

**Bolinas Community Public Utility District**  
**A Meeting of the BCPUD Internet Access Committee**  
**March 13, 2017**  
**Bolinas Firehouse Community Meeting Room**

Call to Order: Chairman Lyndon Comstock called the meeting of this committee to order at 3:00 p.m. Duncan Hopkins will record and make notes of the meeting.

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

Minutes: The minutes of the prior meeting on 2-20/17 were approved.

Committee Membership Recommendations: None

Report of one-to-one contacts between committee members and Internet Service Providers and/or other key parties regarding the committee's mission:

Lyndon Comstock: Attended a CPUC public meeting (about its white paper regarding CASF grants) with Peter Pratt, Marin County Broadband Consultant.

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

Duncan Hopkins: Peter Pratt

Discussion: Shall this Committee recommend that the BCPUD Board issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the construction and operation of a publicly owned local internet distribution system. The discussion specifically focused on a draft RFP crafted by Chairman Comstock.

- A significant potential stumbling block for any local internet system is the current lack of high capacity backhaul to and from West Marin.
- Pursuing a CASF grant would tend to favor a fiber optic system, which would put local ISPs at a potential disadvantage due to high capital costs remaining despite receiving a grant for 60% of the project cost.
- The RFP should specify data service instead of download speeds, focusing on system design capabilities in Element 1, further specifying the minimum acceptable data service speed of 25 Mbps down/ 3 Mbps up with the expectation that minimum acceptable speeds would be increased should future Federal minimum speed requirements be faster than 25/3. This approach preserves scalability in the system design.
- Extensive discussion on the feasibility of an open access network, as specified in the draft RFP. The ultimate ISP would select the specific equipment for the network, with the understanding that other ISPs would have to adapt to this system. Peter Pratt warned that open access networks generally have not succeeded in other markets, even in markets much larger than Bolinas.
- Both Duncan Hopkins and Jennifer Jones opined that their preferred approach to the design, construction, and operation of the proposed network would be to use local ISPs and a wireless backhaul, soliciting private, local capital to finance the project. That said, neither member is opposed to proceeding with an RFP that specifies that prospective ISPs must make a prompt application to the CPUC for a CASF grant for the proposed project.

Duncan Hopkins made the motion to submit the draft RFP reviewed by the committee, with the minor modifications as discussed above incorporated into it, to the BCPUD Board for its review. Jennifer Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Community Expression: none

Next meeting date: To be determined pending the Board's response to our recommendation.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.