



Phone: 602.254.5887  
aticarizona@gmail.com  
PO Box 1119, Tempe, AZ 85280  
www.arizonatele.org

## **ATIC Board Agenda for Wednesday, March 10, 2021**

### **1. Administrative**

- 1.1. Self-Introductions
- 1.2. Modifications to and Acceptance of Agenda Draft
- 1.3. Acceptance of Minutes from February 10, 2021, Board Meeting
- 1.4. Treasurer's Report (Ron Schott)
- 1.5. ATIC Board Membership Considerations
- 1.6. Review of Outstanding Action Items as Documented in February 10, 2021, Minutes

### **2. Informational Presentations**

- 2.1. None Scheduled

### **3. Activity Reports**

- 3.1. Arizona Broadband Strategic Plan & FirstNet (Jeff Sobotka)
  - 3.1.1. Rural Community Outreach
  - 3.1.2. FirstNet Status & Outlook
  - 3.1.3. ACA Broadband Strategy & ATIC Role/Support
- 3.2. Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network (Steve Peters)
  - 3.2.1. AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Updates
  - 3.2.2. Marketing the AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Report
  - 3.2.3. Return to Outreach Activities with Newsletters & Webinars
- 3.3. Greater Arizona Educational Leadership (Steve Peters, Nan Williams)
  - 3.3.1. Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA)
  - 3.3.2. Virtual Laboratory Simulations Consortium
  - 3.3.3. GAZEL Innovative Learning Collaborative Initiatives
- 3.4. Arizona State Library (Holly Henley, Mala Muralidharan)
- 3.5. Telehealth (Janet Major, Jeff Sobotka)
- 3.6. Government Affairs (Mike Keeling, 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**



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## **ATIC Board Meeting Minutes March 10, 2021**

### **Attendees:**

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

Jerry Crow, Oris Friesen, Henry Goldberg, Mark Goldstein, Ron Schott, Holly Henley, Michael Cohen, Nan Williams and Andy Phelan.

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

Steve Peters (AZBSN & GAZEL), Kirk Busch (BigData Southwest), Mala Muralidharan (Arizona State Library), Michael Britt (Consultant), Tracy Rexroat (Arizona Department of Education), Shereka Jackson (Future Stars), Rick Gibson (Sustainability Partners) and Sebastian Tuchband (Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center).

**Quorum Met with 9 ATIC Board Members Present (Quorum = 7)**

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 Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 14, 2021, and will be held fully virtually, as will all our meetings until further notice. The full schedule of ATIC Board Meetings for 2021 can be found towards the end of these minutes.

# **ATIC Board Minutes for Wednesday, March 10, 2021**

## **1. Administrative**

### **1.1. Self-Introductions**

See the list of attendees above.

### **1.2. Acceptance of Agenda Draft**

**MOTION: To accept the Agenda as submitted**

**MOVE: Oris Friesen**

**SECOND: Nan Williams**

**Passed Unanimously**

### **1.3. Acceptance of Minutes from February 10, 2020, Board Meeting**

**MOTION: To accept the Minutes as submitted**

**MOVE: Henry Goldberg**

**SECOND: Nan Williams**

**Passed Unanimously**

### **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 \$5427.31. This balance includes payments that have been made in the past for Directors & Officers Insurance, Website, PO Box, and all payments to Steve Peters for management of the AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force.

Mark recounted what Steve Peters has accomplished as a coordinator for AZBSN dating back to the first successful event at Rio Salado Community College and two subsequent webinars. After the pandemic arrived, ATIC approved paying Steve \$800 per month to manage the AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force with the stipulation that this funding be reimbursed to ATIC as its first priority when AZBSN receives sponsorship or grant funding. Steve's funding of \$800 per month extended through December 2020.

Five payments of \$1,000 had been made to Steve Peters for support of the AZBSN prior to February 29, 2020, which were not to be repaid to ATIC, and an additional \$8,000 (\$800 per month) has been paid to Steve for his work on the AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force for March through December 2020. It was agreed that this \$8,000 would be immediately repaid to ATIC from

sponsorships or grants which the AZBSN receives as Steve solicits funding.

