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## **ATIC Board Agenda for Wednesday, June 14, 2023**

### **1. Administrative**

- 1.1. Self-Introductions
- 1.2. Modifications to and Acceptance of Agenda Draft
- 1.3. Acceptance of Minutes from May 10, 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 May 10, 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 (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**

**June 14, 2023**

### **Attendees:**

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

**Mark Goldstein, Henry Goldberg, Oris Friesen, Ron Schott, Sandip Bhowmick, Kirk Busch, Corey Christians, Michael Cohen, Jerry Crow, Heather Floyd, Mala Muralidharan proxy for Holly Henley, Andy Phelan and Nan Williams.**

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

**Steve Peters (AZBSN Coordinator), Erin Lorandos (Digital Inclusion Librarian, Arizona State Library), Rob Gallegos (IT Director, NACOG), Lucy Howell (CEO, Force for Health Network, Tucson), John LaGrand, (User Advocate for Broadband & Technology), Jordan Williams (Land Use Manager, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation), Catalina Trujillo (Business Account Manager, Triad Wireless), Nicole Umayam (Federal Program Officer for Arizona Broadband & Digital Equity, NTIA).**

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

**A replay of the meeting is available at <https://youtu.be/raRLnanrhJE>**

**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, July 12, 2023, virtually. The schedule of ATIC Board Meetings for the rest of 2023 can be found towards the end of these minutes.**

## 1. Administrative

Mark Goldstein opened the meeting with a tribute to Ted Kraver who passed away on June 7, 2023. Ted was instrumental in the creation of ATIC in the 1990s. In the late 1980s the Arizona Strategic Partnership for Economic Development (ASPED) was formed. The State of Arizona hired consultants from Stanford Research Institute (SRI) who suggested that ASPED should adopt the industry cluster model of economic development being advocated by Michael Porter at MIT. In 1991 Governor Fife Symington renamed ASPED to be the Governor's Strategic Partnership for Economic Development (GSPED) with its industry clusters and underlying infrastructure foundations of which telecommunications was a part. Ted was involved in the ASPED-GSPED process.

In 1991 Ted founded the Advanced Information and Communications Infrastructure (AICI) Foundation Group as a part of GSPED. Alan Hald, GSPED Chair referred Mark to Ted in 1992. Oris Friesen became involved a little later followed by Steve Peters. In 1994 John Kelly served as Governor Symington's first Telecom Policy Officer (TPO). Ted, John Kelly and Al Crawford recommended that the AICI foundation should become more actively engaged in a Governor's task force report on telecommunications. The name was changed in 1995 to Arizona Telecommunications and Information Council (ATIC). Al Crawford was the first Chair of ATIC and Ted became Chair later. Ted and his wife Bobbie had a passion for technology in education and founded eLearning System for Arizona's Teachers and Students (eSATS) and Greater Arizona Educational Leadership (GAZEL).

Ted called himself a civic entrepreneur, starting several companies. He was always involved in the technology ecosystem in Arizona and started several successful companies here. In 2005 Mark nominated Ted for the lifetime achievement James McWhorter Qward sponsored by the Arizona Technology Council and the Arizona Commerce Authority. Governor Janet Napolitano presented the award to Ted with Bobbie by his side at the Governor's Celebration of Innovation (GCOI) on 11/15/05 (Photo album available at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/mg-irc/albums/72157594315550741>). He had a stroke about 6 years ago and withdrew from public life. There is to be a celebration of Ted's life at The Beatitudes in Phoenix on June 21 for family and friends.

Steve Peters commented that Ted was a mentor and one of his best friends. Ted had no ego investment in his projects. He was a brilliant engineer and an early adopter of new technology in education and tried to get the Governor and State Legislature interested in this. He will be missed. He and Bobbie started a gifted kids program. Oris Friesen also commented that he worked with Ted on a number of projects. Ted's autobiography "Eminence Grise" was published in 2018 and is available on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/Life-Story-Theodore-Ted-Kraver/dp/0999367528/> and his obituary can be found online at <https://www.azcentral.com/obituaries/par070304>.

