# ATIC Board Agenda for Wednesday, May 10, 2023

1. **Administrative**
   1.1. Self-Introductions
   1.2. Modifications to and Acceptance of Agenda Draft
   1.3. Acceptance of Minutes from April 12, 2023, Board Meeting
   1.4. Treasurer's Report (Ron Schott)
   1.5. ATIC Board Membership Considerations
     1.5.1. ATIC Broadband Providers Working Group Meeting & Next Steps
     1.5.2. ATIC Board Elections Follow Up
   1.6. Review of Outstanding Action Items as Documented in April 12, 2023, Minutes

2. **Informational Presentations**
   2.1. None Scheduled

3. **Activity Reports**
   3.1. Arizona Broadband Office Report (Sandip Bhowmick)
     3.1.1. Broadband Grants, Rural Community Outreach & Projects
     3.1.2. Digital Equity Initiatives & Opportunities
     3.1.3. ACA Broadband Strategy & ATIC Role/Support
   3.2. Arizona Broadband Stakeholder Network (Steve Peters)
     3.2.1. AZBSN Digital Access Task Force Updates
       3.2.1.1. Updates to AZBSN Task Force Report (11/20)
     3.2.2. AZBSN Leadership Group, Committees & Initiatives
     3.2.3. Outreach Activities with Newsletters & Webinars
   3.3. Technology in Education/eLearning
     3.3.1. Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA) (Nan Williams)
     3.3.2. Greater Arizona Educational Leadership (GAZEL) (Steve Peters)
     3.3.3. Sun Corridor Network (SCN) (Laura Etter)
   3.4. Arizona State Library (Holly Henley, Mala Muralidharan)
   3.5. Telehealth (Janet Major)
   3.6. Government Affairs
     3.6.1. Arizona Broadband Policy Update (Mike Keeling, Mark Goldstein)
     3.6.2. Federal Broadband Policy Update (Nicole Umayam/NTIA, 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**

# ATIC Board Meeting Minutes

## May 10, 2023

## Attendees:

### ATIC Board Members:

**Mark Goldstein**, **Henry Goldberg, Oris Friesen, Ron Schott, Kirk Busch, Erin Carr-Jordan, Corey Christians, Michael Cohen, Jerry Crow, Heather Floyd, Holly Henley, Janet Major and Nan Williams.**

### ATIC Associates & Guests:

**Steve Peters (AZBSN Coordinator), Mala Muralidharan (E-rate Specialist, Arizona State Library), Erin Lorandos (Digital Inclusion Librarian, Arizona State Library), Rory Conaway (CEO, Triad Wireless), Andy Ridley, (Workforce Arizona Council Project Manager, Career Readiness Program, Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity), Bradley Feder (Co-Founder and Partner at SimplyBits), Vaughn Croft (Senior Program Director, Office of the Pima County School Superintendent, and Business Community Liaison for Fred Acosta Job Corps Center), Jenny Rickel (Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Native Network), Kelly Kayser (GIS Specialist, TelCyte Infrastructure Services) and EJ John (Senior Research Analyst, American Indian Policy Institute (AIPI) at ASU).**

**Quorum Met with 13 ATIC Board Members Present (Quorum = 9)**

**A replay of the meeting is available https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDUz5xQ9vLY&list=PLbz3LD1Hrt T8Gl6Oim5o_Y-o8enrIfFza&index=12**

**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, June 14, 2023, virtually. The schedule of ATIC Board Meetings for the rest of 2023 can be found towards the end of these minutes.**

1. **Administrative**

    1.1. **Self-Introductions**

    See the list of attendees above.

    1.2. **Modifications to and Acceptance of Agenda Draft**

    **MOTION: To accept the Agenda**

    > **MOVE: Kirk Busch**
    > **SECOND: Henry Goldberg**
    > **Passed Unanimously**

    1.3. **Acceptance of Minutes from March 8, 2023, Board Meeting**

    Oris Friesen writes the draft minutes, after which they are reviewed carefully by Henry Goldberg, and Mark Goldstein does a final edit of the draft minutes before issuing them to the Board for review, comment, and approval.

    **MOTION: To accept the Minutes**

    > **MOVE: Kirk Busch**
    > **SECOND: Erin Carr-Jordan**
    > **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 $10,108.58. It does not include the $500 fee to McKeown Marketing for removing the malware and adware and cleaning up the website. Ron said he would also be paying shortly the $10 annual filing fee to the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC).

