

AGENDA
NELSON COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY
March 28, 2013

**THE MEETING CONVENES AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, COURTHOUSE, LOVINGSTON**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Public Comments**
- III. Consent Agenda**
 - A. Resolution – R2013-04** Minutes for Approval
- IV. New/Unfinished Business**
 - A.** Broadband Infrastructure Project Update
 - B.** Network Operator Report - Blue Ridge Internetworks
- V. Other Business (As May Be Presented)**
- VI. Adjournment**

RESOLUTION-R2013-04
NELSON COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY
APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
(February 28, 2013)

RESOLVED, by the Nelson County Broadband Authority that the minutes of said Authority's meeting conducted on **February 28, 2013** be and hereby are approved and authorized for entry into the official record of the Broadband Authority's meetings.

Approved: March 28, 2013

Attest: _____, Secretary
Nelson County Broadband Authority

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Virginia:

AT A REGULAR MEETING of the Nelson County Broadband Authority Board at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Room located on the second floor of the Nelson County Courthouse.

Present: Constance Brennan, Central District
Larry D. Saunders, South District – Vice Chair
Thomas D. Harvey, North District – Chair
Thomas H. Bruguere, Jr. West District
Stephen A. Carter, County Administrator
Candice W. McGarry, Secretary
Debra K. McCann, Treasurer
Andrew Crane, Information Systems Technician
Susan Rorrer, Director of Information Systems
Baylor Fooks, Blue Ridge Internetworks (Network Operator)

Absent: Allen M. Hale, East District

I. Call to Order

Mr. Harvey called the meeting to order at 6:13 pm, with four Members present to establish a quorum and Mr. Hale being absent.

II. Public Comments

There were no persons wishing to be recognized for public comment.

III. Consent Agenda

Ms. Brennan moved to approve the consent agenda and Mr. Saunders seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Members voted unanimously (4-0) by roll call vote to approve the motion and the following resolution was adopted:

A. Resolution – R2013-02 Minutes for Approval

**RESOLUTION-R2013-02
NELSON COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY
APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
(January 24, 2013 and February 12, 2013)**

RESOLVED, by the Nelson County Broadband Authority that the minutes of said Authority's meeting conducted on **January 24, 2013 and February 12, 2013** be and hereby are approved and authorized for entry into the official record of the Broadband Authority's meetings.

IV. New/Unfinished Business

A. Broadband Infrastructure Project Update

Mr. Carter gave the following project status:

1. The Massies Mill tower was up but some components had not yet been installed; however, this would be done in the next two (2) weeks.
2. The NTIA extension request was approved and signed off on until 6-30-13 and the County would finish the project well within that window.
3. The Network was operational and lease agreements for tower collocations were in process.
4. The revision of the transport rates to Service Providers was on the agenda.

B. Network Operator Report - Blue Ridge Internetworks

Mr. Fooks reviewed the Network Operator report as follows:

I. Operational

Installations: None

Trouble Tickets: Three trouble tickets were created during the reporting period. One ticket remains open pertaining to cooling problems at the Martin's Store shelter. The problem has been referred to Nelson County Maintenance.

II. Administrative

BRI worked with County IT and consultants to develop proposed new rates.

III. Financial

Income:	\$2,487.50
Current AR:	\$ 75.00
Past Due AR:	\$ 0.00
SLA Credits:	\$ 0.00

Mr. Fooks noted that it was a short month and there was not much activity. He noted the three trouble tickets, the administrative work and the financial report.

In response to questions, Mr. Fooks noted that the NCBA customers were the ones that were collocated in the shelters: BRI, and Lumos. He added that the services that were being actively provided on the network were the County facilities which were not being billed.

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C. Revision of Existing Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges and Authorization for Public Hearing (R2013-03)

Prior to discussing the revised rates, Mr. Carter noted that staff was still working on finalizing the collocation agreement with MBC and was working with LUMOS on revisions to the existing agreements.

