

BROADBAND ADVISORY COUNCIL

APPROVED MINUTES

January 9, 2024

10:00 AM

Patrick Henry Building (Governor's Offices)

1111 E Broad Street,

East Reading Room, First Floor, Room 1035

Richmond, VA 23219

Virtual Option provided via Microsoft Teams

Members Present

Senator Jennifer Boysko, Acting Chair

Senator Ghazala Hashmi

Delegate James Leftwich

Secretary Matt Lohr

Ray LaMura

James Carr

Kristie Proctor

Casey Logan

Steve Sandy

Richard Schollman

Members Absent

Secretary Caren Merrick

Senator Lynwood W. Lewis

Delegate David Reid

Delegate Thomas Wright, Jr.

Christian Goodwin

Call to Order	Senator Jennifer Boysko, Acting Chair of the Broadband Advisory Council, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.
Roll Call	Chandler Vaughan, Senior Policy Analyst at the Office of Broadband, called the roll and stated that a quorum was present.
Approval of Minutes: August 28, 2023 Meeting	A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2023 meeting of the Broadband Advisory Council. The motion passed to adopt the minutes as presented.
Legislative Preview of 2024 Session	Acting Chair Boysko provided an opportunity for all General Assembly Members in attendance, both virtual and in-person, to come before the Broadband Advisory Council to discuss their potential to-be-introduced legislation.  Senator David Marsden provided an overview of his to-be-introduced Make Ready/Pole Attachment legislation to the Broadband Advisory Council.
Discussion of 2024 Session Legislative Items	Council members discussed Senator Marsden's to-be-introduced legislation, including asking questions of Senator Marsden about the bill.

Office of Broadband Updates	Chandler Vaughan, Senior Policy Analyst in the Office of Broadband provided brief verbal updates on the Office’s work, including continued engagement with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) on review and approval of Volume 2 of Virginia’s Initial Proposal under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program, ongoing work under the BEAD challenge process, a summary of FY2024 Virginia Telecommunication Initiative applications received, an update on guidelines released and soon to be released for public comment, and the posting of Virginia’s Digital Opportunity Plan as submitted to NTIA.
Public Comment	Several representatives of Virginia’s electric cooperatives spoke against potential legislation to be introduced in the 2024 General Assembly Session – addressing a wide variety of concerns on potential legislation in the 2024 General Assembly Session, as well as providing information regarding the operation of electric cooperative networks. These representatives include: Gary Wood of Central Virginia Electric Cooperative, John Hewa of Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, Chris Botulinski of BARC Electric Cooperative, Jeff Ahearn of Craig Botetourt Electric Cooperative, Jason Carter of Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative, Ron White of Southside Electric Cooperative, Kyle Allwine of Northern Neck Electric Cooperative, and David Lipscomb of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative.
New Business	<p>Ray LaMura provided comment regarding the state requiring broadband providers to relocate infrastructure and the inappropriateness of requiring broadband providers to incur the cost of such state-required relocation.</p> <p>Steve Sandy provided comment that cellular deployment to areas without coverage should be considered for state investment.</p>
Adjournment	Upon a motion made and properly seconded, the meeting was adjourned.