    Steve Peters reported on the balance in the GAZEL AZBSN Task Force account, saying that it is out of funds at the moment. Steve has launched a sponsorship drive to raise further funding (https://www.arizonatele.org/funding-request-2020.html) and needs to become more active in securing some sponsorship renewals and new sponsorships. But first he needs to know what our work objectives would be, so he needs to discuss with Sandip Bhowmick, Cindy Hogan and Erin Carr-Jordan to understand where the AZBSN Task Force could intersect with the state's broadband infrastructure and digital equity planning work. Steve had an initial conversation with a Tucson foundation that may be interested in advancing the cause of digital inclusion and digital equity.

Steve has asked Erin Lorandos to give him a one or two-page summary on digital equity that he will pass along to the foundation representative.

Triad Wireless had recently donated $2500, and Karen Ziegler Consulting Services had donated $5000 to AZBSN before that.

Mark has commented in the past that 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 to support and undertake new projects. Mark noted that in the past ATIC has been paid to host rural broadband workshops, and has pursued various projects when it had more funds.

## 1.5. ATIC Board Membership Considerations

Mark reported that Sandip Bhowmick, State Broadband Director at the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA), is a newly-elected Member of the ATIC Board.

Mark noted that he has reached out to the following four people asking them to consider becoming Board Members: EJ John of the ASU American Indian Policy Institute (AIPI), Brent Nelson of the Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education, Robert Gallegos, the Information Technology Director of the Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG), and Joy Whiting, the Apache County Superintendent of Schools.

Mark asked EJ John if he would consider being nominated to be an ATIC Board Member. EJ said he was definitely interested but he needs to clear it with ASU. Mark replied that the CIOs of all three state universities have been on the ATIC Board in the past and Laura Etter of the Sun Corridor Network currently serves on the ATIC Board.

### 1.5.1. ATIC Broadband Provider Working Group Meeting and Next Steps

There is nothing new to report. As reported previously, an outcome of the January 2022 ATIC Board meeting was to create an ATIC Broadband Provider Working Group whose function would be to provide a platform for providers to share information, meet & network, and engage on policy issues since there is no telecom service provider trade association in Arizona. The goal of this working group is to focus on addressing common issues and opportunities for the broadband service providers in Arizona. The group was launched on April 6, 2022, with a hybrid gathering hosted at Big Data Southwest's DataCenter & SmartCity IoT Infrastructure Summit

Mark has started a Slack channel populated with a list of about 160 provider representatives across about 80 companies from his spreadsheet. Mark will circulate this spreadsheet to Sandip Bhowmick and Nicole Umayam for additions/changes.

Mark convened a second meeting of the ATIC Broadband Provider Working Group, as a part of the Big Data Southwest's DataCenter & SmartCity IoT Infrastructure Summit (#USDC23, https://www.bigdatasw.org/) on January 26, 2023, at the Desert Willow Conference Center in Phoenix. He has activated the Slack channel and about fifteen people have joined it, but it is not very active yet.

At a previous ATIC board meeting Mark suggested we might create parallel Slack channels for two working groups: The Broadband Providers Working Group (mentioned above) will focus on concerns of the communications providers, as initially planned. The second group would deal with topics and issues of economic development that include localized concerns as well as those that transcend county boundaries.

### 1.5.2. ATIC Board Elections Follow Up

At the previous meeting, since Michael Keeling is leaving the post of Lobbyist, Kirk Busch asked if John Kelly would be interested in fulfilling that position. John asked for a list of duties the position entails. Mark outlined what Mike Keeling had done at the legislature, especially in the area of telehealth and said the role would evolve to meet current ATIC interests. John noted that his firm TriAdvocates track legislature activities and have current clients Verizon Wireless and WANRack so he would have to be careful about declaring conflicts-of-interest if he were the ATIC Lobbyist. John said he would consider this with his TriAdvocates associates and get back to the ATIC Board later about it.

Mark said John Kelly has not yet responded to the request, so Mark will follow up with him off-line.

### 1.6. Review of Outstanding Action Items as Documented in July 13, 2022, Minutes

**ACTION ITEM -** Mark had an Action Item to contact Robert Gallegos, the IT/Security Director for the Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG) and Joy Whiting, Apache County Schools Superintendent who participates in the AZBSN task force to sound them out about joining the board.

As noted above, this Action Item has been completed and is closed.