Rates:

Mr. Carter reiterated that staff had worked on revising the rates and in the process had consulted with two recognized experts, Andrew Cohill and Bob Picchi. He added that the IT staff and team had reviewed the Rockbridge County rates and had revised the rate structure focusing on transport rates. He noted that they had been revised into a 3-Tiered system that would enable services to be deployed.

Mr. Carter then explained that the Tier 1 rates were more conducive to providers of service to residents and small businesses, Tier 2 rates were for provision of service to larger businesses: i.e. The County or someone needing more bandwidth, and Tier 3 rates were for the provision of point to point services or cloud services, such as what the School System needed to provide connectivity between schools.

He then noted that the goal was to better enable Service Providers to get services deployed and was an inducement for other providers to look at these rates and see them as attractive to begin offering services. He noted that they looked at the lower end of service provision to make the rates more affordable and maintained the higher end. He added that the aforementioned experts looked at this and thought the rates were reasonable.

Mr. Carter then noted that staff had prepared a resolution for going to public hearing and that this would be a seventy (70) day process including two public notices with the hearing to be held sixty (60) days following publication of the second notice. He added that the resolution included the overall rate structure; however only the change to the transport rates to providers would be advertised. He noted that in addition, he had consulted with the County Attorney who was comfortable authorizing the proposed rates on an interim basis until formally approved. Mr. Carter then clarified that if they went ahead with the resolution, the Authority could use these rates now for service providers and he recommended the Authority give it favorable consideration.

Mr. Harvey then suggested that the Tier 2 rates for 50x50 Mbps service be changed from a monthly rate of \$200 to \$150 which would be more in line with the steps between the other speeds of services within the Tier and Ms. Brennan agreed. When asked his opinion, Mr. Fooks noted that the primary use of this level of service or the 100x100 Mbps would be to serve DSL equipment and he indicated that he agreed with the change. It was noted that the cost per MB would be about \$3.00. Members then agreed by consensus to make this change.

Mr. Bruguere then moved to approve resolution **R2013-03** Revision of Existing Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges and Authorization for Public Hearing and Ms. Brennan seconded the motion.

Mr. Harvey then reiterated that this included the change in the Tier 2, 50x50 Mbps service from \$200 per month to \$150 per month.

Mr. Carter added that staff had a pro-forma that would change based on this revision; however with the unrevised rate, year one showed a loss of \$45,000 and year two a profit of \$119,000.

Mr. Harvey then called for the vote and Members voted unanimously (4-0) by roll call vote to approve the motion and the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLUTION R2013-03
NELSON COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY
REVISION OF ESTABLISHED SCHEDULE OF RATES, FEES AND CHARGES AND
AUTHORIZATION FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

WHEREAS, Pursuant to §15.2-5431.25 (B) and (C) of the Virginia Wireless Service Authority Act, the Nelson County Broadband Authority may fix and revise rates, fees and other charges after a public hearing at which all of the users of such facilities; the owners, tenants or occupants of property served or to be served thereby; and all others interested have had an opportunity to be heard concerning the proposed rates, fees and charges; and

WHEREAS, after the adoption by the authority of a resolution setting forth the preliminary schedule or schedules fixing and classifying such rates, fees and charges, notice of a public hearing, setting forth the proposed schedule or schedules of rates, fees and charges, shall be given by two publications, at least six days apart, in a newspaper having a general circulation in the area to be served by such systems at least 60 days before the date fixed in such notice for the hearing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Nelson County Broadband Authority that the revised schedule fixing and classifying proposed rates, fees, and charges is as follows:

Local Access Rates (Rates for Providers to Utilize the Network for Transport to an End User):

