**Whitman County Broadband Action Team**

*Monthly Meeting (2nd Monday, 3-4pm)*

**Purpose:** Collaborative, working group to expand broadband service in Whitman county, communicate with county stakeholders about broadband needs and opportunities, and enhance broadband use to improve quality of life for all who live in and visit Whitman County.

**Members:** Port of Whitman County (Kara Riebold, Kalvin Johnson), Avista Utilities (Paul Kimmell), Whitman County Rural Library District (Cody Allen), Partners for Rural WA-Eastern Region (Jody Opheim), WSU and Whitman County Extension (Janet Schmidt)

**Agenda**

**November 14, 2022**

**1. Administrative**

a. Logo

**Everyone approved of the logo designed by Debra Hansen with WSU Extension. Kalvin will incorporate the logo on the website and everyone should have a high resolution image that can be used on documents, etc.**

b. Digital Navigator grant next steps

**Cody and Adam (Pullman Marketing) have started library staff training and Pullman Marketing is beginning to work on training videos.**

c. SBO round 2 application?

**Discuss at December meeting after NOFO has been released.**

d. PWB 2023 application?

**Discuss as soon as NOFO is released – PWB is still on track to open up a NOFO in early 2023.**

**2. Communications**

a. Review web page draft: <https://www.portwhitman.com/whitmanbat> (Kalvin)

**The website will be published and we will begin directing the public to the URL for updates, news, meetings, and other information.**

b. How can BAT help spread the work about the ACP?

**The WCL branches will undertake much of the outreach in each library community through funding from the Digital Navigation grant from SBO. The BAT will reach out to towns, schools, and other entities as appropriate and as we work to increase the number of BAT members.**

c. Updates from around the state (SBO, WSU Extension, NTIA, NoaNet, etc.)

**The NTIA map is being released on Nov. 18. The BAT will work to spread the word to residents about the importance of the map’s accuracy and will encourage people to check their connections as reported for accuracy (January 13 response deadline). WSU Extension is preparing a proposal for submission to the State Broadband Office (SBO) for deliverables related to the state’s 5 year BEAD plan and related funding.**

**3. Infrastructure and Planning**

a. Mapping progress (Kalvin)

**Kalvin was unable to attend; tabled discussion until December meeting.**

b. BAT plan (Access, Affordability, Adoption)

**More information about plan format and content will be made available from WSU Extension and the SBO in the coming months. The group is considering how the BAT might use small amounts of funding (creation of training videos on emerging topics, another digital equity project, additional funding for a Digital Navigator for WCL beyond the temporary SBO grant funding). Additional ideas will be discussed.**

**4. Potential Project List**

 a. Digital Equity and Inclusion (DE planning pieces?)

 b. Affordability – ACP toolkit

 c. Workforce Development (Porchlight certification for communities, AWB remote

online cert)

 d. Economic Development (Mashup Labs course for would-be entrepreneurs)

 e. Healthcare (online mental health services – PRC has an 8 mo backlog!)

 f. Agriculture

 g. Education

 h. Social Services

 i. Local governments

 j. Devices

 k. Public safety

**NOTE: The BAT convened for a short meeting after the release of the FCC maps to discuss how to go about checking the accuracy of the maps throughout the county. The Port of Whitman will prepare an information page and the WCL will post this at all branches. Jody will distribute the page to town clerks and ask for their assistance in getting the word out to residents.**

**NEXT MEETING DECEMBER 12**