Steve reported that AZBSN has recently received sponsorship commitments from the Satellite Broadcasting & Communications Association for \$2000, from the Valley of the Sun United Way for \$5000 and from Care1st AZ HealthPlan for \$50,000 for a total amount of \$57,000. This infusion of funds eliminates the need for a motion regarding repayment conditions for the \$8,000 which had been under consideration by the ATIC Executive Committee.

Because the donation from Care1st AZ HealthPlan will take about one month to process Steve would like to access some portion of the \$2000 from the Satellite Broadcasting & Communications Association that is available now to subscribe to Zoom and some other services. Although the \$8000 due ATIC was to be repaid before making other expenditures, since additional funds that will more than cover the amount due have been committed, ATIC will forego that requirement and expects to receive repayment of the \$8000 loan to GAZEL when the sponsorship commitments have been received.

Steve is sending out an AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force sponsorship package and will be continuing to contact other potential funders.

Mark had noted at a previous Board meeting that we must remember that AZBSN is separate from ATIC. At that time Mark stated there are three potential sources of future ATIC funding: AZBSN sponsorships, ATIC sponsorships, and ATIC grant opportunities. ATIC still needs to work out an agreement with GAZEL about how future AZBSN sponsorship funding will be shared between ATIC and GAZEL.

Mark said 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. There may be some pandemic-related special grants available. Mark has spoken to Kirk Busch about ATIC funding.

Steve noted in a previous meeting that the AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force needs to identify what tasks from the Task Force report recommendations that it will undertake to implement, which would need funding support.

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

**ACTION ITEM:** Mark took an action to contact Alan Pruitt Executive Director of the Western Arizona Economic Development District in Yuma as a potential Board Member.

**ACTION ITEM:** Jeff Sobotka is to provide Mark with an introduction to Dominic Pagliuca, Senior Manager of IT & Strategic Fiber at Arizona Public Service

(APS) whom Mark will contact regarding Board membership.

Mark nominated Kirk Busch of Big Data Southwest and Co-Chair of the Smart Cities and IoT Committee of the Arizona Technology Council to become an ATIC Board Member. Kirk said he would hope to bring some help in membership growth, information sharing, communications and fundraising to ATIC and AZBSN.

**MOTION: To accept Kirk Busch as a member of the ATIC Board**

**MOVE: Mark Goldstein**

**SECOND: Oris Friesen**

**Passed Unanimously**

**1.6. Review of Outstanding Action Items as Documented in February 10, 2021, Minutes**

None

**2. Informational Presentations**

**2.1. None were scheduled.**

Steve mentioned a March 17 technical assistance workshop which he will announce in an email message later today.

**3. Activity Reports**

**3.1. Arizona Broadband Strategic Plan & FirstNet (Jeff Sobotka)**

**3.1.1. Rural Community Outreach**

No report.

**3.1.2. FirstNet Status & Outlook**

No report.

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

Jeff Sobotka, State Broadband Director at the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA), was unable to attend. In our previous meeting he reported that the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has received \$1.6 billion in the federal stimulus to allocate nationally for broadband activities. NTIA assists in setting the ground rules for government grants in the broadband arena and is creating a position within NTIA to coordinate the various federal broadband funding programs. Our

Congressman Tom O'Halleran is a good contact point for information on this. The rules are in the process of being written and NTIA seems to be flexible. Jeff has asked them to do away with the matching funds requirement for communities because that often prohibits potential candidates from applying.

Mark spoke briefly about the ACA Arizona Broadband Workshop Webinars being hosted by NTIA that provide guidance on grant writing, which started this month. The first of six sessions was well-attended with about 190 registrants. Arizona is the only state NTIA is working with to conduct such workshops in 2021. Steve Peters will send out e-mails about future workshops as well as the regional working sessions on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Navajo Nation and the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) are engaged in efforts to tap into the \$1 billion grant funding allocated for tribes.

Mark mentioned the \$10 million in funding for the state Rural Broadband Development Grants program administered by the ACA (up from \$3 million in a previous budget) was included in the Governor's budget which was announced early this year. This is moving towards approval by the Legislature and is expected to be available by July 1. The ACA is considering the grant rules for this RBDG program including the maximum grant size.

