

## QAC Broadband Advisory Council Meeting

April 22, 2021 4:45 – 6pm | Introduce new members – State submission update  
News about stimulus funding

### Attendees:

#### BAC/QAC

Ben Schaffle  
Alison Davis  
Dion Reid  
Jason Harm  
Joyce Jones  
Heather Tinnelli – Economic Development  
Todd Mohn – County Administrator

#### Choptank Electric

Leroy Sverduk  
Timothy McGaha  
Mike Malandro  
Matthew Tefteau  
Valerie Connelly

Motion to start the meeting Alison motioned to begin the meeting. Ben seconded to begin at 4:55pm  
Two meeting minutes to approve. Ben motioned to approve; Allison seconded.

#### Update from last month's meeting

- Dion Reid and Jason Harm are new members. Dion lives on Kent Island. Jason lives in Bay City. Both have technical backgrounds that will be valuable for the committee. Welcome!
- FAQ sheet was put out. No questions so far.
- 9 submissions sent to the State where the County partnered with ISPs to build to areas that are not currently served. Megan talked to Rick Gordon today – those will be announced next week. He indicated that most submitters would be happy but couldn't comment further. State submissions won't hear back from until next week
- On 4/5 the State announced they are putting \$300M in COVID-19 relief funds toward broadband and digital inclusion. We will include the link to the article in the minutes - <https://www.benton.org/headlines/maryland-putting-300m-covid-19-relief-funds-toward-broadband-and-digital-inclusion>. Rick said it's \$294 - \$6 Million is going to University of Maryland for digital literacy – (education users how to use web browsers, search engines, email, text, wiki, blogs, photoshop, PowerPoint, video creating/editing software, tec. To showcase learning. Using online classes to enhance learning in the classroom, using the web. \$145 M for Broadband; \$145 for digital equity/literary. Rick is planning to set up some listening sessions with IT Directors and ISPs to hear ideas to determine considerations on how the funds can be spent.

- Regarding grants we can apply for we may see an offering about \$90M next year but some criteria may change. Possible increase in bandwidth from 25:3. Possibly a lower match requirement.
- On April 1<sup>st</sup> Todd arranged for a presentation to the Commissioners from Starlink. Rebecca Hunter talked us through that, and we asked her to come back to present to the group. She's not available for June but Megan has asked about July. Megan will let you know when that is nailed down.
- The Starlink solutions puts low flying satellites in the air that can wirelessly provide internet – speeds are around 100Mbps down with <30ms of latency. A slide discussed showed 103Mbps down and 42 up with 19ms of latency. Satellite number increasing to meet customer demands. They have fiber connected points of presence set up around the country that cover a 620-mile radius – Southern CT, VA, and PA capture MD. Started beta testing in October of last year. They are not ready to go completely commercial – they don't have a website to order so they are being purposeful when bringing on customers hence what we've seen with the website to make a deposit if interested. Deposit is \$99. Once they are ready, they mail a kit to the customer for \$499. – dish, lawn mount, a Wi-Fi router, an ethernet cable and power supply. There is Starlink app you can download to see if you have a clear line of site. Service is \$99/month. 3500 signed up in MD when we spoke. Of those that made deposits she believes the time-frame people should hear back will be in the fall. \$10M invested overall – not sure if this just US or globally.
- No other new business

Joyce Jones made a motion to open an Executive Session to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State. Alison Davis seconded. 5:15pm Executive Session started.

Allison motion to leave Executive committee Ben Schaffle seconded. Executive session ended at 5:45pm.

Ben Schaffle motioned to adjourn reg session Alison Davis Seconded. Regular session ended at 6:00pm