Class of Service		Speed (Mbps)	MRC
<u>Tier 1</u> Last Mile (E7 to ONT)		25x5	\$ 25
		50x10	\$ 50
<u>Tier 2</u> Last Mile or Service Provider Middle Mile (OLT to ONT/OLT)		25x25	\$ 75
		50x50	\$ 150
		100x100	\$ 300
		250x250	\$ 700
		500x500	\$ 850
		1,000x1,000	\$ 1,000
<u>Tier 3</u> Private WAN	Two Site WAN "P2P" (ONT to ONT)	25	\$ 250
		100	\$ 800
		500	\$ 1,280
		1,000	\$ 1,660
	Three or More Site WAN "Cloud" (per node)	100	\$ 500
		500	\$ 800
		1,000	\$ 1,040

Non-recurring charges (NRC) are those costs incurred in connection with the installation of the fiber drop and ONT. The customer will be responsible for the payment of these costs on the following terms.

NRC not exceeding \$1500 will be discounted as follows:

<u>Term of Contract</u>	<u>Discount</u>
12 months	none
24 months	10%
36 months	20%
48 months	35%
60 or more months	50%

The undiscounted balance of NRC together with any NRC in excess of \$1500 may be amortized over the term of the original contract.

Collocation Charges for Providers within NCBA shelters:

Quantity	Monthly Cost
2 RU	\$75.
One-half rack	\$200.
Full Rack	\$350.

All rentals are based on a space available basis. Rental will include access to one 20 amp, 120 volt circuit. Redundant CC power (-48 volt) will be available as well. The Collocation charges include up to 20 amps of DC power. Additional DC power, subject to availability, will be priced at \$6.25 per amp in 10 amp increments.

Tower Access:

Location on Tower	Price per Month per Customer
Top thirty feet in 10 foot sections	\$275 per antenna for first three antennas (includes cables and ancillary equipment such as tower mounted amplifiers) \$150 per additional antenna installed by the same lessee.
Next thirty feet in 10 foot sections	\$175 per antenna for first three antennas (includes cables and ancillary equipment such as tower mounted amplifiers) \$90 per additional antenna installed by the same lessee.
Remaining access in 10 foot sections	\$50 per antenna (includes cables and ancillary equipment such as tower mounted amplifiers)

All tower access charges are in addition to a site access fee of \$200 per month. Site access fee entitles lessee access to electric power (contracted for by lessee) and ground space for cabinet (10 square feet).

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Shelter collocation charges and local transport charges are additional as are lease space for placing shelters, generators or other equipment. Items not specifically addressed will be priced on an individual basis.

Preference will be given to providers wishing space higher on the towers. The NCBA may limit the size of antennas or duration of leases for antennas located below the top 80 feet.

Tower leases will be accepted based on maximum allowable loading of a tower. If, in the sole discretion of the NCBA, an analysis of the structural integrity of the tower is deemed necessary, then the costs of the analysis will be borne by the lessee.

These rates apply to towers operated by the NCBA. Rates for towers leased by the NCBA may be subject to approval by the lessor.

Dark Fiber Leases:

The NCBA will have a limited number of fibers available for dark fiber leasing at an annual rate of \$1250 per leased fiber per mile for durations longer than 60 months. Leases for 60 months or less will be priced at an annual rate of \$1550 per leased fiber per mile. Fiber will not be leased for periods of less than 24 months. These leases will be subject to prior allocation for other uses and are made at the discretion of the NCBA board.

Increase in Rates:

Rates are firm for a contract or lease term which does not exceed five years.

For contract and lease terms exceeding five years, payments shall be adjusted every year commencing with the first annual anniversary of the lease Commencement Date and thereafter on the subsequent anniversaries of that date (the Adjustment Date). Such adjustments shall be for the purpose of reflecting the increase, if any, in the cost of living. The adjustment, if any, shall be calculated based upon the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the South, Size D-Nonmetropolitan (less than 50,000) (the "Index").

The Index published as of the most recent month prior to the Adjustment Date shall be compared with the Index twelve (12) months immediately preceding. On the Adjustment Date the annual payment shall be increased by the percentage equal to the change, if any, in the Index between the two specified months. The Adjusted payment shall then become the new Base payment for the following twelve month period and be used to calculate the next annual payment adjustment.