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

See the list of attendees above.

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

Oris Friesen suggested that Mike Keeling's name be removed Item 3.6.1 Arizona Broadband Policy Update, since Mike has retired from his role as ATIC Lobbyist.

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

**MOVE: Heather Floyd**  
**SECOND: Oris Friesen**  
**Passed Unanimously**

### **1.3. Acceptance of Minutes from May 10, 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: Heather Floyd**  
**SECOND: Corey Christians**  
**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 \$9546.22. It includes the monthly bill to CenturyLink, the \$500 fee to McKeown Marketing for removing the malware and adware and cleaning up the website and the \$10 annual filing fee to the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC). The annual fee for the Directors & Officers Insurance is \$933 and is due shortly. Ron has a meeting scheduled with the company representative to discuss details.

Steve Peters reported on the balance in the GAZEL AZBSN Task Force account, saying that there is still no money remaining in the account, and that he has not been paid his salary for the past two months. 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, as reported last month, 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.

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**

**MOTION: To accept Robert Gallegos as a Member of the ATIC Board.**

Rob spoke about himself and his work as Director of the Information Technology and Cybersecurity Program of the Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG) which serves Yavapai, Coconino, Navajo and Apache counties.

**MOVE: Mark Goldstein**  
**SECOND: Henry Goldberg**

**Passed Unanimously**

Mark noted that he has also reached out to the following people asking them to consider becoming Board Members: EJ John of the ASU American Indian Policy Institute (AIPI) who is checking with ASU regarding any potential conflicts of interest, Brent Nelson of the Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education and Joy Whiting, the Apache County Superintendent of Schools.

### **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 a 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**

**Nothing to report**

#### **2. Informational Presentations**

2.1. None were scheduled.

#### **3. Activity Reports**

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

Sandip Bhowmick, State Broadband Director at the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) State Broadband Office, summarized the four major programs of the State Broadband Office. These are described below.

#### **1. Middle-Mile Network**

ACA in partnership with the Arizona Dept. of Transportation (ADOT) are working on building out the state middle-mile fiber network. They have begun by deploying middle-mile fiber along I-17, I-19, I-40 West, and the next priority for deployment will be I-40 East. KPMG was hired as a contractor last year to do a feasibility study and identify priorities for deploying additional middle-mile fiber around the state. ACA and ADOT published an RFP in November 2022 to select a vendor to operate and commercialize the state middle-mile network for the next 25 years, and they selected the winning vendor two weeks ago. KPMG and a D.C. law firm are helping them negotiate the contract with this vendor, but because the vendor may back out if the contract terms are not acceptable to them, ACA/ADOT are not going to publicly announce the winning vendor until both parties have signed the contract, which is expected in the next 1 – 1.5 months. ACA/ADOT will create a governance committee that will decide how future revenues from leasing the state middle-mile network are spent: could go to last-mile broadband deployments (most likely) or further middle-mile deployments.

#### **2. Arizona Broadband Development Grants (ABDG) Capital Funding Program**

The ABDG project was run 14 months ago and the State Broadband Office selected 20 projects for awards. In the last 7 months, the US Treasury Dept. reviewed and approved all of these projects. The State Broadband Office is now waiting for guidelines on how sub-grantees will receive their funding and on what areas the funding can be spent (e.g. re-investing in the networks). In this process, the FCC National Broadband Map was used as a baseline, and all grant recipients have been requested to provide a map of how many households they will be serving on the FCC Map. The ABDG contracts will likely be rolling out next week, and then the State Broadband Office will start distributing the funding for project construction.

