



OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
February 4, 2026 | 3:30 - 5:00 PM

Primary Physical Location:
Sonoma County Economic Development Collaborative
141 Stony Circle, Suite 110, Santa Rosa, California, 94501

Secondary Physical Locations (via Zoom):
St. Helena Public Library, 1492 Library Ln. #1143, St. Helena, CA 94574
Mendocino County HHS, 778 S. Franklin St., Ft. Bragg, CA 95437
Marin County Board of Supervisors, 3501 Civic Center Dr., Suite 324A, San Rafael, CA 94903

Join Meeting Online via Zoom
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Meeting ID: 829 2594 9956
Passcode: 387119

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|---|---------------------|
| 1. CALL TO ORDER (1 MIN) | CHAIR |
| 2. ROLL CALL / INTRODUCTIONS (5 MIN) | CHAIR |
| 3. PUBLIC INTRODUCTIONS (4 MIN) | CHAIR |
| 4. CONSENT ITEMS – DISCUSSION/ACTION (5 MIN) | CHAIR |
| a. August 6, 2025 meeting minutes | |
| 5. GRANTS UPDATE (10 MIN) | MANAGER |
| a. CETF Digital Equity Funding | |
| b. CPUC CASF Consortia Account Funding | |
| i. Bi-Annual Report and Reimbursement Request | |
| 6. THE CHANGING BROADBAND ENVIRONMENT - DISCUSSION/ACTION (20 MIN) | MANAGER |
| a. CPUC CASF Consortia Grant update | |
| b. Position paper – Assessment of the current broadband environment and adaptation strategy | |
| 7. MANAGEMENT TEAM UPDATES – DISCUSSION (20 MIN) | COUNTY LEADS |
| a. Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) | |
| b. Last Mile Federal Funding Account (FFA) | |
| c. Middle Mile Broadband Initiative (MMBI) | |
| d. Other grants / Other broadband activities | |
| 8. PUBLIC COMMENTS - 2 MINUTES PER PERSON (4 MIN) | CHAIR |
| 9. MEETING ADJOURNMENT – ACTION (1 MIN) | CHAIR |

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**OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

August 6, 2025 | 3:30 - 5:00pm

1. ROLL CALL / CALL TO ORDER

Members present (in person) -- Marin County: (Chair) Supervisor Dennis Rodoni; Napa County: Supervisor Anne Cottrell; Sonoma County: Supervisor Chris Coursey
Members present (remote) – Mendocino County: Supervisor Ted Williams

Staff and public present (in person): Marin County: Rich Levine; Mendocino County: Tony Rakes; Napa County: Mark Revis; Sonoma County: Jack Kampmann

Staff and public present (remote): Sonoma County: Katherine Di Pasqua

The NBNCBC Oversight Committee Chair Rodoni called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Rodoni facilitated introductions of attendees, summarized above.

3. PUBLIC INTRODUCTIONS

No members of the public were present.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** February 5, 2025
- b. **APPROVAL OF ACTION PLAN FOR 2025**

Supervisor Williams moved, and Supervisor Coursey seconded approval of the Consent Calendar, and the motion was passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

5. APPOINTMENT OF MARK REVIS AS CONSORTIUM MANAGER

Supervisor Cottrell moved, and Supervisor Coursey seconded approval of the appointment of Mark Revis as Consortium Manager. The motion was passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

- a. **OVERALL FINANCIAL STATUS:** Mark Revis presented a slide showing the expenditures and balances of the grants NBNCBC draws from. Funding is received from the CPUC via the CASF Consortia Grant, and from CETF via the Regional Leadership Grant.
- b. **CASF CONSORTIUM GRANT:**
 - The Consortia grant is a three-year grant and is divided up into four objectives with each objective further divided into activities.
 - Year One is done. A substantial balance remained that we were not able to spend. The money does not roll over into later years. We are using 2025 money now. We are projected to spend all of the money budgeted for