Penalty and Interest:

Any sum due NCBA and unpaid by the due date shall be assessed a 10% penalty and carry interest at the rate of 12% *per annum*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Nelson County Broadband Authority does hereby authorize a public hearing to be held on the proposed revised schedule of rates, fees, and charges as soon as is practicable as prescribed by §15.2-5431.25 (B) of the Virginia Wireless Service Authority Act and

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hereby resolves that the proposed revised schedule of rates, fees, and charges shall be in effect for the interim period until formally approved.

V. Other Business (As May Be Presented)

Introduced: General Discussion

In response to questions, Mr. Fooks noted that they had hundreds of potential customers calling to be hooked up and Mr. Stewart noted that he also had received many calls and would begin installations on Monday off of his privately owned Afton tower. Mr. Stewart then noted that he could begin using the NCBA Rockfish tower as soon as the lease agreement was signed. Additionally, Mr. Stewart noted that his operations could be active two weeks after leases were signed and Mr. Fooks noted that BRI would hit the ground running the following day.

Mr. Carter then noted that the impending challenge was fiber build out. Mr. Fooks noted that BRI would finance the fiber construction over three (3) years for customers and see if it worked. He added that they would have to get construction bids for each customer and then they could give the quotes to customers for financing the drop. He noted that BRI would not own the cable to the house and that NCBA would own it; noting that there were a lot of reasons this made sense.

Ms. Brennan then inquired as to what happened if someone did not pay and Mr. Fooks responded that was their risk; however they knew what to do when bad debt situations occurred. He noted that the NCBA ONT would be retrieved from the premise; however the fiber drop would remain in place.

Rental situations were discussed and Mr. Fooks noted that the obligation rested with whoever signed their agreement; which in Charlottesville, property owners provided the installation for renters and the agreement was with them. Mr. Carter added that the Authority would want the agreement to be with the owner; like what was done with the Piney River Three water and sewer system. He noted that there was not an ongoing connection fee involved.

Mr. Fooks noted that paying the installation up front would also be an option and personal financing of the drop could be a consideration for the customer.

Mr. Carter then noted that there may be the potential for grant funding for this and that staff would look harder to see if the County could assist with this.

In response to questions, Mr. Fooks clarified that bandwidth was the quantity of data and speed was how fast the data moved; however they were oftentimes used synonymously. Additionally, both Mr. Fooks and Mr. Stewart noted that they would have to add employees to be able to meet the current demand for services. Mr. Stewart indicated he would be hiring three (3) new installers between now and June depending upon the adoption rate and BRI would be adding one (1) installer.

Mr. Harvey then clarified that the new rates did not affect tower leases and Mr. Carter reiterated that there may be some reconsideration of these rates as it moved forward and staff would bring back revisions if necessary. Mr. Harvey noted that each tower had different customer potential and he suggested that the rates should be tied to this. Mr. Carter noted that in Mr. Picchi's assessment of the

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rates, he noted that the tower pricing was very attractive even with the access charges. Mr. Harvey reiterated that these charges may be a deterrent to getting services out to everybody.

Mr. Stewart noted that his calculations of profit and loss have been done for each tower and he briefly described this. Mr. Saunders noted that he thought that the profitable towers and the unprofitable ones would balance each other out.

Mr. Stewart then noted that SCS would need community relays to make it work. He added that moving to other parts of the County was a concern; however the message they were disseminating was that they were moving forward and could spread fairly quickly.

Mr. Carter then reported that he and staff had spoken with the General Manager of Wintergreen and the outcome was an understanding that they wanted additional bandwidth on the mountain and they agreed to work on it and plan for expansion. He added that it was reiterated to them that the NCBA was not willing to swap fiber with Nelson Cable and that this approach would not likely pass muster with the NTIA.

IV. Adjournment

At 6:45 pm, Mr. Bruguire moved to adjourn and Mr. Saunders seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Members voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the motion and the meeting adjourned.