#### **3. BEAD Program**

KPMG and Connected Nations have been hired together to do all the state BEAD planning. They have hosted a few listening sessions with the ISPs, and one more listening session is coming at the end of June. They are also hosting three listening sessions with the County Supervisors Association and three sessions with the Arizona League of Cities and

Towns, as well as obtaining other inputs (including requesting some ATIC Board members who will be asked to fill out surveys). All this feedback will be incorporated into the State BEAD 5-year Action Plan, which is due at the end of August 2023. The BEAD 5-Year Action Plan will be an overview report answering basic questions about the State Broadband Office activities and capacity. The Initial State BEAD plan will discuss the State Challenge Process to the FCC Map as well as how sub-grantees will be selected and the funding distributed to them. Henry Goldberg asked for clarification of the content/timing of the BEAD plans. Sandip explained that NTIA has specified three milestones for BEAD planning: 1) BEAD 5-Year Action Plan due in August 2023 answering basic questions of the functioning and capacity of the State Broadband Office – this will be a 20-30 page report and may not be published; 2) Initial BEAD Plan to be published in mid-November for public comment and the revised initial plan due Dec. 28, 2023 will detail the sub-grantee selection process and distribution of funding, and the State Broadband Office can start distributing funding to sub-grantees after the Initial Plan; and 3) the Final BEAD Plan due in December 2024 describing how the program is running, success rates, and how the broadband mapping is being used.

Sandip stated that as part of the FCC Broadband Map challenge process in November, Arizona added 64,000 unserved/underserved households to this map, so that Arizona now has a total of 360,000 unserved and underserved households on the map. They are hoping to add a little more on the next iteration of the FCC Map, but these wouldn't show up until November 2023.

#### **4. Digital Equity Program**

The State Digital Equity Plan is being run by Cindy Hogan, the State Broadband Office Digital Equity Program Manager, along with the contractor the Digital Equity Institute (President, Erin Carr-Jordan). They have had four digital equity listening sessions around the state so far taking feedback (including surveys) from community anchor institutions and communities, and the ACA is also holding monthly community roundtables for feedback. The results of all the listening sessions will be distributed to NTIA for review.

The State Digital Equity Plan is due to be published in August 2023 for public comment. Henry Goldberg asked for clarification on the timing of the publication of the State Digital Equity Plan since all the listening sessions around the state are due to be completed around the state in August, and this would not leave enough time to develop the plan. Sandip responded that August 2023 was the initial NTIA deadline for the Digital Equity Plan being published (based on one year after receiving the planning funds in September 2022), and then the feedback would be integrated in September and the final plan was to be published in October



2023. Because this is an extensive process, Arizona and other states are applying for a 180-day extension in publishing the Digital Equity Plan until the end of March 2024. Sandip noted that this would not delay Arizona receiving the funding from the Digital Equity Capacity Grants programs since this will be available in April-May 2024. Sandip added that NTIA has not set milestones for the Digital Equity Plan as it did for the BEAD Plan, but it can be updated over time. Sandip explained that there will be three major components of the Digital Equity Plan: 1) Census-Based Data Analytics – in which uncovered populations in the state are described using US Census data; 2) Listening Sessions – will be used to identify digital equity gaps in the state; and 3) Asset Inventory – will identify digital inclusion programs currently operating in the state, and decide how to use and expand these with the capacity grants. There are also a few other components such as workforce development, which will be integrated into the Digital Equity Plan.

There was further discussion and questions related to the State Broadband Office and BEAD/Digital Equity Plans as noted below.

Steve Peters asked if there is a comprehensive list of broadband service providers in the state. Sandip responded that the FCC Broadband Map lists all service providers in the state by technology (e.g., FTTH, fixed wireless, satellite), and he uses this list in addition to a previous list provided by Mark Goldstein. The FCC has specified that service provider contact information can only be used by State Broadband Offices and cannot be made public, so counties/cities can reach out to the State Broadband Office and they will set up meetings with service providers for them. KPMG and the Digital Equity Institute have special licenses that allow service provider information to be transmitted to them.