Objective One, the web site upgrade and maintenance, and Objective 4, the Fixed Wireless Analysis, but we have not spent much money on the other Objectives. This is largely due to the fact that the CPUC places restrictions on the types of assistance the Consortium may provide. For example, the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) grant is the primary grant being worked on by our regional ISPs, yet we cannot be reimbursed from the grant for any assistance we provide. NBNCBC is advocating to have this changed; more details will come when we get to that agenda item. Of our 2025 allocation, \$98,737.06 has been spent, with \$101,262.94 remaining.

c. CETF GRANT UPDATE:

- NBNCBC received a Regional Leadership Grant in the amount of \$125,000.00. \$59,814 was spent on work that was performed before Mr. Revis became associated with NBNCBC. The remaining amount was divided equally among the four member counties (\$16,296.50 each) to spend as they saw fit. Napa has requested reimbursement for \$11,023.26 of their allocation, and Sonoma has requested reimbursement for \$1,425.00 of theirs. Marin and Mendocino have not requested any reimbursement to date. Unlike the CPUC Consortia Grant, the money does roll over to future years.
- The Consortium Manager is available at any time to brainstorm with each county on ways that they might usefully spend their allocation.

d. Supervisor Coursey asked whether our being slow to spend our allocations will make it more difficult to get awarded future grants. Mark Revis responded that he didn't know and referred to the advocacy NBNCBC and other consortia have been doing with the CPUC to make the money easier to spend. A meeting was held with one of the CPUC commissioners (Darcie Houck) last week and another is being held this Friday, August 8. Supervisor Coursey asked a follow-up question asking if the response we have been getting from the CPUC was positive. Mark Revis replied that at least one of the commissioners (Houck) seemed sympathetic, but he did not know about the others.

e. Katherine Di Pasqua (Sonoma County) commented that we would be happy to prepare a more comprehensive financial report for the next meeting, but the grant information presented is probably the most relevant piece of any financial information available. She also remarked that the performance period for the CETF Regional Leadership grant is through June of 2026. She also noted that approximately \$40,000 of the \$59,814.00 was spent on a contract for a consultant to act as the Consortium Manager. That contract was terminated, leaving \$65,186.00 remaining, which was divided among the member counties.

f. FIXED WIRELESS ANALYSIS STATUS REPORT: Mark Revis gave a presentation on the progress of the project. The latest deliverable, the 100% High-Level Design Report, was delivered according to schedule on June 30, 2025. The next deliverable will be the 30% Low-Level Design Report which is due on January 31, 2026.

- The 100% High-Level Design Report is a close look at the broadband



coverage that could be obtained using economically and technically feasible networks.

- The 100% High Level Design Report is not a finished design; refinements will come with the Low-Level Design Report. The participating counties will each choose an area to have a comprehensive low-level design performed, and these will be the basis for the Low-Level Design Report. The Low-Level Design Report will contain accurate estimates of operating and maintenance costs which can then be compared to the costs of a fiber implementation.
 - The consultant has determined that an optimum design would not be 100% wireless – it would contain some fiber optic cable as well.
 - The consultant estimates that approximately 16,000 addresses in the three counties could be served, and approximately 13,000 would actually purchase the service if it were offered.
 - Chair Rodoni asked where the 16,000 figure came from. Mark Revis responded that it was the approximate number of residents that the FCC has identified as having poor or no broadband connectivity in the three counties.
 - Supervisor Williams asked what was the methodology used to come up with the figures pertaining to satellite coverage. Mark Revis responded that the consultant used LIDAR data that provides a 3D representation of the geography and tree cover. Both of those limit the area of the sky that can be seen from a location on the ground, which is critical for a satellite connection. Mark will ask the consultant for details of their methodology and pass it on when it is received.
 - Supervisor Cottrell commented that there would be a much higher percentage of where satellite broadband would work, but the consultant estimated that there were three percent of locations where *only* satellite would work and fiber or fixed wireless would not.
 - Supervisor Williams commented that the presentation mentioned that higher frequency wireless links could provide greater speeds, but what about lower-frequency wireless links, such as 900 MHz or 700 MHz? Mark Revis responded by saying that higher speeds require greater bandwidth, and that in general, the higher you go in frequency, the wider channel bandwidths are possible. Mark Revis will send Supervisor Williams a copy of the full report, which goes into detail about the frequency bands being proposed.
- g. Mark Revis will be reaching out to everyone to get their input for the next newsletter as well as for the next report to the CPUC. The latest CPUC reporting period ended on July 31.
- h. New CETF Grant: Over the past year, CETF had been sponsoring a series of “Learning Community” workshops, where Consortia and local municipalities could come together to share ideas and experiences relating to broadband adoption and digital equity. Counties and municipalities that participated each received grants in the



