

BCPUD Internet Access Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2017
Bolinas Firehouse Community Meeting Room

Call to Order: Chairman Lyndon Comstock called the meeting of this committee to order at 10:05 a.m. Duncan Hopkins will record and make notes of the meeting.

Committee members present: Lyndon Comstock (Chair), Jennifer Jones, Duncan Hopkins, Kris Backenstose

Absent: None

Minutes: The minutes of the prior meeting on 1/2/17 were approved.

Committee Membership Recommendations: The committee approved a motion to recommend that the BCPUD Board of Directors appoint Ian Johnson to this committee.

Report of one-to-one contacts between committee members and Internet Service Providers and/or other key parties:

Lyndon Comstock: Kevin Daniels (Horizon Cable) and Rob Volker (Inyo Networks), both of whom are present for this meeting. Conversations with Peter Pratt, Marin County Broadband Consultant, and with Commissioner Dennis Rodoni.

Jennifer Jones: Conversation with Leighton Hill (Muir Beach LAN) who is her ISP.

Kris Backenstose: None

Duncan Hopkins: None

Discussion: Desirability and Feasibility of a community-owned, fiber optic to the premises (FTTP), open access local internet distribution network for Bolinas.

- Multiple, parallel ISPs serving Bolinas through a community-owned network is not financially feasible. Bolinas is too small (approximately 600 households) a market to be profitable for multiple ISPs.
- There are two viable approaches for delivering truly high speed internet to Bolinas: fiber optic, wireless, or a hybrid involving both. Per Rob Volker, there are two fiber to the premises (FTTP): fiber overlay and active ethernet.
- Bolinas's options for addressing our acute internet access problem: 1) do nothing

2) BPUD itself builds and maintains a local internet distribution network 3) Rely on an established ISP to build, own, and maintain said network or 4) create a public/private hybrid to build, own, and maintain this network.

Discussion of the desirability and timing of a potential California CPUC grant (CASF) to assist in construction of a local internet distribution network in Bolinas:

Rob Volker (Inyo Networks) pointed out that many technical and regulatory factors must be addressed in a CASF grant application. Further, the CPUC will only award a CASF grant to either a certificated ISP or to a certificated trunk provider with a long track record of success building and maintaining networks. CASF grants will not be awarded to a community organization.

Mr. Volker suggests that BPUD put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit comprehensive plans from established ISPs to solve our internet access problem. He said, in essence, let the experts do the “heavy lifting”. The process of creating the RFP is an excellent tool to clarify our goals. The responses to the RFP will include specific estimates regarding costs and timelines.

Community expression (for items germane but not on the agenda): None

Next meeting date: Monday, March 13, 2017 at 3 p.m. at the Bolinas firehouse community room.

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.