25 March, 2013

To: Nelson County Broadband Authority
From: S. Carter, County Administrator
Re: Agenda and Report for March 28, 2013 Broadband Meeting

Transmitted herewith is the agenda for the Authority's March 28th meeting at 6 p.m. in the second floor board room within the Nelson County Courthouse in Lovingston.

With regard to a report on the broadband project and network operations, please be advised of the following:

1. Massies Mill Tower is anticipated to be completed and operational by 3-29.
2. Completion and re-inspection of construction punch list by Mastec and VDOT staffs is in process.
3. Project closeout with NTIA, including completion of Federal Interest Statement, is in process and to be final on or before 6-30-13.
4. Legal staff developing installation agreement for fiber connections to businesses and residents.
5. Agreements (co-location and fiber lease) sent to Mid Atlantic Broadband week of 3-18.
6. Revised agreements with Lumos (co-location, fiber lease and services) pending execution.
7. Revised/final tower lease agreement sent to Stewart Computer Services on 3-20 (subject to comment by SCS but if none ready for execution).
8. CCTS (Authority's outside plant/OSP, contractor) has provided 25 installation quotes.
9. Blue Ridge Internetworks to report on 3-26 on status of network operation and internet services.
10. Staff (C. McGarry) has developed Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document, posted on Nelson County web site and sent an advertisement to NC Times to note the FAQ and reference thereto (see attachments containing FAQ and public advertisement).
11. Public hearing on revised operational/service rates scheduled for May 2013.
12. FY 13-14 Budget to be presented for consideration in ensuing several weeks.
13. Other – input/questions from Authority and/or public to be addressed at 3-26 meeting.

Attachments:

Broadband Project Frequently Asked Questions

What is the history of the Nelson County broadband project?

- Nelson County completed its research and planning for this project, with the assistance of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD's) Community Broadband Study. The project was part of the Virginia Rural Broadband Planning Initiative. The County received a total of \$115,000 in grant funds and hired ICON Broadband Technologies, Inc. to assist the County in three phases of planning that culminated in the County's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) middle mile project grant application. The County accepted the NTIA/BTOP grant award on April 6, 2010 and subsequently began implementation of its middle mile network project. Middle mile project is defined as follows:
 - *Middle Mile Project*: a broadband infrastructure project that does not predominantly provide broadband service to end users or to end-user devices, and may include interoffice transport, backhaul, Internet connectivity, or special access.

How and for what purpose did Nelson County obtain funding for the project?

- Through a highly competitive grant process, Nelson County obtained \$1,826,646 for the Broadband Project from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA's) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). The purpose of this funding is to enhance and expand broadband Internet services in *unserved* and *underserved* areas of Nelson County by deploying approximately 31 miles of new fiber and four new wireless tower sites, and directly connecting 13 *Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs)*. The CAIs that received direct connections to the new network are five county government facilities, three K-12 schools, the Blue Ridge Medical Center, Afton Family Medicine, Nelson Rescue, Nelson County Service Authority, and the Nelson Memorial library. The project plans to provide speeds from 10 Mbps up to 1 Gbps and spur more affordable broadband Internet service for as many as 1,500 households, 250 businesses, and an additional 30 CAIs, by enabling Internet service providers to connect to the project's open access network.

The Nelson County Virginia Broadband Project will also:

- Enable the Blue Ridge Medical Center to deploy telemedicine capabilities and enhance collaboration with health care specialists at the University of Virginia.
- Enhance public safety by allowing emergency services personnel to communicate and transmit vital patient data en route to a hospital.
- Provide residents, students, and teachers' greater access to multimedia educational information and distance learning opportunities.

How much money was spent on the project?

- A total of \$3,173,205 was spent on the project. Funding is broken down as follows: \$1,826,646 in federal grant funds, \$456,662 in required local match, \$200,000 in state grant funds, and \$689,897 in other local funds were spent on the project.

What were the requirements of the grant?