amount of \$20,000.00. Each RBC will receive \$10,000.00 for every one of their member counties and municipalities that participate. NBNBCB will receive a total of \$50,000.00 for the participation of Marin, Mendocino, Napa and Sonoma Counties, plus the City of American Canyon and the Town of San Anselmo, after all the final paperwork is completed and approved by CETF. A plan to spend the new grant is needed. Mark Revis will take it up with the Management Committee at their next meeting.

7. LETTER TO SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE RE: AB 470

- a. This item is to notify the Oversight Committee that the letter is being sent; no action is necessary. The letter is consistent with the NBNBCB Legislative Platform.
- b. Supervisor Coursey commented that he, Supervisor Williams, and some others were invited to meet with Assemblyman Rogers and the author of the bill. The bill was amended subsequent to that meeting, although Supervisor Coursey did not feel that his concerns were addressed by the amendments.
- c. Supervisor Cottrell commented that RCRC and CSAC have removed their opposition to this bill. She and supervisors and staff from Marin and Humboldt Counties met with Senator McGuire yesterday to discuss proposed amendments. Most of the proposed amendments track with what is being proposed in this letter. The timeframe in the bill is too short and should be extended until the end of 2028 instead of the end of 2026. Her impression is that there is not a good understanding of what issues the counties face. She also met with senior constituents, as they may be the most at risk if this bill becomes law. Marin County seems to have the best data in regard to the impacts of this bill.

8. CPUC PROCEEDING RE: CASF CONSORTIA GRANT ACCOUNT

- a. Meetings are being held with Commissioner Houck. One was held last week with Valley Vision (Sacramento-area RBC) and there is another scheduled for this Friday, August 8, with NBNBCB, and several other RBCs. Our issues include:
 - Our inability to be reimbursed for our work with ISPs on anything other than a CASF Infrastructure Account grant project. To be able to meet the state's goal of universal broadband, we need the flexibility to work with ISPs and community organizations on any infrastructure or digital equity project,
 - The need to reduce the paperwork burden for reporting and reimbursement requests.
 - The fact that different CPUC staff members provide different rule interpretations when asked questions about grant programs.

9. MANAGEMENT TEAM UPDATES

Mendocino County (Tony Rakes):

FFA Grants: The County partnered with GSCA but their application was denied. The County has made multiple attempts to reach out to the tribe that was awarded an FFA



grant but has received no response. The City of Fort Bragg is moving ahead with plans for their grant, but the County has not heard from the City of Ukiah about theirs.

LATA Grant: The grant has been closed out. The reimbursement has been received and GSCA has been paid for their portion of the grant.

Middle-Mile Initiative: No update.

BEAD Grant: There was some interest by an ISP in the first round of applications, but they pulled out just before the grant deadline. The County is still talking to them about an application in the second application round. However, they have stated that Mendocino County is a challenge, and economic viability is an issue. Permitting of towers in coastal areas may be a problem.

Other: The County plans to work with the Consortium Manager to spend down some of the available CETF grant funds.