The Governor's Office has various broadband proposals for fiscal year 2021-22, and it is important that there be bipartisan cooperation from state legislators to take advantage of federal and state grants for broadband infrastructure. ADOT deployment of state-owned fiber is underway along I-17 from Sunset Point to Flagstaff, ADOT deployment of fiber along I-19 from Tucson to Nogales will occur soon thereafter and funding has been provided for deploying fiber along I-40 from Flagstaff to the California border.

The Sun Corridor Network (SCN) has been involved in this ADOT middle-mile fiber deployment effort. Jeff is in discussions with the SCN and the Arizona Department of Education about how to use this ADOT fiber. Derek Masseth said there is significant action taking place here on the policy front regarding highway conduit. HB 2596, the ADOT Telecommunication Facilities Installation bill would authorize the installation of fiber conduit within the right-of-way of state highways by ADOT for lease at an established fee by service providers. It allows ADOT to make available excess fiber capacity for service providers to be able to provide middle-mile fiber to reach and serve rural communities. It also allows ADOT to partner with a private entity to manage the fiber. It allows the easements to be used for broadband delivery and provides for compensation to landowners, which is derived from the rural electric co-op bill of last year. It also allows for establishing a fund if there is a surplus. This bill is a follow-on to the ADOT

RFI from last year. Funding for the I-40 segment has \$33 million in the budget to deploy fiber from Flagstaff to the California border and maybe the state can share costs with private entities for deploying fiber along the eastern part of I-40. ATIC and AZBSN task force participants were invited to show their support with the legislature for HB 2596.

In a previous meeting Steve said Lea Márquez Peterson of the Arizona Corporation Commission is looking at repurposing Arizona Universal Service Funds (AUSF) towards broadband for high-cost rural communities. The ACC has a new docket open for AUSF modification. ATIC or the AZBSN task force can still make recommendations on how to best use AUSF funding to support broadband in rural areas. Jeff was going to speak to Lea about potential new broadband uses for the AUSF.

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

#### **3.2.1. ASBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Updates**

Steve Peters reported on the AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force and noted “digital” includes not only broadband Internet access, but also devices, digital content, professional development, digital literacy and technical support. The Task Force meets every Monday morning and is attended by about 30-50 representatives from broadband service providers, technology companies, state and local government agencies, educational organizations, non-profit organizations and consultants. Steve has noted previously that updates are provided at the weekly task force meetings from the State Broadband Director at the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA), the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), the Arizona State Library, the Sun Corridor Network (SCN) and the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) and there are typically presentations made at the meetings on relevant digital access resources of significance to the task force.

The AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Report and Recommendations was published in November 2020 and is available to be forwarded to appropriate parties. There is a landing page for the Report and one for the Task Force, both of which have been updated. People can download the Report from the landing page.

Steve has been working with Karen Ziegler, Andrew Bevington and others to generate a sponsorship funding request package for the AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force. This funding request has been sent to potential AZBSN sponsors. Steve is very pleased about the funding that has come in to date and more is expected. The sponsors have been pleased with the task force activities and accomplishments.

The task force has established a device collaboration subcommittee to enable collaboration among organizations providing devices such as

computers and hotspots to students and families Tracey Beal and Shereka Jackson are leading this cooperative effort to create synergies in purchasing power, minimize duplication and better serve communities.

Steve also credited Mauricio Orozco of Care1st Health Plan of Arizona for noting that the health care sector also requires technical and technology assistance.

Steve noted the task force is moving into its next phase. An overall planning committee is being established to initiate the implementation of some of the recommendations from the task force report. The next step is to identify what tasks need to be pursued and prioritized. The planning team consists of fifteen people, and Steve has created a webpage to support this activity.

Steve said he may need to restructure the Monday meetings that provide for networking as well as the delivery of content. One hour does not seem to be long enough with the increasing number of participants attending now. Changing the format of the meetings is being considered to take less time on self-introductions at the beginning. Steve, Mark and John Kelly have received positive feedback about the weekly Monday meetings.