## 2. Informational Presentations

**2.1.** None were scheduled.

3. **Activity Reports**

   3.1. **Arizona Broadband Office Report (Sandip Bhowmick)**

   3.1.1. **Broadband Grants, Rural Community Outreach & Projects**

   No report. Sandip Bhowmick was unable to attend and Mala Muralidharan had no update but said Sandip is extremely busy and she knows the State Broadband Office is looking to hire a tribal liaison.

   3.1.2. **Digital Equity Initiatives & Opportunities**

   Cindy Hogan, the Digital Equity Program Manager for the State of Arizona, was not present. Erin Carr-Jordan, President of the Digital Equity Institute (DEI), reported on the State Broadband Office digital equity activities since the DEI was the contractor selected to lead the design of the State Digital Equity Plan. Erin noted that she spoke recently with Keith Watkins of the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) and they are interviewing candidates for the Broadband Office tribal liaison position. She noted that for the Digital Equity Plan DEI is identifying venues for 15 community listening sessions in each county statewide. Janet Major offered venues for some of these listening sessions. There will also be virtual events for the general public, especially focused on special considerations, such as the elderly, the disabled and veterans. DEI will also facilitate the ACA monthly digital equity roundtables that are being scheduled (the first one is on May 16). DEI is finalizing contracts now for consultants and will be announcing those consultants who will be a part of their team. DEI will be issuing two surveys soon to determine community needs within the state: A Community Anchor Institutions survey and a Community Members survey.

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

   Mark Goldstein noted that NTIA is scheduled to announce the states' BEAD funding allocations of $42.45 billion by June 30. He said his best estimate is that Arizona is likely to get $700 to $800 million as its share based on projections he has seen. There are Congressional discussions on making the state BEAD allocations partial initially until challenges to the FCC Broadband Map, which are the basis of these allocations, are addressed. The State Broadband Office and Governor's Office will decide how much of the BEAD funding goes to competitive broadband infrastructure grants for communities and how much to state-managed middle-mile projects. There will be strict NTIA NOFO guidelines on how BEAD funding can be spent by states, including requirements on workforce, cybersecurity, and supply chain management.

   Listening sessions will be coordinated between the BEAD and Digital Equity

planning teams. There will be formal consultations with tribes on BEAD in May. Mala noted that Sandip mentioned using library locations for some of the sessions. Mala will try to coordinate this with Sandip.

There was some discussion about the state of the Arizona budget negotiations. This is covered below in Section 3.6.1.

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

### 3.2.1. ASBSN Digital Access Task Force Updates

Steve Peters, AZBSN Coordinator, reported that he would like to revisit the Monday afternoon 3:00 pm meeting time, since a number of people are no longer participating on the Zoom call for whatever reason.

Steve also plans to meet with Sandip and other key individuals to ensure that AZBSN continues as a key partner in ACA State Broadband Office plans going forward. Sandip wants AZBSN to be tied into the work on the State BEAD and Digital Equity Plans and arrange meetings with Cindy Hogan and Erin Carr-Jordan.

He also needs to acquire some funding commitments.

#### 3.2.1.1. Updates to AZBSN Task Force Report (11/20)

Steve said Karen Ziegler has not been available due to health and family issues and John Kelly is very busy during the legislative season. So there has been no progress on working on an update to the November 2020 AZBSN Digital Access Strategy Report.

### 3.2.2. AZBSN Leadership Group & New Initiatives

Steve said at a previous meeting he will report on these topics after the updated plan has been issued.

Mark urged Steve to initiate some action on re-constituting the AZBSN Leadership Team and involve some additional people to assist in making this happen so the full load is not carried only by Steve. Steve agreed.

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

No new action to report in this area.

## 3.3. Technology in Education/eLearning

### 3.3.1. Arizona Technology in Education Association (AzTEA) ) (Nan Williams)

Nan Williams serves as Executive Director of AzTEA (https://aztea.org/) and sits 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 Arizona Rural Schools Association and their Final Mile Project (https://www.finalmileproject.com/).

Nan reported that the annual Spring Conference held on April 28 was a success with Ryan Murphy of Arizona Homeland Security speaking on cybersecurity and Jeff Billings of Paradise Valley Unified School District addressing the implications on education of ChatGPT. There were also sessions on the role that parental rights should have regarding curriculum adoption.

On May 9 AzTEA participated in a K-12 ransomware tabletop simulation co-event exercise with Rubrik and the Arizona Department of Education ( ADE).