Sandip noted that last month the Governor's Office sent a letter to the leaders of the tribes to start official consultation with them on broadband infrastructure and digital equity issues (which has not happened before). The ACA has hired a tribal liaison who will be starting work on June 26<sup>th</sup>. They want to collaborate with the tribes on broadband mapping and digital equity. Steve Peters commented that he would like two or three people to provide an overview to the AZBSN Digital Access Task Force on tribal broadband/digital equity activities, and Sandip said he would get back to Steve on this. Henry Goldberg asked about whether tribal broadband and digital equity plans will be integrated with the state BEAD and Digital Equity Plans. Sandip responded that the tribal plans will be integrated into the state plans if the tribes want to do that – the tribes are sovereign and the State Broadband Office does not want to violate their sovereignty. The Governor's Office is taking the lead on the tribal engagement process. Sandip explained that only 5 – 6 tribes have their own plans or the money/resources to develop their own plans, so the State Broadband

Office consultants will work with the other tribes to do mapping and develop their plans (the NTIA NOFO allows the State Broadband Office to spend its planning funding on helping tribes and other communities with planning if they don't have the resources to do this). Arizona tribes have received \$165 million from the federal government directly under the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program. The State Broadband Office will collaborate with the tribes in planning using various funding programs including ARPA, BEAD, and Digital Equity.

Sandip explained the difference between the State Broadband Map and the FCC National Broadband Map. The State Broadband Office is close to selecting a vendor that will be constructing the State Broadband Map. The State Broadband Map will have additional information that is not in the FCC Map, including locations which will be served in Arizona under the ABDG grants, RDOF grants, and USDA grants/loans programs. NTIA has instructed the states that if an area already has received federal government funding from some federal program, it is not eligible to receive BEAD funding. There will also be a layer in the State Broadband Map detailing digital equity factors such as community anchor institutions (schools, libraries, hospitals), workforce development, and public facilities – they are collaborating with 16 state agencies to provide this information.

Steve Peters asked if the Digital Equity listening sessions will be used to determine which organizations will be funded in the Digital Equity Plan. Sandip responded that they don't want to re-invent the wheel: such organizations will be added to the asset inventory, and the Digital Equity capacity grants can be used to fund existing organizations' digital equity work as appropriate.

Erin Lorandos asked about the timeline for developing the Asset Inventory map. Sandip responded that they hope to publish the first draft in October 2023 which may be updated in November. Cindy Hogan is leading four people at the ACA, who are examining asset inventories. Sandip said that they should e-mail Cindy (copying Sandip) on any organization that should be included in the Asset Inventory. Sandip indicated that some funding will be going to the State Broadband Office establishing digital navigators, and could also expand the libraries' digital navigators programs. Once the capacity grant funding is available, the State Broadband Office will help organizations apply for these grants, and feedback is also welcomed at the ACA monthly roundtables.

Mark Goldstein commented that there has been talk in the past and recommendations from ATIC and the Arizona Technology Council about establishing a State Broadband Advisory Group for the Governor or at the ACA. Sandip responded that they are actively working on such a Broadband Advisory Council in collaboration with the Governor's Office.

Steve Peters asked how such a Broadband Advisory Council would differ from the State BEAD and Digital Equity planning work. Sandip responded that the Broadband Advisory Council would be intended to provide a mentoring/supportive function, whereas the BEAD and Digital Equity planning work is getting feedback from stakeholders in local governments, industry, non-profit organizations, etc.

Sandip concluded saying that he values the expertise at ATIC and invites ATIC Board members and participants to reach out to him and can set up meetings with him. He also noted there are still two positions open at the State Broadband Office, including a Broadband Program Manager. Mark concluded saying Sandip's extensive overview today of State Broadband Office activities has been very valuable.

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

The content for this section is included above in Section 3.1.

### **3.1.2. Digital Equity Initiatives & Opportunities**

The content for this section is included above in Section 3.1.

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

The content for this section is included above in Section 3.1.

## **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 because some people have conflicting meetings and others may not be attending for other reasons. He plans to send out a survey asking for preferred meeting times.

Steve has also set up a Listserv to make it easier to send out e-mails and so hopefully less emails will be going into the spam folders.