- At least 75 percent of the *proposed funded service area* to be funded had to be within *rural areas* that were *unserved* or *underserved* as defined as follows:
 - *Proposed funded service area*: the area (either in all or part of an existing service area or a new service area) where the applicant is requesting BIP or BTOP funds to provide broadband service pursuant to the July 2009 NOFA.
 - *Rural area*: any area, as confirmed by the latest decennial census of the Bureau of the Census, which is not located within: (i) a city, town, or incorporated area that has a population of greater than 20,000 inhabitants; or (ii) an urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to a city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants. For purposes of the definition of rural area, an urbanized area means a densely populated territory as defined in the latest decennial census of the U.S. Census Bureau.
 - *Unserved*: At least 90 % of households in the proposed funded service area lack access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service, either fixed or mobile, at the minimum broadband transmission speed. A household has access to broadband service if the household can readily subscribe to that service upon request; or
 - *Underserved*:
 - No more than 50 % of the households in the proposed funded service area have access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed;
 - No fixed or mobile broadband service provider advertises broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 mbps downstream in the proposed funded service area; or
 - The rate of broadband subscribership for the proposed funded service area is 40 % of households or less
 - A proposed funded service area may qualify as underserved for middle mile projects if one interconnection point terminates in a proposed funded service area that qualifies as unserved or underserved for Last Mile projects.

Note: An unserved/underserved area may include individual Census block groups or tracts that on their own would not be considered underserved and the availability of or subscribership rates for satellite broadband service is not considered for the purpose of determining whether an area is unserved and or underserved.

- For broadband infrastructure projects seeking more than \$1 million in funding, a certification, from a Professional Engineer was required, that attested that: a) the system would deliver the stated performance; and b) the proposed project would be substantially complete within two years, and fully complete within three years.
- Two-way data transmission with advertised speeds of at least 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream must be provided.

- Applicant agreed to comply with the nondiscrimination and interconnection obligations outlined in the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) as follows:
 - *Nondiscrimination and interconnection obligations:*
 - adherence to the FCC’s Internet Policy Statement adopted on August 5, 2005 as follows: (1) consumers are entitled to access the lawful Internet content of their choice; (2) consumers are entitled to run applications and services of their choice, subject to the needs of law enforcement; (3) consumers are entitled to connect their choice of legal devices that do not harm the network; (4) consumers are entitled to competition among network providers, application and service providers, and content providers
 - not favor some lawful applications and content over others;
 - describe and display any network management policies;
 - connect to the public Internet and not be an entirely private closed network; and
 - offer interconnection, including the ability to connect to the public Internet and physical interconnection for the exchange of traffic.

- The project had to advance at least one of the following statutory purposes for BTOP, Nelson County’s project advanced all three at the time of its application:
 - Provide access to broadband service to consumers residing in “unserved” areas of the United States
 - Provide improved access to broadband service to consumers residing in “underserved” areas of the United States
 - Provide broadband education, awareness, training, access, equipment, and support to *Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs)* as defined as follows:
 - *Community Anchor Institutions:*
 - Schools, libraries, medical and healthcare providers, community colleges and other institutions of higher education, and other community support organizations by or through these organizations
 - Organizations and agencies that provide outreach, access, equipment, and support services to facilitate greater use of broadband service by low-income, unemployed, aged, and otherwise vulnerable populations
 - Job-creating strategic facilities located within a State-designated economic zone, Economic Development District designated by the Department of Commerce, Renewal Community or Empowerment Zone designated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, or Enterprise Community designated by the Department of Agriculture
 - Improve access to, and use of, broadband service by public safety agencies
 - Stimulate the demand for broadband, economic growth, and job creation

- Applicant had to provide matching funds of at least 20 percent towards the total eligible project costs. The County was required to provide a match of \$456,662.00. \$200,000 in State grant funds were used to offset this cost.
- Applicant had to document that the project would not have been implemented during the grant period without federal grant assistance.

Has the grant project been completed?