There is still a need to schedule meetings with key policy makers such as the Governor's Office and Superintendent of Public Instruction at ADE to review the recommendations and to develop a strategy to continue collaborating with current and new participants. Some tasks will require the State to take the lead while others can be led by the task force members. The task force may establish project teams to implement recommendations.

The ATIC and GAZEL database still needs to be updated with current contact information. Key entities that need to be contacted for information include the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, AzTEA, Sun Corridor Network among a host of others.

### **3.2.2. Marketing the AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Report**

Another ongoing need is to develop a publicity and marketing campaign for distributing the report to all the relevant organizations. A marketing committee needs to be created to plan and execute such a campaign, and the existing database of Arizona economic development leaders and decision-makers needs to be cleaned up and expanded.

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

Mark mentioned at previous meetings that he would like to return to public events and engage a broader community. Steve is updating the ATIC Excel mailing list after which we may want to use Sendinblue for e-mail

distributions.

### **3.3. Greater Arizona Educational Leadership (Steve Peters, Nan Williams)**

#### **3.3.1. Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA)**

Nan Williams serves on the EDTech Committee 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 Rural Schools Association and their Final Mile Project (<https://www.finalmileproject.com/>).

Nan reported that ADE has recently released a parent and caregivers guide for education which can be accessed at the following website:

[https://www.azed.gov/covid-19/arizona-parent-caretaker-toolkit-distance-learning?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=sharpsspring&sslid=MzcyNDcAAiMLQ0sA&sseid=MzI0N7I0MzA3NwQA&jobid=b9a0bd40-5919-474c-b581-42ec09bba6bf](https://www.azed.gov/covid-19/arizona-parent-caretaker-toolkit-distance-learning?utm_medium=email&utm_source=sharpsspring&sslid=MzcyNDcAAiMLQ0sA&sseid=MzI0N7I0MzA3NwQA&jobid=b9a0bd40-5919-474c-b581-42ec09bba6bf)

AzTEA has scheduled the following webinars:

PD in Small Bytes: Bridging Learning in Uncertain Times- Webinars (\$15), which are scheduled through the month of March, see <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ehcfuphebc7b7596&llr=nh997tjab>

Pandemic Problem-Solving Bi-Monthly (Free) scheduled through October 2021. See <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ehczqyke5a24f20e&oseq=&c=&ch=>

ISTE has scheduled the following certification program:

ISTE Certified Educator Spring 2021 Cohort training, scheduled through July 8, 2021. See <https://bit.ly/icespr21>

#### **3.3.2. Labster Virtual Laboratory Simulations Consortium**

As noted in recent reports, the AZBSN Task Force report is recommending that a virtual laboratories consortium for the state be explored, but not necessarily be limited to Labster technology.

Mala said the lab-science component of virtual education has been brought up frequently, so we need to re-ignite the Labster-like Initiatives that were being discussed earlier.

### **3.3.3. GAZEL Innovative Learning Collaborative Initiatives**

Steve said that GAZEL needs to be reinvigorated. Work is going on to produce a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) involving GAZEL, ATIC and AZBSN.

Steve intends to call a GAZEL Board meeting to discuss future plans shortly. The AZBSN task force has been the main focus of GAZEL in the past year. GAZEL is a 501(c)(3) and so can more easily attract funding from sponsors.

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

Mala said Congress just passed the \$1.9 trillion COVID Relief Bill, dubbed the American Rescue Plan. Libraries are looking forward to this. \$7.2 billion is intended to support the “E-rate to the Home” program. It includes completely new funds and for the first time provides E-rate funding to support off-campus Internet connectivity and devices. This may be made retroactive to when the pandemic was initially declared to exist.

The American Rescue Plan has provided \$3.2 billion for a new FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program to provide discounts for low-income households to purchase Internet services as well as discounts on purchases of computers. This EBB program is in addition to the existing FCC Lifeline program for low-income households, for which 75% of the households eligible have not applied.