Napa County (Mark Revis):

BEAD - General: A reset occurred in June. The NTIA told everyone to stop work on BEAD until they could review and change the grant rules. The timing was bad for California because they had just finished accepting their BEAD applications. They had to open a second window after the new rules were published. The second window just closed on August 2. The rules were changed to allow fixed wireless and satellite providers more of an opportunity to bid. The NTIA put more of a focus on low bids rather than preferred technologies. Fiber had been preferred because it is the “gold standard” for future-proof technology. It has higher bandwidth capabilities and speeds can be scaled up much easier. The NTIA did not disallow states to declare certain projects as high-priority, so there is a possibility that some states will still be able to prioritize fiber to some extent. Some states have reported that there was much more participation in the second application round, some states have reported much less. A lot of new applications were for satellite, but fiber and other technologies were in the mix. Some areas received zero bids. Michigan reports that 29% of their unserved and underserved locations received no bids, even from satellite providers. NTIA is still publicly taking the attitude that BEAD will solve everyone’s problems, but it is becoming obvious that it won’t.

BEAD – Napa County: Comcast is submitting a BEAD application for areas of west Napa County. It is a priority area for Napa County.

FFA Grant: AT&T has been granted encroachment permits for their project in northeast Napa County. They have not announced a start date for the work.

LATA Grant: The budget problems have been worked out with the CPUC and the final reimbursement request has been submitted.

Middle-Mile Initiative: Nothing to report since the state’s budget cuts eliminated most of the middle mile in Napa County.

Other Grants: Napa County applied for a CASF Public Housing grant to bring freeWi-Fi to one of our farmworker centers, which will serve 60 farm workers. The quotes for the equipment were about \$40,000 and an additional \$10,000 for five years of operations and maintenance. The County also applied for a CASF Adoption Account grant to provide digital literacy classes in partnership with Napa Valley Adult Education. AT&T is also partnering with one of our local community organizations, UpValley Family Centers, to



provide 150 laptops to families with children and seniors.

Sonoma County (Katherine Di Pasqua):

Introduction: Jack Kampmann is new to NBNBC. Kate Fosburgh left for a position with MTC and Jack will be working part-time on NBNBC projects. The EDC did not fill Kate's position.

FFA Grant: No update.

Middle-Mile Initiative: No update.

LATA: The CPUC has approved their final reimbursement request.

BEAD: The County is not submitting their own application for BEAD. Instead, the County released a NOFO for about \$2.3 million in ARPA funds. Eligible ISPs can use those funds for their low-level designs and as local match for their BEAD grant (if awarded). The County provided a letter of support for a proposal from Etheric Communications. The proposal includes construction of middle-mile into a high-priority area that had been cut by the state. Comcast applied for two projects in the second round, one for almost an identical area as the Etheric application.

Other Projects: The County Board of Supervisors approved a limited free internet program. About \$200,000 in ARPA funds were used to purchase just over 550 Xfinity internet service plans, which are being distributed to residents of a select number of affordable housing sites throughout the county. They are good for one year and have no cost to the recipient. The first round of outreach started in June. The second round is about to launch. Hope to have all of them distributed by the end of the calendar year. Through a contribution from Comcast and another CETF grant, the County will be purchasing over 300 laptops which will be distributed to the recipients of the free internet service that have school-age children.

Supervisor Cottrell asked if there is a digital literacy component to this project. Katherine responded that Comcast has contracted with Human I-T to provide digital literacy training.

Marin County (Rich Levine):

LATA/FFA: Marin has stood up a Digital Marin Fiber Company (DMFC), to construct and operate a fiber network on the west side of Marin County.

NTIA Competitive Grant: Marin did not apply for this grant.

Digital Equity Capacity Grant: Marin did not apply for this grant.

CETF Learning Communities Grant: Marin did participate in the Learning Communities workshops. The two Webstars from the Marin County Free Library participated as well. It was very beneficial.

CETF Low-Cost Internet Outreach Grant: Marin is participating in this grant. They are planning to distribute the affordability flyers through the water districts and possibly with PG&E. They are considering the use of full-sized flyers and also postcards. They will be working with a local Spanish-language radio station as well.