AzTEA is now a Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) chapter so all district IT staffs have free access to CoSN tools provided by AzTEA.

Nan said that there will be little AzTEA activity during the summer months.

### 3.3.2. GAZEL Innovative Learning Collaborative Initiatives (Steve Peters)

The GAZEL Board hasn't met since early 2022 and needs reactivation and refreshing to further operationalize GAZEL. The Board still needs to acquire Directors & Officers (D&O) insurance for good governance and proper protections.

Work to produce a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between GAZEL and ATIC on the AZBSN has been on hold and a determination should be made about whether this is still necessary and if so, how to accomplish it.

### 3.3.3. Sun Corridor Network (SCN) (Laura Etter)

Laura Etter, Deputy Director of the Sun Corridor Network (SCN), was unable to attend, but she relayed to Mark that SCN is moving forward with the Maricopa County Broadband Expansion Grant and continuing its efforts with Phoenix housing as well.

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

Holly Henley, Library Development Division Director, Erin Lorandos, Digital

Inclusion Librarian and Mala Muralidharan, E-rate Administrator for Public Libraries at the Arizona State Library, reported on E-rate and Arizona State Library activities.

Holly was at the FCC press conference on May 9 featuring Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel and felt it was a wonderful event. She deferred to Erin and Mala to report on the details.

Erin noted that the FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel and Mayor Kate Gallego held a press conference at the Burton Barr Central Library to promote enrollment in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and to announce a partnership with Common Sense Media. The FCC is preparing a flyer on ACP which will be printed and copies will be available to distribute to the public. (They already printed 50,000 copies to use free of charge.) The press conference was followed by a short train-the-trainer event, organized by Lyle Ishida of the FCC, for potential ACP digital navigators. About 60 people stayed for the training event. Information was shared about the library digital navigators and the DEI ACP navigators available through the ASU Experience Center.

On May 9 there was also a NACOG workshop on transportation and healthcare intersections, and Steve commented that the relationship of transportation to health care and broadband/ digital inclusion is important to look at going forward. Mala noted that it is often more efficient to transport rural people to libraries that have telehealth capabilities than to transport them a long distance to health facilities. Janet Major also attended this session.

Mala reported that she also attended the FCC press conference on May 9 and said it was a wonderful event. Mala reported that the ACP performance tool developed by the Benton Institute is an amazing predictor of what the ACP enrollment should be for any given zip code. It should help to answer the question of are we reaching new Internet users or mostly low-income households who already have internet access, and can indicate where navigators are needed. Here is the link to it: https://www.benton.org/acp_tool?utm_source=sendgrid&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletters. Mala noted a Catch-22 with ACP is that the more people are enrolled, the faster the ACP funding will run out, so there definitely needs to be consideration by Congress of extending the ACP funding.

Regarding E-rate Mala said that of the $86 million applied for, Arizona has $35 million approved after first two waves. Tribal E-rate is under discussion to include tribal college libraries as being E-rate eligible. Comments submitted to the FCC on tribal issues included the need to simplify the application process. Other comments included adding a tribal representative to the USAC Board of Directors. There has been ongoing discussion of expanding the base of Universal Service Fund (USF) contributors beyond landline service providers to support future funding needs.

SHLB has been discussing the issue of pole attachments: How to streamline access rights to poles for fiber deployment, and how to pay for access to the poles as well as for maintenance. This is an important issue for fiber deployment in the state.

Mala noted that Anna Gomez, NTIA Deputy Director, has been nominated by President Biden to be the FCC's fifth commissioner, and this should be discussed by Congress in June.

For more details, see the State Library Report below, submitted by Mala

### ATIC Board May 10, 2023, Mala's State Library Report

1. **E-RATE UPDATE**:
   a. **Funding Approval** - Received funding approval for
      - $17 Million – 1ST WAVE
      - $ 18 Million - 2ND WAVE
      - That is a total of $35 M in 2 waves
      - Arizona Schools and Libraries -applied for a Discounted amount of $86 Million for 2023-2024

   **b. Tribal E-rate:** A Notice for proposed rule making (NPRM) was put out in March for simplifying Tribal E-rate. Comments were due by April 24. Reply comments due May 23rd. Many of the proposed changes for Tribal libraries would also benefit all E-rate applicants In general. Summary of the key comments are
      - *redefining the eligibility of Tribal college libraries*
      - *simplifying the E-rate application forms for Tribal library applicants*
      - *easing cost-allocation requirements (for non-instructional facilities)*
      - *adding Tribal representation to USAC's Board of Directors.*

   A joint comment was filed by the State E-rate Coordinator's Alliance, the Consortium for School Networking, the Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition, and the State Educational Technology Directors Association.