- As of March 2013, the grant project is in the final stages of completion with all but the connection to the Massie's Mill tower site being completed. The project final completion deadline is June 30, 2013.

What is the network comprised of?

- The NCBA Broadband Network is comprised of approximately 31 miles of fiber backbone extending from Afton to Colleen along routes 151, 6 and 29 within the County. The network also includes four communications towers with connectivity to the network to be used by wireless internet service providers in delivering services. These towers are located in Afton at the Rockfish Valley Fire Department, in Avon at Martin's Store, in Massies Mill near the Solid Waste Collection Site, and at Colleen in the Colleen Business Park.

Will there be grant funding to connect individual homes and businesses?

- Not at this time. The BTOP grant that provided funding for the project, only required that the thirteen identified *Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs)* be directly served by the project. The grant funding did not provide for any additional connections beyond these.

Who owns the network?

- Nelson County owns all network infrastructure and leases the network to the Nelson County Broadband Authority (NCBA) for its operation. It is the intent of Nelson County to own and NCBA to lease and operate all fiber infrastructure all the way to the customer premise, in order to promote a competitive environment for service provision.

Who monitors and maintains the network?

- Nelson County Broadband Authority (NCBA) has contracted with Blue Ridge Internetworks (BRI), a Charlottesville based technology firm, to monitor and maintain the network. BRI brings a wealth of technical expertise and personnel who provide 24 x 7 x 365 network monitoring and support to keep the network up and running.

What is the role of service providers?

- Service providers lease connections on the NCBA network to reach and serve customers. Each service provider develops their own service offerings and associated pricing. Customers are to contact service providers directly for information regarding these services and their costs.

Who can be a service provider?

- Any internet service provider wishing to offer services utilizing the network can do so provided they can meet the contractual obligations established by NCBA.

Who are the current service providers and how do I contact them?

- As of March 2013, NCBA is under contract with or has contracts pending for service provision with the following providers - please contact these service providers directly:
 - Blue Ridge Internetworks (BRI), Charlottesville VA, Wired Internet Services, **(434) 817-0707**, <http://www.briworks.com/>
 - Stewart Computer Services (SCS), Arrington VA, Wireless & Satellite Internet Services – **Contract Pending (434) 263-6363**, <http://www.stewartcomputerservices.com/>

What services does NCBA anticipate will be offered over the network?

- To date service providers have indicated that they intend to utilize the network to deliver three different types of services: wireless, fiber to the home or business, and hybrid fiber/copper (DSL) to the home or business.

When will services be available?

- The deployment of services to the customer is driven by the service provider. NCBA does not provide services to individual customers. The time required before services will be available to you will depend upon the effort required for deployment and installation by the provider. The schedule for deployment can be impacted by the complexity of the installation, contract negotiations, weather and customer demand.

What is the future of the network?

- NCBA will continue to plan strategically for expansion of the network based on customer demand, the viability of the existing network, and available capital funding.

For more information regarding the Nelson County NTIA grant see the following website:

<http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/grantees/NelsonCounty>

Nelson County Broadband

First Service Provider on Board

The Nelson County Broadband Authority is pleased to announce that the first network service provider is now on board! Contact Blue Ridge Internetworks, Charlottesville VA for Details at (434) 817-0707 or visit <http://www.briworks.com/>.

Pending Contracts with Service Providers

Contract negotiations with the following service provider are nearly complete; Stewart Computer Services (SCS), Arrington VA, (434) 263- 6363 <http://www.stewartcomputerservices.com/>.

Broadband Infrastructure Project FAQs

For answers to frequently asked questions about the Nelson County Broadband Infrastructure project, please visit <http://www.nelsoncounty-va.gov/>, email dbowling@nelsoncounty.org, call or come by the County Administrator's office at (434) 263-7000 or 84 Courthouse Square, Lovingston for your copy of the FAQ's. Detailed information about the federal NTIA grant that funded this project is available to the public at <http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/grantees/NelsonCounty>.