



112 MacTanly Place
Staunton, VA 24401

Phone: (540) 885-5174
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**Bath-Highland Network Authority Meeting
Monday, February 6, 2023 at 1pm**

**Bolar Ruritan Club
38 Bolar Ln, Monterey, VA 24465**

Authority Members in attendance:	Organization
George Hogshead	Highland County
Ronald Wimer (Chair)	Town of Monterey
Sherry Ryder	Bath County
Michael Bender (Vice Chair)	Bath County
Others in attendance:	Organization
Robert Huff	MGW
Tammy Minnigh	The Recorder
Hunter Moore	CSPDC

Welcome and Introductions

With Chairman Mr. David Blanchard absent, Mr. Ronald Wimer called the BHNA meeting to order at 1:04 PM and all attending introduced themselves.

Elections

The group discussed elections for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer for 2023. The group agreed to rotate Chair position to the Town of Monterey this year, and the Vice Chair position rotating to Bath County.

Mr. George Hogshead nominated Mr. Ron Wimer for Chair. Mr. Hogshead moved, seconded by Mr. Michael Bender, to approve that Mr. Wimer will serve as Chair for the Authority. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Ryder nominated Mr. Bender for Vice Chair. Ms. Ryder moved, seconded by Mr. Hogshead, to approve that Mr. Bender will serve as Vice Chair for the Authority. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wimer nominated the CSPDC staff to continue to serve as Secretary and Treasurer. Mr. Bender Moved, seconded by Mr. Hogshead, to approve CSPDC staff to serve as Secretary and Treasurer for the BHNA.



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Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

Meeting minutes of the past meeting on October 17, 2022 were provided to the members. The BHNA members reviewed the minutes. Mr. Hogshead asked about the meaning of 'passings' and whether this meant broadband was completed or installed. Ms. Moore explained that they are currently serviceable passings and are locations eligible for broadband service. Mr. Hogshead moved, seconded by Mr. Bender to approve the October meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Update on BHNA VATI Project

Ms. Moore updated the group on the BHNA VATI 2022 project, which continues to move along. The CSPDC continues to submit monthly remittances and reports to DHCD. From the December 2022 monthly report that was submitted in January, there are 242 current serviceable passings completed in Bath and Highland counties for this project, and 36 subscribers. Mr. Wimer asked Mr. Robert Huff about what type of homes these passings locations were, such as second-homes that could be vacant. Mr. Huff says MGW does not have a way of knowing the types of homes and they continue with marketing activities to get more subscribers.

Ms. Moore also discussed the project site visit with the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) in December. Two representatives with DHCD completed a project site visit with Ms. Moore and Mr. Huff in the Warm Springs and Hot Springs areas of the project, observing installed aerial fiber. They also visited MGW's new central office in Mitchelltown.

Mr. Hogshead asked Mr. Huff about the 2021 VATI project that includes Highland County and if that project was still ongoing. Mr. Huff confirmed that it was.

Cell Service Update

Ms. Moore updated the Authority on two phone calls with AT&T and First Net Authority back in November 2022. Mr. Wimer also attended the calls. Gabe Elias with VDEM, who attended the last BHNA meeting, connected Ms. Moore with William Tegethoff at AT&T about possible cell service expansion opportunities. Multi Band Originators (MBOs) and Compact Rapid Deployable (CRD) equipment were discussed and grant resources for implementation. Ms. Moore and Mr. Wimer had a follow up call with Lori Stone with First Net Authority, to discuss their cellular coverage, and Bath and Highland cell service issues. Ms. Moore will forward the additional resources and information that she received via email from Mr. Tegethoff and Ms. Stone to all BHNA members. Mr. Wimer added that it seems that there is not much interest in expanding service and there is more of a focus to purchase equipment instead. Ms. Ryder added that since they do not have much AT&T service in Bath County, they would probably not be interested in the equipment. For the compact rapid deployment device, its likely that it would be sent to a place with higher population in a big emergency situation. Discussion ensued on CRDs and cell service.



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Ms. Ryder shared that the Verizon cell tower coming to Millboro is in the building permit process and they expect to break ground in March. This tower will serve the area of the industrial park, schools and a section of route 39. The group discussed what ISP is installing fiber to tower. Mr Huff believes it is in Lumos ILEC area.

Provider Updates

Mr. Huff gave a brief update on the 2022 and 2021 VATI projects. The BHNA 2022 project is about 6 months into construction and the 2021 project is expected to be complete this summer. MGW will be working on the monthly update for the January report. Overall, it was not a bad winter season with weather and delays to projects.

Other Business

The group discussed the next meeting scheduled in April. Due to the Easter holiday and spring break for schools, it was decided that the next meeting should be rescheduled to Monday, April 17th at 1pm. The Bolar Ruritan Club will be the default location unless Authority members suggest a different meeting location.

Adjournment

With no further discussion, Mr. Bender moved, seconded by Mr. Hogshead, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The BHNA meeting concluded at 1:45 PM. The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 17th, 2023.

2023 Meeting Dates:

Monday, April 17th at 1pm

Monday, July 10th at 1pm

Monday, October 16th at 1pm