2. **USF Contributions:** Telecommunications companies are required by law to make contributions to the USF, paying in a percentage of their end-user interstate and international revenues. This percentage is called the contribution factor. The contribution factor changes each quarter, varying with the demand for universal service support. 30% of their revenue April-June 23. While initially focused on telephone services especially as the subscription rate to landline voice services has been steadily declining;
USF Supports

• **The Connect America Fund**: This fund provides support for the deployment of broadband by qualifying telecom companies serving high-cost areas to provide access to a comparable service at rates reasonably comparable to those in urban areas.

• **Lifeline program**: The program assists low-income customers by providing a discount on their monthly telephone or broadband bills.

• **E-Rate**: Also known as Schools and Libraries Support, E-Rate provides access to telecommunication services, internet access, and internal connections to eligible schools and libraries.

• **Rural Health Care Support:** This program allows rural health care providers to pay rates for telecommunications services similar to those in urban areas by subsidizes Internet access and infrastructure with the intent of making telehealth services affordable.

**REFORMS** :

a.  First, the contribution base could be expanded to include a number of services that qualify for contribution to the fund, most notably broadband.

b.  Second, tech companies could be required to contribute to the fund, as they leverage broadband infrastructure and see higher profits from an increased user base.

c.  Finally, some propose ending the current contribution mechanism, and instead rely on direct appropriation from Congress

d.  Beneficiaries to include: public housing, community centers, prisons, public facing institutions

    Perhaps create a single program within the USF called the Anchor Institution Connectivity Program. (AICP)

e.  Applicants should be able to submit a single application to deploy networks and provide service to multiple anchor institutions.

f.  Congress should amend the USF goals in section 254 to bring to bring multi-gigabit connectivity to all anchors

g.  Rural broadband providers should receive support to ensure that they provide affordable broadband service to everyone, as long as they verify that they are doing so.

Read more: https://www.americanactionforum.org/insight/the-debate-on-universal-service-fund-reform-a-primer/#ixzz81A4Qteds

**4. ACP**

a.  **ACP Outreach event: May 9th at Burton Barr library.**

Federal Communications Commission Chairwoman (FCC) Jessica Rosenworcel visited Phoenix on Tuesday, May 9, to promote the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Mayor Kate Gallego, the City of Phoenix and FCC Chairwoman had a press conference and train-the-trainer session with information about the program and application process.

Federal Communications Commission Chairwoman (FCC) Jessica Rosenworcel will visit Phoenix on Tuesday, May 9, to promote the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).

ACP outreach event at Burton Barr - Mayor Kate Gallego, the City of Phoenix, FCC Jessica Ro….
Were the chief guests. Lyle Ishita the Outreach Director trained almost 60 trainer who will in
turn train those will help get people signed up for the ACP program in AZ.
**ACP Media and Resource Tool Kit : Connect-Arizona.com** https://connect-arizona.com/acp .
CommonSense media has also created a training it.
**As of May 4th AZ had over 400,000** households enrolled in the program. The updated ACP
Enrollment and Claims Tracker is located at https://www.usac.org/about/affordable-
connectivity-program/acp-enrollment-and-claims-tracker/

 

 

b. **The Benton Institute ACP Performance Tool** https://www.benton.org/blog/benton-institute-acp-performance-tool
- Based annual income, population age, school going children, on using Cellular data only or other Internet services
- Based on these data there is prediction - Are they as many households signed up - are there first time sign ups. Should there be or more or less… Where they are performing well why is it so.
- Constant Update with additional data and a blog post
c. **Continuing ACP** The National Leadership Conference of Civil Rights has drafted the attached letter supporting continued ACP funding and is asking for as many parties as possible to sign on. SHLB has signed on and encourages others to sign on as well. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf0orIOzu4QBkgzGRUOdAG2clM7w6cKgT-yx_0rHF-MMqKZvQ/viewform

 

**5. Meetings with FCC:**
a. **Pole Attachments Meeting with FCC :**

Link to House Bills: https://energycommerce.house.gov/events/communications-and-technology-subcommittee-legislative-hearing-breaking-barriers-streamlining-permitting-to-expedite-broadband-deployment
- SHLB supports streamlining and expediting access to rights-of-way and poles by broadband providers.
- SHLB supports convening state working groups to expedite granting of applications and determination of fees for use of public rights-of-way and poles.
- SHLB supports waiving environmental review of broadband projects that use existing rights-of-way.
- SHLB supports a uniform fee schedule applicable to the processing of forms for the placement of communications facilities on certain buildings and other property owned by the Federal Government.

