

August 5, 2014

To: NITC Commissioners
From: Anne Byers
Subject: Community Council Update

Charter Amendment. The Community Council discussed charter changes at their meeting on May 20. Because the Community Council has been meeting infrequently, the group felt that having the chair or co-chair approve the minutes would ensure that they are approved in a more timely manner. Members would still have to option to review the minutes and suggest changes.

Nebraska Broadband Initiative and State Broadband Plan. Since the Nov. 1 kick off for the broadband plan, stakeholders have shared input via work group and Community Council meetings. The following recommendations emerged from discussions with stakeholders:

- Leverage resources to encourage investment in Nebraska's telecommunications infrastructure.
- Enhance the capacity of local communities to address broadband development.
- Encourage the development of a skilled IT workforce.
- Support innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Support the use of broadband technologies in agriculture and businesses.
- Support the use of broadband technologies in health care, local government, libraries, and education.

A draft of the state broadband plan is being reviewed by members of the broadband planning team and will be reviewed by Community Council members at their meeting on August 25. After comments from the Community Council are incorporated into the plan, a copy will be e-mailed to Commissioners. The plan will be posted for public comment by Sept. 19. The plan will be presented at the Broadband Connecting Conference on Oct. 2 and participants will be given a chance to comment on the plan. Commissioners will be asked to approve the plan at their next meeting in late October or November.

A draft of the executive summary is included in the meeting materials.

The Broadband Connecting Nebraska Conference will be held on Oct. 1-2 in Kearney. Keynote speakers include Shane Farritor who is involved in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's efforts to create a maker space on the Innovation Campus and Daniel Sieberg, Senior Marketing Manager, Google.