Steve mentioned during the Kibbitzing after the June 12 task force meeting having a great conversation with the Tucson CIO Chris Mazzarella who wants to talk about different municipal network models and their advantages and disadvantages. Steve plans to convene a discussion group to address this topic. Also, the statewide CIO group for counties will be discussing similar issues around municipal network models, and Steve will be looking into how AZBSN/ATIC could assist them.

Steve is also talking to the state rural economic development group to get them involved in AZBSN/ATIC.

Steve also noted that the website does not make clear how one can go about joining ATIC or AZBSN. He urged Kirk Busch to look into that. Kirk responded that they will be cleaning up all the communications on the AZBSN website, including a LinkedIn group and brief videos of ATIC Board meetings.

Steve mentioned that ViaSat has some grants which will be available soon, and he will ask them to present at a future AZBSN meeting.

Steve wants Kirk to talk about data center issues with the CIO of the City of Tucson.

Steve also needs to secure some funding commitments.

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

Steve said at a previous meeting that 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.

There is nothing new to 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. Greater Arizona Educational Leadership (GAZEL) (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. Steve Peters commented that he heard Laura Etter may have left her position at SCN.

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

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

Regarding E-rate Mala reported that Arizona applied for \$116 million for the 2023-24 year, and close to \$30 million has been awarded so far. This is farther than we have ever been at this point in the application cycle. The broadband budget essentially survived the federal budget process unscathed. Some RUS and distance learning funds have been cut back a little.

Three FCC nominees, Anna Gomez, Brendan Carr and Geoffrey Starks are in the pipeline, but it is uncertain when they will be finalized. Anna Gomez, NTIA Deputy Director, has been nominated by President Biden to be the FCC's fifth commissioner. Starks and Carr are re-nominated as incumbents.

She called Sandip's attention to the policy roadmap developed by the Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition. The content of the roadmap is described in some detail in the State Library Report included below.

Here are some highlights of the roadmap. SHLB is requesting to-and-through status for Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) allowing CAIs to provide broadband connectivity to other near-by entities or to broadcast to the community. Henry Goldberg commented that "To and Through Networks", which provide high-speed wireless access to CAIs to exploit their existing additional fiber backhaul deployed in conjunction with E-rate fiber would be a very efficient broadband solution for small rural communities and low-income urban communities, but it appears that they are not yet legally allowed and so could not be deployed with BEAD funding. Henry added that this issue would likely need to be considered by Congress since it is beyond FCC E-rate jurisdiction. SHLB is advocating for CAIs to be included on the FCC National Broadband Map – they will be included on the Arizona State Broadband Map.

SHLB is also still pushing for cybersecurity to be included in the list of E-rate eligible services as well as WiFi on school busses. The earliest date for inclusion of such services would be the 2024-25 application cycle. SHLB has also 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 pole upgrading/replacements. This is an important issue for fiber deployment in the state.

Erin reported on the Summer Library Institute for libraries' continuing education sessions. Erin gave a presentation to the group on digital equity. Also the Connect-Arizona digital navigator team is participating in the ACP Week of Action outreach activities. She noted that their Facebook page is tracking the associated activities.

Erin has enrolled in the Digital Inclusion Leadership Certificate Program at ASU.

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

## ATIC Board June 14, 2023, State Library Report

### State Library Report

#### 1. E-RATE (Mala Muralidharan)

- USAC has approved approx.. **30 M Schools and Libraries** so far. **Total request made by Schools and Libraries in Arizona for 2023-24 is a** discounted share of \$86,640,702 (Pre-discount \$116,773,033)