In Arizona if ADOT disturbs an area for laying roads or repairing road, they already are laying dark fiber so no new permits are required. That bill was passed several years ago .

6. **FCC New commissioner Nomination**: President Biden considering NTIA's *Anna Gomez* for FCC commissioner slot. The president could announce his pick as soon as this week, according to a report, but a confirmation hearing likely would not be held until June. Gomez is currently the deputy administrator at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, a unit of the Department of Commerce that advises the president and his on telecom-related policy matters.
7. Az Legislative News:

**In the Budget:**
- Establishes the **rural broadband accelerated match fund administered by Commerce Authority**
- Monies in the fund shall be used to assist political subdivisions in this state to meet the matching requirement for **the federal broadband equity**, access and deployment program
- Monies shall be distributed as follows:
  - **Not more than 1% in FY 2023-2024 to administer the fund**
- 25% to counties with a population of 100,000 or more
  - A county with a population of more than one million persons is not eligible for funding.
- 25% to counties with a population of less than one hundred thousand persons
- 25% to municipalities with a population of 10,000 or more
  - A municipality that is partially or entirely located in an urbanized area of a county and that has a population of more than one million persons is not eligible for funding
- 25% to municipalities with a population of less than ten thousand persons
- On or before September 1 of each year until all monies have been expended from the fund
- Commerce Authority shall submit a report to the legislature detailing the use of monies from the fund for the previous fiscal year
  - The report shall include the entities to which the authority distributed monies, the amount distributed, a description of the projects funded, the federal match rate on each project, the status of each project, the price of services and an assessment of the total impact of each project
- The authority may give preference to applicants that demonstrate either of the following:
  - The percentage of matching monies provided by the applicant
  - The extent that the applicant will partner with other entities to deliver the project

### 3.5. Telehealth (Janet Major)

Janet Major, Associate Director for Innovation and Digital Health, Arizona Telemedicine Program and Southwest Telehealth Resource Center (https://telemedicine.arizona.edu/), is the lead for the Arizona Telehealth Broadband Action Team (BAT).

Janet reported she was at the NACOG transportation and healthcare workshop on May 9. She praised the Arizona Asset Map on transportation. The goal of the transportation sector is to minimize travel time in transporting patients to a healthcare facility. There will be a pilot sponsored by the Verde Valley Caregivers Coalition in partnership with NACOG and Northern Arizona Healthcare to explore ways in which travel time can be reduced. They will be piloting an app developed by Amazon Web Services and ASU. Foodbanks, school libraries and schools are also a great resource for these activities as potential telehealth hubs of the communities. She also mentioned the telehealth access point map as a valuable resource showing where telehealth resources are located in the state

Mala and Janet will present in July at a national conference in Orlando, Florida, on the Arizona Telehealth in Libraries Program and share best practices.

Steve commented that there are a lot of different types of resources coming available that need to be brought together. Janet added that she does not think there should be duplicate listening sessions from ACA and DEI on digital equity.

### 3.6. Government Affairs

#### 3.6.1. Arizona Broadband Policy Update (Mark Goldstein)

Mala mentioned that there is considerable mention in the draft state budget of how matching funds can be provided for federal projects.

Mark asked about the status of the three broadband elements that Governor Hobbs' had originally included in her proposed budget: Those three elements were:

1. $5 million in E-rate matching funds as an E-rate enabler for financially struggling schools.

2. $50 million one-time allocation to establish a matching fund for federal BEAD grants projects, called the Rural Broadband Accelerated Match Fund. There is a 25% match requirement for BEAD broadband infrastructure grants, and some rural communities/broadband providers will be able to use

this for matching funds.

3. $16 million one-time allocation to enhance broadband capabilities at state facilities in rural Arizona.

Heather Floyd said the E-rate $5 million matching funds (Item #1 above) is in the budget. Steve Peters commented that the $50 million rural broadband matching funds (Item #2 above) has been approved but Heather stated that this Rural Broadband Accelerated Match Fund amount was reduced to $23.6 million.

