts

ATIC 434041 /

Current Balance \$688.46 Available Balance \$688.46

Transactions Account Details Analytics Update Overdraft Coverage Level

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
JUN 11 2024	ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER FROM 0000	\$500.00	\$688.46
MAY 13 2024	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL Cable & Satellite	-\$26.92	\$188.46
APR 23 2024	DRAFT #2228 TRACER 58733152 Checks	-\$10.00	\$215.38
APR 16 2024	DRAFT #2227 TRACER 58589343 Checks	-\$155.45	\$225.38
APR 10 2024	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL Cable & Satellite	-\$26.01	\$380.83
MAR 12 2024	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL Cable & Satellite	-\$26.87	\$406.84
FEB 12 2024	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL Cable & Satellite	-\$25.77	\$433.71
JAN 10 2024	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL Cable & Satellite	-\$26.01	\$459.48
DEC 12	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL Cable & Satellite	-\$26.27	\$485.49

**Desert Financial Credit Union**

*Transaction History*

Arizona Telecommunications And Information  
ATIC 073206 \*\*\*\*\*04081-0000

Statement Period: All Dates | Date of Statement: 06/12/2024

**Posted Transactions (64)**

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
06/11/24	ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER TO 0400	<b>-\$500.00</b>	\$7,101.56
05/31/24	DEPOSIT DIVIDEND	\$0.65	\$7,601.56
04/30/24	DEPOSIT DIVIDEND	\$0.62	\$7,600.91
03/31/24	DEPOSIT DIVIDEND	\$0.65	\$7,600.29
02/29/24	DEPOSIT DIVIDEND	\$0.60	\$7,599.64
01/31/24	DEPOSIT DIVIDEND	\$0.65	\$7,599.04
12/31/23	DEPOSIT DIVIDEND	\$0.65	\$7,598.39
11/30/23	DEPOSIT DIVIDEND	\$0.62	\$7,597.74
10/31/23	DEPOSIT DIVIDEND	\$0.65	\$7,597.12
09/30/23	DEPOSIT DIVIDEND	\$0.62	\$7,596.47
08/31/23	DEPOSIT DIVIDEND	\$0.65	\$7,595.85
07/31/23	DEPOSIT DIVIDEND	\$0.65	\$7,595.20
06/30/23	DEPOSIT DIVIDEND	\$0.68	\$7,594.56
06/20/23	ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER TO 0400	<b>-\$1,000.00</b>	\$7,593.87
05/31/23	DEPOSIT DIVIDEND	\$0.76	\$8,593.87
05/12/23	ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER TO 0400	<b>-\$1,000.00</b>	\$8,593.11
04/30/23	DEPOSIT DIVIDEND	\$0.79	\$9,593.11
03/31/23	DEPOSIT DIVIDEND	\$0.81	\$9,592.32
02/28/23	DEPOSIT DIVIDEND	\$0.74	\$9,591.51
01/31/23	DEPOSIT DIVIDEND	\$0.81	\$9,590.77
12/31/22	DEPOSIT DIVIDEND	\$0.81	\$9,589.96
11/30/22	DEPOSIT DIVIDEND	\$0.79	\$9,589.15
10/31/22	DEPOSIT DIVIDEND	\$0.81	\$9,588.36
09/30/22	DEPOSIT DIVIDEND	\$0.80	\$9,587.55