#### 2. Federal Broadband (Mala Muralidharan)

- **Debt Ceiling negotiation** - Looks like Broadband budgets escaped unscathed - only unobligated funds have been subject to claw back and most of the approved funding has been obligated . Some RUS Distance learning and Telehealth funds have been cut back .
- FCC Commissioner nominations: President Joe Biden announced his intent to nominate the following individuals to serve as key leaders in his administration:
  - **Anna M. Gomez**, Nominee for Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission Gomez served as the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Deputy Administrator from 2009 to 2013. She also served for 12 years in various positions at the Federal Communications Commission, including as Deputy Chief of the International Bureau and as Senior Legal Advisor
  - **Geoffrey Adam Starks**, Nominee for Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission Geoffrey Adam Starks serves as a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission since 2017. Throughout his career, Starks has focused on creating access to high quality broadband for every American including rural America. While serving at the FCC he has worked to make networks more secure.
  - **Brendan Carr**, Nominee for Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission. Carr currently serves as a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission, having first joined the agency as a staffer in 2012. In his time on the Commission, Carr has focused on expanding affordable, high-speed Internet service to all Americans. Carr also leads a groundbreaking telehealth initiative at the FCC, the Connected Care Pilot Program, which supports the delivery of high-quality care to low-income Americans and veterans.

SHLB Policy Road Map: (Mala Muralidharan)

[FINAL2023-PolicyRoadmap \(Final\) \(1\).pdf \(shlb.org\)](#)

#### 1. BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Engage with state broadband offices and other leaders regarding the role of CAIs under BEAD and digital equity projects, including funding those institutions that lack gigabit level connectivity.
- Advocate for mapping the availability of broadband for CAIs on the FCC’s National Broadband Map and maps generated individually by the states.
- Continue to promote long-lasting open access broadband infrastructure that is available for interconnection and shared use. SHLB believes these funding programs should adopt the approach of deploying broadband “to and through” anchor institutions to reach surrounding homes and businesses.
- Promote the success of the Capital Projects Fund (CPF) administered by the U.S. Treasury

## 2. DIGITAL EQUITY

- Support local Digital Equity and local leadership and expertise.
- Support digital equity efforts at the federal level for marginalized groups, including long-term funding for ACP and bring down the cost of broadband access to people in need
- Advocate for the smart implementation and planning of digital inclusion work by participating in the NTIA’s Digital Equity Act comment proceeding.
- Support passage of the Digital Equity Foundation Act

## 3. E-RATE and ECF

- Advocate to make cybersecurity eligible under the E-rate program. SHLB will urge the FCC to allow schools and libraries to incorporate cybersecurity needs into their 2024 E-rate funding year applications.
- Advocate for making E-rate funding available for school bus Wi-Fi
- Oppose E-rate competitive bidding portal as it would undermine local decision-making and impose unnecessary burdens on E-rate applicants.
- Waiving cost allocation rule to make it easier to deploy networks “to and through” the anchor institution and provide low-cost broadband service to communities in need.

## 4. POLE ATTACHMENTS

- SHLB filed comments with the FCC asking it to adopt pole attachment principles, fairly allocate pole replacement costs, and speed up the resolution of pole complaints.

## 5. MAPPING

- Continue to meet with the FCC and Congressional leaders to find ways to include CAIs that purchase mass -market internet service on the Map.
- Meet with the NTIA and encourage state broadband leaders to develop their own maps (including CAIs) so that they can challenge and correct the FCC’s Map.
- Encourage states to conduct an inventory of assets that includes CAIs to build connectivity to those lacking gigabit broadband service into their BEAD project planning



## ACP UPDATE (Erin Lorandos)

- **ACP Sign up:** 419,431 households signed up for ACP as of the 1<sup>st</sup> week of June
- **ACP Week of Action:** Online for All is kicking off a Week of Action, hosted by U.S. Department of Education and Civic Nation, to create awareness about the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), to help ensure that eligible households can afford the broadband they need for work, school, healthcare and more. The ACP Week of Action will take place from June 14 to June 22, 2023. During the Week of Action, stakeholders from industry, education, nonprofits, and other sectors are committing to outreach and events to raise awareness of and encourage enrollment in the ACP. This [fact sheet](#) includes a number of resources for participants, including a communications tool kit, and information on training.
- **Connect AZ** is participating in the ACP Week of Action by sharing ACP-related information via social media. So far (we're on the last day of the Week) we've had the following impact via Facebook:
  - ACP Posts Reach: 429
  - Post Likes: 11
  - Shares: 8
  - Page Likes/Follows: 4 (new this week)
- **Digital Inclusion outreach:** We are hoping to expand the telehealth project to at least three additional sites, the next one is set for Tuba City. We will also be kicking off "Telehealth Thursdays" which will be a virtual education series with our partner libraries, to share telehealth and general health resources with library staff and library users. State Digital Inclusion Librarian presented information about ACP, Digital Inclusion activities of the State Library and our partners, and an overview of Connect Arizona's resources and offerings to a group of nearly 300 folks at an AZDES Lunch and Learn session.