Steve plans to send out an email shortly about the EBB and the Lifeline programs. The FCC is looking for ways of reaching and assisting low-income households to get them to apply for the EBB and Lifeline programs, and Steve is speaking with Mala, Sofia Mayberry of ADE, and Wes Brownfield of the Arizona Rural Schools Association about how to establish an Arizona “Navigators” program to do this. Mala added that ADE has information about school children that lack broadband but don’t have information on other households that don’t have broadband. Steve added that there are several social service agencies (Care1st Health Plan, Chicanos por la Causa, United Way et al.) in the AZBSN universe that are interested in providing training for people.

Virtual tutorials are another topic Mala is working on, in English and in Spanish expanding on the existing LibTAP program for technical support. She is working with Insight and Milan to get antennas placed on bookmobiles in Pima County and elsewhere.

Mala noted that \$53 million is being provided to the Navajo Nation under the E-rate program, to install 600 miles of fiber optic lines to sixty chapter houses and fifty-three Head Start facilities. Mala added that the Navajo Nation should also be considering how students can access the Internet from Home under the new

E-rate funding program.

As Mala reported previously, the E-rate RFP window which opened in November is still active. The E-rate application window for the fiscal 2021-22 year opened on January 15 and remains open until March 25, although there is talk of opening a second window. There will be a new application process for applying for E-rate to the Home funding (called the Emergency Connectivity Fund), and the bill allows for schools and libraries to use their existing E-rate fiber networks for this purpose. New E-rate applications must be filed every year, and there are about 5000 applicants in Arizona so this is a busy time for Mala and Milan Eaton (the ADE E-rate director).

Mark asked how the rollover funds from the \$11 million in previous state E-rate matching funds are managed. Mala replied that they go through the normal E-rate process and when it nears approval the state match is accessed.

Mala noted that, as reported in previous meetings, Lea Márquez Peterson has opened up a docket for comment at the ACC for reforming the Arizona Universal Service Fund (AUSF) to support broadband in high-cost rural areas. State matching funds for E-rate school/library fiber buildouts came from the \$8 million received from an AUSF surcharge thanks to an initiative proposed by Andy Tobin when he was an ACC commissioner. Mark noted that Lea is now Chair of the ACC, and the AUSF currently collects about \$1.2 million per year in revenues. Mala added that AUSF funding has been going to Frontier for POTS service in the White Mountains.

Mala reported at our previous meeting that the ConnectAZ Wi-Fi public access locations map has recorded more than 202,000 views. There are about 1500 Wi-Fi locations on the map and Derek has been supplying EduRoam sites as well. ConnectAZ will be migrating from Google to a WordPress platform which will allow much better search capabilities. They are also exploring virtual tutoring opportunities. The LibTAP name has been changed to Connect Arizona Digital Navigators with the email address of [connectaz.help@gmail.com](mailto:connectaz.help@gmail.com). Considerable help topics are supported of which Mala listed a number, such as getting started with cell phones for the hard of hearing and helping victims of banking scams. LibTAP Digital Navigators have supported more than 600 calls to date. Twenty-five percent of these calls involve one-on-one assistance in learning how to complete a task online or with a device.

For a more detailed report, see the following two pages.

## ATIC March 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting State Library Report

### 1. **Emergency Broadband Benefits:** <https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>

*About the Emergency Broadband Benefit* :The Emergency Broadband Benefit will provide a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute \$10-\$50 toward the purchase price. The Emergency Broadband Benefit is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household.

*Who Is Eligible for the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program?* A household is eligible if one member of the household:

- Qualifies for the [Lifeline](#) program;
- Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision, or did so in the 2019-2020 school year;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income since February 29, 2020 and the household had a total income in 2020 below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating providers' existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

### 2. **The Covid-19 Relief Bill** Senate passed the House COVID relief bill (AKA, American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) including the \$7 billion in added E-rate funding. See this press release by Sen. Cantwell (D-WA):

<https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/cantwell-applauds-senate-passage-of-more-than-7-billion-for-remote-learning-connectivity-in-covid-relief-package>. The Senate version now goes back to the House where it passed as we were having our meeting on Wed.