Mark noted that the state had leveraged $11 million in state E-rate matching funds in the past to obtain much more federal E-rate funding, and Corey Christians noted that Yavapai County had also leveraged E-rate funding for middle-mile network construction. Mala added that Yavapai County was one of the first to build schools/libraries consortium networks. Mark explained that almost all E-rate money goes to last-mile networks but where middle-mile does not exist some E-rate funding can be used for this.

Steve commented that he has heard the Governor is considering establishing a Broadband Advisory Group. Mark replied that he thinks this is being considered but not yet committed to. Mark noted that ATIC recommended such a group be created about 10 years ago when the Governor's Digital Arizona Council was dissolved and that it remained a key recommendation in the AZBSN Digital Access Task Force Report of November 2020 and the Arizona Technology Council's Annual Public Policy Guide. This may get momentum with the large federal broadband funding coming to the state, and in many states such broadband advisory groups have set priorities for funding.

Kirk Busch asked Andy Ridley about whether the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity Career Readiness Program is looking at workforce requirements for the BEAD and Digital Equity programs. Andy replied that he is beginning to talk to Sandip Bhowmick about how workforce development needs to be integrated with broadband infrastructure rollout when the BEAD funding comes. Andy noted that digital literacy skills certification could be a requirement for being a digital navigator, and they are working with the Governor's Office to approve their digital literacy certification program. Steve Peters commented that he has talked with Andy about how the AZBSN task force could work with him on the need for digital navigators and digital literacy skills training. Andy stated that digital navigators would be an excellent way of disseminating information about their digital literacy program (which is free). Kirk noted that data center companies and telecom companies are having trouble hiring people with the right skills (e.g., for fiber deployment), and ATIC and/or the AZBSN Task Force could help coordinate such efforts. Andy added that they will also be

working on certifying other workforce capabilities beyond basic digital literacy.

### 3.6.2. Federal Broadband Policy Update (Nicole Umayam/NTIA, Mark Goldstein)

Nicole Umayam is the Arizona Broadband Liaison Federal Program Officer (FPO), for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). As such she serves as the interface for the state of Arizona to the NTIA at the national level, supporting the State Broadband Office on the BEAD and Digital Equity Programs. Nicole has shared with NTIA key activities in Arizona such as those of the Arizona State Library and the ADE Final Mile Project.

In Nicole's absence Mark reported there are two USDA grant opportunities that deserve mention. One Is a new Community Connect Round of grants worth up to $5 million for a single geographic area for broadband infrastructure. These are open for applications due by June 20, 2023. See https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-connect-grants for details.

The other is a new grant which the USDA has launched called the Broadband Technical Assistance (BTA) grant program with $20 million available over 3 categories: Technical Assistance Providers to benefit rural communities, Technical Assistance Recipients for project studies & design and Projects Supporting Cooperatives. The deadline is June 20, 2023, with details available at https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-programs/broadband-technical-assistance-program.

The NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) Round 1 grants of $1 billion initially and a second $1 billion added are still in the process of being awarded and there will be a TBCP Round 2 with another $1 billion awarded by the end of 2023, possibly within the next few months. See https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources/grant-programs/tribal-broadband-connectivity-program for details.

## 4. Information and Action Plans

### 4.1. ATIC Website & Teleconferencing (All)

The ATIC website was recently again infected with a virus and some form of malware and adware. Mark said the site will possibly need to be migrated to a different platform.

Kirk Busch confirmed that his team (McKeown Marketing) has secured the website and removed all malware. It can now be accessed safely, and it will

potentially be moved over to a different platform over time.

As noted previously by Mark and Steve, the ATIC website is aging a bit so this is an opportunity to clean it up and restructure it. The website is shared with AZBSN.

The website needs to be leveraged to publicize the 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 Digital Access Task Force 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)

Steve is discussing with Mark and Kirk Busch subscribing to a CRM/E-mail management service to meet the needs of the AZBSN Task Force.

