

# BROADBAND INITIATIVE

## MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETINGS

Thursday, February 15, 2007 1:00 – 2:30 Chincoteague Town Hall

Wednesday, February 21, 2007 1:00 – 3:10 Eastern Shore Community College

### Attendees – February 15

Keith Hill, SSM

Jesse Lee, Northrop-Grumman

Robert Ritter, Town of Chincoteague

Barbara Schwenk, A-NPDC

Marta Shelton, Computer Village

### Attendees – February 22

Jack Bonniwell, Virginia Employment  
Commission

Reed Ennis, Accomack County

Keith Hill, SSM

B. W. James, Verizon

Ian McLaughlan, Oracle Corp

Dimitri Plionis, Economist

Barbara Schwenk, A-NPDC

Eddie Swain, ESCC

1. Review status of survey responses – Keith reported that 3000 residential and 873 business surveys had been mailed out. At this time, between 150-170 have been returned, but he had no breakout by business/residence. They are hoping for at least a 10% return, so will wait a bit longer to try to get more responses. The URL address for the online survey is: [www.vabroadbandstudy.com](http://www.vabroadbandstudy.com). One result of the responses so far shows that too many students (~40%) do not have a computer at home. Accomack County schools reported that funding shortages make it difficult to upgrade technology. No report had yet been received from Northampton County schools. The ESCC reported good connection with a DS3 line. However, this is not leveraged enough. Need to establish a public awareness campaign about its capabilities. Libraries reported many problems keeping up their connections with old computers and a lack of wireless capability. Funding for upgrades in libraries is very limited. B.W. James of Verizon reported that they have 80% DSL coverage on the Shore but only a 22% take rate. He did not know how this compares to other Verizon markets. Discussion ensued regarding availability of DSL vis a vis the company's data on distances from nodes. Mr. James reported that discrepancies between the data and the physical plant sometimes occur.
2. A question was asked as to whether Eastville could be included in these studies. The reply was that they would need to send a letter to DHCD to request a planning grant. For more information on how to apply, contact Barbara Schwenk at the A-NPDC 757-787-1247 x115.
3. A long discussion on the definition of open access networks and business models for running them ensued. Based on study results, SSM will make recommendations on what model to use for moving forward to fiber loop construction.
4. The agendas for both meetings are included as following pages.

Barbara Schwenk, Economic Development Coordinator  
Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission  
757-787-1247 Ext. 115

[www.a-npdc.org](http://www.a-npdc.org)

**Central Accomack County, Chincoteague and Exmore/Nassawadox Community  
Telecommunications Planning Projects**

**February 15, 2007 Agenda  
Chincoteague Town Hall  
6150 Community Drive  
Chincoteague, VA  
1:00 – 2:30 PM**

1. Introductions and sign-in sheet
2. Review status of survey responses which is a tool of the Needs Assessment
3. Review research and findings on Broadband Education Development Strategies and End-User Application Identification
4. Review up-dated maps
5. Review Project Status Reports
6. Review Change Order #1 for extension of time
7. Review anticipated sequence of remaining activities
8. Review tentative field maps for fiber route investigation
9. Discuss purpose and topics of up-coming February 21, 2007 meeting
10. Discuss the Management Plan and any other matters brought to the attention of the meeting attendees

**Central Accomack County, Chincoteague and Exmore/Nassawadox Community  
Telecommunications Planning Projects**

**February 21, 2007 Agenda  
Eastern Shore Community College  
23900 Lankford Highway  
Melfa, VA  
1:00 – 2:30 PM**

1. Introductions and sign-in sheet
2. Briefly address issues discussed at the February 15, 2007 meeting including:
  - Status of survey responses
  - Broadband Education Development Strategies and End-User Application identification
  - Up-dated maps
  - Project Status Reports
  - Change Order #1 for extension of time
  - Anticipated sequence of remaining activities
3. Review in-field progress and observations noted of tentative fiber route investigation
4. Discuss work being performed on the fiber backbone by the engineering firm of Dewberry and Davis
5. Discuss coordination of these projects with the fiber backbone project
6. Begin discussions on Last Mile Connectivity Solutions
7. Begin discussions on Preliminary Engineering Design and Cost Estimates
8. Begin discussions on Organization and Network Options
9. Begin discussions on Funding Strategies for Future Implementation Projects
10. Discuss the Management Plan and any other matters brought to the attention of the meeting attendees