

## Broadband Meeting Minutes

4/14/22

Megan DelGaudio  
Mary Ellen Sheffield  
Heather Tinnelli  
Joe Brown  
Ed Cummins  
Scott Seaborne  
Ben Schaffle  
Jesse Parks (KRM Business Park)  
Rebecca Lepter  
Alison Davis  
Joyce Jones

Motion to start the meeting by Ben Schaffle at 4:05 pm. Ed Cummins seconded

Joe Brown our newest member is online with us. He is a resident of Centreville in Symphony Village. He has lived on the eastern shore since 2010. He had owned his own business on the western shore. He is currently a member of the Centreville Chamber of Commerce. Interested in the activities of the town and what's going on with Broadband specially to attract businesses as well as for the students. Looking forward to working with the group.

Megan's quick update from ISP's

ABB

- We are currently wrapping up the Construction Phase of the Rescoped Willow Branch Project Area.
  - 100% of the underground construction has been completed.
  - The aerial construction portion is 80% complete. NOW COMPLETE
  - Once the PON equipment is deployed, we will work on the Operational Readiness Testing.
  - We are estimating to have the friendly accounts set up for testing the services in the project areas in April.
  - Once the project areas are released and certified, we will deploy direct sales to review service offerings and begin the process of scheduling customer drops and installations.

ThinkBig

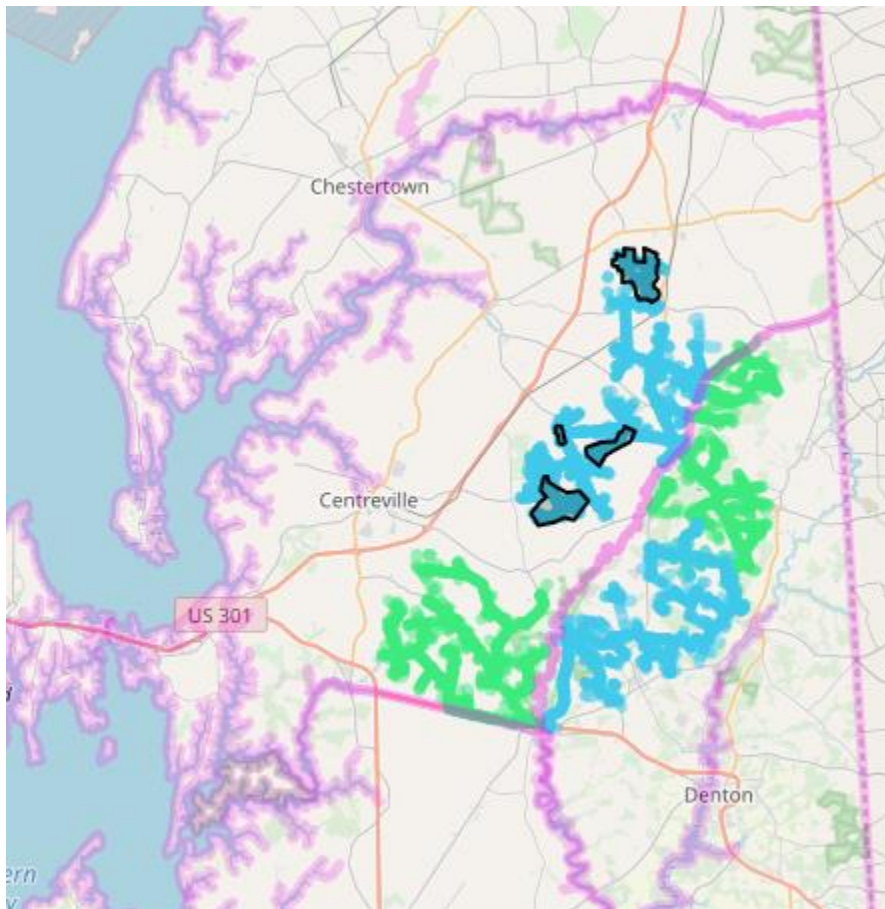
- Construction is complete – they are only waiting for the railroad crossing
- From last go round she mentioned as soon as they start lighting, they would let us know so I suspect we are just waiting on the RR cross permit

## Choptank

Last time – they stated:

Choptank Fiber is actively marketing service to members in the four areas outlined in black in the picture below. This is about 140 locations in the county. Our grants from the state from FY21 fund service to about 800 locations. We are making very good progress on the engineering and backbone work between Ridgely and Barclay and expect to begin offering service to many more locations in that area soon. We expect to have service offered to all members in our QA grant areas by the end of this calendar year – well ahead of the 3-year timeframe set out in the Office of Statewide Broadband FY21 grant agreement. We are working to update the Choptank Fiber website to show the QA Co roads where service is available and where service is “in progress.”