Below is a summary of the E-rate legislation passed on February 12, 2021, by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce (This legislation is Subtitle D, Other Provisions. Chapter 2, Distance Learning and Consumer Protection During The Covid-19 Pandemic. Section 3312, *Funding for E-Rate Support for Emergency Educational Connections and Devices*.)

It includes \$7.599 billion allocated to the E-rate program to support “emergency educational connections and devices.” The language also allows E-rate funds to be used by libraries and schools to provide off-campus internet connectivity to patrons, students and teachers. (The language allowing E-rate support for off-campus internet access is supported by many school and library organizations). The committee’s language was then sent to the House Budget Committee for inclusion in the larger budget reconciliation bill, a version of which was released February 19. (See:

<https://budget.house.gov/sites/democrats.budget.house.gov/files/documents/S%20Con%20Res%205%20Bill%20Final.pdf>.)

This is part of the larger effort to pass the Biden Administration’s *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*. Final action on this legislation is expected by this upcoming week.

In some states tribal libraries are not eligible to receive E-rate support. This legislation specifically states that tribal libraries are eligible for support. A tribal library is a facility owned by an Indian tribe or serving Indian tribe.

#### **Regulations required**

No later than 60 days after enactment of this Act the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) shall release regulations providing E-rate support to schools or libraries to purchase, during the COVID-19 emergency period, eligible equipment or advanced telecommunications and information services (or both). This equipment and these services can be used as follows:

- o In the case of a school, by students and staff of the school at locations that include locations other than the school;
- o In the case of a library or library consortium, by patrons of the library at locations that include locations other than the library.

#### **Support Amount**

The FCC shall reimburse 100 percent of the costs associated with the purchase by schools or libraries of eligible equipment and advanced telecommunications and information services. However, the FCC has the authority to adjust reimbursements for costs deemed unreasonable.

#### **Emergency Connectivity Fund**

There is established in the U.S. Treasury—not the Universal Service Fund—an “Emergency Connectivity Fund.” From this fund there shall be appropriated for fiscal year 2021, \$7.599 billion to remain available until September 30, 2030. Of this funding, \$1 million shall be available to the FCC’s Inspector General to conduct oversight of the funds. And not more than 2% of the funds may be used by USAC for program administration.

#### **Eligible Equipment and services**

Eligible equipment includes: Wi-fi hotspots, modems, routers, devices that combine a modem and router and end user connected devices (e.g., laptops, tablets).

Eligible services include advanced telecommunications (i.e., broadband) and information (i.e., internet) services.

### **Navajo Nation awarded \$53 million through E-Rate Program to increase internet capacity for chapter houses and Head Start facilities**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer are pleased to announce that the Navajo Nation secured \$53 million in funding through the Federal Communications Commission’s E-Rate Program, to install over 600 miles of fiber optic lines that will expand internet capacity for 90 chapter houses and 53 Head Start facilities on the Navajo Nation.

For the State Library to confirm that they are Libraries they have been asked within 90 days that they :

- a. Install Computers
- b. Have a website linking to the state libraries e-resources
- c. Have staff trained to answer questions.

### **End of State Library’s Report**

### **3.5. Telehealth (Janet Major)**

Janet was unable to attend. Mark noted that, along with Jeff Sobotka, Janet Major has been an active member of the Telehealth Broadband Action Team (BAT), but Mark did not receive an update from Janet on the Telehealth BAT activities for this Board meeting.

### **3.6. Government Affairs (Mike Keeling, Mark Goldstein)**

Lea Márquez Peterson, Chair of the ACC, has been actively pursuing the repurposing of the Arizona Universal Service Fund (AUSF). Steve will talk to Lea and Jeff Sobotka about the AUSF reforms and how the task force could use the repurposed funds. Steve said what will come from these meetings may not be a common resolution and recommendation. Henry Goldberg suggested the AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force consider making a recommendation to the ACC docket on how to reform the use of the AUSF to support rural broadband. Mala supported the need to decide how best to redirect the AUSF funds. Henry will send the information to Steve about how task force participants can submit comments on the AUSF docket from the information Lea Márquez Peterson has provided at AZBSN Task Force meetings.