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## End of Library Report

### 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 was unable to attend. There is no report.

### 3.6. Government Affairs

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

Mark reported in a previous meeting that the three broadband elements that Governor Hobbs' had originally included in her proposed budget have survived the budget process with a few adjustments. Those three elements were:

1. \$5 million in E-rate matching funds as an E-rate enabler for financially struggling schools.
2. \$23.6 million (down from initially proposed \$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. Sandip Bhowmick commented that there may be areas where service providers have difficulty providing the BEAD match because of ROI limitations so this match fund will be valuable in such cases. They may request two waves of matching to NTIA where this match fund could provide supplementary matching funds.
3. \$16 million one-time allocation to enhance broadband capabilities at state facilities in rural Arizona.

### **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.

Nicole reported that the middle-mile awards will go out at the end of the week. There were funding requests totaling \$7.47 billion for the \$931 million that was awarded to date under this program. Some \$50 million remains to be allocated to one or more additional projects.

For the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, the second NOFO for an additional \$1 billion is expected by mid-July.

Regarding the \$42.45 billion BEAD program, the state allocations should be announced by June 30 based on the FCC National Broadband Map Version

2. On the FCC Map Arizona has 2.6 million broadband-serviceable locations. Between Version 1 and Version 2 of the FCC Broadband Availability Maps Arizona gained 31,536 broadband-serviceable locations bring its total to 2.6 million. The same process added 34,456 unserved locations (who have under 25/3 Mbps Internet service available) in Arizona for a total of 177,320 unserved locations. Each state will have its own challenge process to determine the number of unserved and underserved households and CAs in their state.

There is no federal update on the Digital Equity Act. There is no set date yet on when the Capacity Grant program will start in 2024.

Mark said two USDA Reconnect 4 grants have been awarded to Arizona communities. The awardees are the South Central Utah Telephone Association (including Coconino County in Arizona) and the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) in Arizona which received \$3.5 million and \$25 million, respectively.

#### **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.

- 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.



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- My Accounts
- Transfers & Payments
- My Tools
- Support



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## Dashboard

### Accounts

<b>Checking</b>	<b>\$977.35</b>
<b>ATIC 434041</b>	<b>\$977.35</b>
04081-0400	\$977.35
<b>Savings</b>	<b>\$8,568.87</b>
<b>ATIC 073206</b>	<b>\$8,568.87</b>
04081-0000	\$8,593.87

Available Balance

### Important Information

**Improve Your Negotiating Skills: Seven ...**  
 Life is one big negotiation. Whether you're making a case for a pay increase or deciding where to go for your family vacation, it's important to know how to advocate for yourself.  
 May 25, 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

**Desert Financial Credit Union**Arizona Telecommunications And Information  
ATIC 434041 04081-0400*Transaction History*Statement Period: **All Dates** | Date of Statement: **06/13/2023****Posted Transactions (68)**

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
06/12/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.75	\$977.35
06/05/23	DRAFT #2225 TRACER 52470921	-\$10.00	\$1,004.10
05/19/23	DRAFT #2224 TRACER 52175931	-\$500.00	\$1,014.10
05/12/23	ONLINE BANKING TRANSFER FROM 0000	\$1,000.00	\$1,514.10
05/12/23	CENTURYLINK AUTO PAY AZ TELCOM INFO COUNCIL	-\$26.37	\$514.10
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