

NEK Community Broadband

Technology Committee Meeting Minutes

December 29, 2020 6-7:30pm

Attendees: Jami Jones (clerk), Shawn Burroughs, Jonathan Baker, Shaun Campbell, Nick Anzalone, James Sweeney (member of the public)

Agenda Review- 2min

Updates-

New Business-

- New Technology Committee Member proposed: Cal Page
- Document Review - Technology Recommendations (due next January 8th)
 - The executive committee is asking for clarity and ranks on suggested hardware.
 - Starlink-is it available? Is the timing good? (The CUD needs a definite date). Not a recommendation at this time until there is actionable hardware and dates available.
 - The document gives recommendations for end mile users.
 - Assumes that we will be continuing to work on Fiber, but are trying to address the needs of some of the sites that may not receive fiber initially.
 - The technology committee's criteria and strategy can help guide the conversation as new options for internet arise in the area.
 - What can the CUD do now to show that we are useful, rather than relying on future hopes of possible technology?
- Install timeline:
 - Point to point: days to weeks
 - Althea- dependent on when the nodes are "up." When the distribution points are set up then all is well. Does not use 5G antennas

- It would decentralize the network, but the people upstream are selling to people downstream (people who own antennas can sublease or sell bandwidth to others)
 - Althea may not provide support for the network once it is launched, therefore the tech support would fall onto someone else.
 - An adhoc network concern with nodes go down and lack of feedback loops.
- 5G (millimeter wave)
 - Viable in urban centers, but the repeaters would not be able to boost the signals through the mountains and trees
 - CBRS- expanding current 4G infrastructure.
 - VTEL has dark towers, how do we get the owner to work with the CUD? (A requirement for support access i.e. althea, CBRS, etc.)
 - If the CUD cannot work with VTEL would there be a scenario where althea could be viable?
 - The CUD doesn't want to provide a network that goes down all the time or gives DSL services.
 - Mesh solutions are good for smaller urban areas (town centers), but also not as good for rural, low-density areas. The RDOF zones will be in higher density areas and we will be looking for those low density areas (4 or 5 addresses per mile).
 - Most viable is CBRS.
- Not able to speak with winners of RDOF auction until January 21. It will be critical to partner with those winners.
- The possible option order ranked: CBRS and partnerships, Althea, Starlink, 5G
- Shawn will reach out to Cal Page and Mike Gaiss about 5G and Starlink respectively.
- The Tech committee will clean up the document to present to the Executive Committee
- Other viable options: funding buildouts for cable (cable line extensions).

Other Business-

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Jami Jones, Clerk