ATIC is still looking for a Lobbyist. Mike Keeling is acting as the Lobbyist and anyone interested in becoming the ATIC Lobbyist should contact him.

## **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. For example, the resources page is out of date. The website needs to be leveraged to publicize the COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force Report recommendations as well as using it for communications and public engagement, such as newsletters.

#### **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 the Monday morning AZBSN-COVID 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)**

Nothing to report.

#### **4.3. New Business and Motion Considerations (All)**

Nothing to report.

#### **5. Events Attended and Upcoming Meetings**

#### **6. Announcements**

#### **7. Adjourn**

### **Upcoming ATIC Board & Public Meetings**

Upcoming ATIC Board Meetings for 2021 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.

- April 14, 2021 (Zoom &/or Dial In)
- May 12, 2021 (Zoom &/or Dial In)
- June 9, 2021 (Zoom &/or Dial In)
- July 14, 2021 (Zoom &/or Dial In)
- No Board Meeting in August (Summer Break)
- September 8, 2021 (Zoom &/or Dial In)
- October 13, 2021 (Zoom &/or Dial In)
- November 10, 2021 (Zoom &/or Dial In)
- No Board Meeting in December (Happy Holidays!)

#### **ATIC Special and Public Meetings:**

AZBSN COVID-19 Digital Access Task Force continues to hold meetings every Monday morning at 7:30 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

## Dashboard

### Accounts

#### Checking

\$881.69

ATIC 434041

A \$881.69

04081-0400

\$881.69

#### Savings

\$4,545.62

ATIC 073206

A \$4,545.62

04081-0000

\$4,570.62

A Available Balance



### Important Information

#### 8 Ways to Maximize Your Checking Acc...

You may be familiar with a checking account, but do you know how to maximize it?

March 03, 2021

#### 10 Ideas for Improving Your Finances in ...

In our world of 10-minute workouts and 10-minute meals, we want to help you earn some 10-minute money wins!

March 03, 2021

### Quick Links

Credit Card Login

Investments (Raymond James)

Mortgage Loans (MLOS)

Identity Secure

Mobile App 101

### BudgetTracker

You have no budgets

Create a Budget

### Link External Accounts



Get Started

Last 15 days



Logged in 1 time

Next 15 days



**Desert Financial Credit Union**Arizona Telecommunications And Information  
ATIC 434041 04081-0400*Transaction History*Statement Period: **All Dates**Date of Statement: **03/09/2021****Posted Transactions (100)**

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
02/10/21	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$27.17	\$881.69
01/22/21	DRAFT #2216 TRACER 34848688	-\$445.79	\$908.86
01/12/21	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$27.17	\$1,354.65
12/23/20	DRAFT #2215 TRACER 34216767	-\$800.00	\$1,381.82
12/11/20	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.91	\$2,181.82
11/27/20	DRAFT #2214 TRACER 33656699	-\$800.00	\$2,208.73
11/25/20	ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER FROM 0000	\$2,000.00	\$3,008.73
11/10/20	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$28.40	\$1,008.73
10/13/20	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.91	\$1,037.13
10/05/20	DRAFT #2213 TRACER 32551935	-\$800.00	\$1,064.04
10/02/20	DRAFT #2212 TRACER 32526978	-\$800.00	\$1,864.04
09/10/20	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$28.52	\$2,664.04
09/08/20	ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER FROM 0000	\$2,000.00	\$2,692.56
08/26/20	DRAFT #2211 TRACER 31778969	-\$800.00	\$692.56
08/11/20	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$28.04	\$1,492.56
07/27/20	DRAFT #2210 TRACER 31140346	-\$800.00	\$1,520.60
07/24/20	COUNTRY MUTU*AL INS 6300 866-268- 6879 IL 00000000	-\$875.00	\$2,320.60
07/20/20	ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER FROM 0000	\$2,000.00	\$3,195.60
07/17/20	ARIZONA TECHNOLOGY 8699 WWW.AZTECHCOU AZ 00000000	-\$400.00	\$1,195.60