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

**ATIC vs. AZBSN Roles and AZBSN Governance.**

At a previous meeting Mark reminded everyone of the issue raised by Janet recently concerning AZBSN governance and oversight. Since Janet is not present today this will be moved to the October meeting agenda. Henry mentioned that Janet was concerned about the definition of roles for ATIC as opposed to AZBSN. For ease of reference, below is a copy (in blue text) of Janet's concerns as documented at the June 2022 meeting:

Janet would like to discuss the future role of ATIC. Janet feels AZBSN is subordinate to ATIC but that ATIC "has been 'lost' in the shuffle - and that all expertise is not 'owned' by AZBSN. Does ATIC still want to be an authority and resource for the general public? Does AZBSN want to be an affiliate of ATIC? Or continue the outreach work of ATIC as telecom experts under the name of AZBSN?" Cybersecurity is one of the five pillars of digital equity on which AZBSN is focusing. Should ATIC also deal with cybersecurity? Kirk suggested that maybe we need to define the roles more specifically but it is important to build on the established AZBSN brand to avoid confusion. Mark agreed with Janet and Kirk that we should consider better defining the ATIC roles, and ATIC

is creating a new broadband provider working group. Mark noted that AZBSN is a partnership of ATIC and GAZEL, but GAZEL no longer has an active Board. Steve noted that digital equity, including cybersecurity, will be a key mission for AZBSN. Mark commented that ATIC may partner with ACA on rural outreach and with the Arizona Telemedicine Program on telehealth events in the future.

Also at a previous meeting Mark added that we did start to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2020 and the Executive Committee held several meetings on this topic. One of the decisions that was made was to let the finances of AZBSN operate under the management of GAZEL. However, the GAZEL Board has not met for some time and is not effectively acting in an operational capacity. Kirk Busch asked about the state of the draft MOU and Mark said he would send him a copy.

5. **Events Attended and Upcoming Meetings**

6. **Announcements**

7. **Adjourn**

# Upcoming ATIC Board Meetings

**Upcoming ATIC Board Meetings for 2023 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.**

- **June 14, 2023 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **July 12, 2023 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **No Board Meeting in August (Summer Break)**
- **September 13, 2023 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **October 11, 2023 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **November 8, 2023 from 12:00-2:00 pm**
- **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 afternoon (except holidays) at 3:00 p.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.**

Set up **direct deposit yet?** Get started now    Arizona T... ⌄

Dashboard    My Accounts    Transfers & Payments    My Tools    Support

**Protect yourself from germs with contactless transactions.** ⊗

# Dashboard

## Accounts ⚙

| | |
|---|---|
| **Checking** | $540.47 |
| **ATIC 434041** 04081-0400 | ∧ $540.47 $540.47 |
| **Savings** | $9,568.11 |
| **ATIC 073206** 04081-0000 | ∧ $9,568.11 $9,593.11 |

∧ Available Balance

## Important Information

**How to Save for Big Purchases**

March 01, 2023

**Get Down With the Digital Wallet**

March 01, 2023

## Quick Links

Credit Card Login

Investments (Raymond James)

Mortgage Loans (MLOS)

Identity Secure

Mobile App 101

## Link External Accounts

Get Started

Last **15** days ⚙

Logged in **1** time

# Desert Financial Credit Union

*Transaction History*

Arizona Telecommunications And Information
ATIC 434041 04081-0400

| | | Statement Period: **All Dates** | Date of Statement: **05/08/2023** |
|---|---|---|---|

## Posted Transactions (63)

| DATE | DESCRIPTION | AMOUNT | BALANCE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 04/11/23 | CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL | -$25.75 | $540.47 |
| 03/14/23 | CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL | -$26.13 | $566.22 |
| 02/10/23 | CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL | -$25.61 | $592.35 |
| 01/10/23 | CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL | -$25.25 | $617.96 |
| 12/13/22 | CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL | -$25.75 | $643.21 |
| 11/10/22 | CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL | -$26.13 | $668.96 |
| 10/11/22 | CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL | -$26.61 | $695.09 |
| 09/12/22 | ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER FROM 0000 | $500.00 | $721.70 |
| 09/12/22 | CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL | -$25.51 | $221.70 |
| 08/10/22 | CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL | -$25.40 | $247.21 |
| 07/22/22 | DRAFT #2223 TRACER 46098424 | -$400.00 | $272.61 |
| 07/14/22 | DRAFT #2222 TRACER 45948991 | -$21.60 | $672.61 |
| 07/12/22 | DRAFT #2221 TRACER 45886391 | -$924.00 | $694.21 |
| 07/12/22 | CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL | -$25.63 | $1,618.21 |
| 06/30/22 | ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER FROM 0000 | $1,000.00 | $1,643.84 |
| 06/10/22 | CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL | -$26.15 | $843.84 |
| 05/11/22 | CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL | -$25.40 | $669.99 |
| 04/12/22 | CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL | -$25.63 | $695.39 |