This time - We are moving along on schedule with no material or resource issues and have opened a couple more sections. We are looking forward to a busy summer construction schedule



Jesse Parks from KRM – here to let us know about the needs at the Chesapeake Bay Business Park. This grant seems like it might be helpful in working with the rural regional council – Upper Shore Regional Council - Grants for up to \$10M.

- KRM Development owns 20 of the buildings in the business park approximately 90 tenants. ABB and Bay Country are servicing. ABB says fiber to one building. Bay Country has some buildings with the infrastructure but did not bring to every building.
- KRM conducts a tenant survey every year asking about the local government and pertinent situations. Several surveys came back saying that they didn't have what they need from a fiber or broadband.
- Example: An Architect tenant has a need for large files to be sent to and from their offices.
- Some Accounting firms and Construction industries also say that large file uploads are again the main problem.
- Are there tenants that don't have access to internet at all? Most tenants have access to cable. No fiber.
- Would they have the option to offer better speeds? Could ABB update their equipment?
- We could ask if ABB has plans to upgrade their equipment at the business park anytime soon?

Jesse – They can survey their tenants and get more information about the issues. Who is their provider and what speeds they are paying for? Speed Test results would be great. Google Speed Test. Need to do the test from the router itself. Router may not have the capacity to handle the speed. Tests done over wireless are not suggested.

Planning to have a meeting with ABB to find out when they could plan on adding broadband to the business park each building. May have updated the fiber and leave the old equipment. No agreements to run throughout the park per Jesse. Must define what all throughout would be.

1. Survey to include provide, speed paying for.
2. Comments about the provider and the speeds that they are getting.
3. What are the tenants trying to do that is not working for them?
4. Would like them to a speed from their computer if they can't get it from their router.

BROADBAND COMMITTEE WILL PUT TOGETHER THE SURVEY.

Megan will try to set up a meeting with KRM, Atlantic Broadband and Ed Cummins. Let ABB know that if they don't improve KRM will begin looking at other providers. Dion Reed Ben and Alison interested in joining the meeting.

Heather Tinnelli – Grant opportunities to build out the fiber. Plan to put it in their Upper Shore Grant request. **Would like a support letter from the Broadband Commission.** New company (Bay Dogs) moved over from Annapolis, and he has the need for large file transfers. Says he can't get his needs met with ABB. Internet outages frequently. Ed Cummins would be happy to go to that business and see what their struggle is or would meet with ABB to see their equipment. Megan will draft the letter and pass by Alison.

Would this group support that request? See above - yes

Still waiting for State to announce awards on our 17 areas. Once they do, we can move forward with a press release, QACTV spot and GIS Survey to gather information for the next go round:

The Queen Anne's County Broadband Advisory Council wants to hear from you! Please let us know if you live in an area of Queen Anne's County where reliable, high speed internet service ("broadband") is NOT available.

Queen Anne's County has worked with local internet providers to include Breezeline (formerly Atlantic Broadband), ThinkBig Networks, Talkie Communications and Choptank Fiber to apply for grants offered by the state of Maryland's Office of Rural Broadband to expand broadband services to several areas of Queen Anne's County.

Please first take a moment to review this county map that shows where high-speed internet access is already scheduled to be provided via State Grants in the next three years. ([Link to map](#))

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** To serve all county residents, we need to know the areas that are not served. If you live in an area that is not served (as shown on the map) please call (phone number) email ([qacbb@qac.org](mailto:qacbb@qac.org)) or follow the instructions to drop a point on the map here ([link](#))

**We need to determine what we want the phone message to say:**

Thank you for calling the Queen Anne's County Broadband Survey line. Please leave the address of where you currently do not have access to high-speed internet. If you would like a call back, please leave a name, and telephone number. Thank you!

Haven't reached out to Lanette Powers yet but will be soon

Town of Centreville – ABB coaxial – having many problems. County will reach out to getting fiber to the wharf location and Town hall. Would prefer the dark fiber. Will be looking to the Committee for to give a letter of support.

Motion to close the meeting Dion Reed at 4:45 pm seconded Ben Schaffle.