Marin Housing Authority Project: The project has reached the midpoint. It has reached 124 residents and 78 of them have opted to receive either a Windows laptop or an iPad. They are currently working on site 3 and have not gotten to sites 4 and 5 yet. People prefer the iPads to the laptops about 3.5 to 1. Rich has three part-time people working



with him to deliver the devices, set up the devices and train the recipients. Tech support is also provided, and Zendesk will be used as the Help Desk medium. It will utilize an AI-based chatbot with a custom-trained LLM based on embedded knowledgebase articles. They are pushing to get to all five sites by the end of the year. Events are held at the sites to interview and train residents, deliver devices and obtain feedback.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

11. MEETING ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 4:44 PM. Next meeting is November 5, 2025.

North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium – Assessment of the Current Broadband Environment and Recommended Adaptation Strategy

An ad hoc meeting of the NBNCBC Management Committee was held on January 9, 2026, to discuss the changing broadband environment. The group reached a consensus on the following issues that are a result of the changing environment:

- Now that BEAD funds are being awarded, future infrastructure deployment grant programs are unlikely.
 - BEAD is intended to fund all infrastructure needed to connect 100% of the remaining broadband serviceable locations (BSLs).
 - Future applications for the CASF Broadband Infrastructure Account grant program (which is the main purpose of the CPUC's CASF Consortia grant program) are likely to be denied because BEAD supposedly funds all remaining BSLs.
- The broadband environment is shifting away from deployment of infrastructure. The environment is shifting toward:
 - Permitting assistance for ISPs receiving BEAD funding.
 - BEAD reduced its focus on fiber and is funding a significant amount of fixed wireless infrastructure. This will mean that the member counties should prepare for more permits for communications towers.
 - Continuing to close the Digital Divide by focusing on broadband adoption, making sure that residents and businesses are equipped to use the internet effectively.
- CPUC CASF Broadband Consortia Account grant:
 - Administration of the grant has become excessively burdensome since the CPUC underwent an audit by the State Controller's Office. The number of curing requests and requests for additional information to justify reimbursement have gone up exponentially since that time.
 - Over the past few years, staff has billed less and less time to the Consortia grant, because grant guidelines limit the activities eligible for reimbursement. Eligible activities are mostly limited to assisting applicants in applying for CASF Broadband Infrastructure Account grants.
 - There has been an increase in staff time spent on assistance in applying for CASF Public Housing Account and CASF Broadband Adoption Account grants, which are not eligible for reimbursement.
- There will be a continuing need for data regarding broadband availability and infrastructure deployment.

- Now that the data collected for the BEAD grant program has served its purpose (to select the BEAD awardees), there is little incentive for the FCC or NTIA to maintain the broadband availability database.
- We can expect a gradual erosion of the accuracy of the data.
- The member counties should make their best effort to maintain their own data. Given the overlapping service areas of the many ISPs in the region, it would be beneficial for this data to be shared.
- Cellular carriers are now major providers of broadband for homes and businesses via their 5G networks. There is currently zero data about 5G broadband coverage.
- This broadband data will also be valuable to public safety in their efforts to make emergency notifications, and to evaluate requests from telephone carriers to eliminate legacy copper cables.
- There are numerous bills in the State Legislature and Congress that deal with broadband issues. These bills should be monitored and those with significant impact to the region should be supported or opposed as appropriate.
- NBNCBC has access to some amount of funding other than the CPUC CASF Consortia Grant.
 - The California Emerging Technologies Fund has provided \$175,000 to NBNCBC to date, and has a firm commitment from Verizon for \$40 million in funding for digital equity projects as a by-product of the Verizon-Frontier merger. CETF has already stated that some of that money will be distributed to the broadband consortia for digital equity programs.
 - There may be other funding sources that we haven't discovered yet.

Recommended Actions:

- Forego applying for another round of funding from the CASF Consortia grant.
 - Send a letter to the CPUC stating our reasons for not applying.
- Change the Consortium's focus from broadband infrastructure deployment to:
 - Sharing of broadband data
 - Advocacy for broadband-related legislation
 - Regional digital equity projects as funding becomes available
- Continue to petition the CPUC for changes to the CASF Consortia Account rules that will reduce the administrative burden and allow the grant to reimburse for activities involving a wider variety of grant programs, especially for digital equity grants, and consider re-applying if the requested changes are implemented.
- Consider alliances and partnerships with other organizations, such as the California County Information Services Director's Association (CCISDA).