



112 MacTanly Place
Staunton, VA 24401

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**Bath-Highland Network Authority Meeting
Monday, July 10, 2023 at 1 PM**

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

Authority Members in attendance:	Organization
Ron Wimer (Chair)	Town of Monterey
Michael Bender (Vice Chair)	Bath County
George Hogshead	Highland County
Others in attendance:	Organization
Steve Bolster	CSPDC
Bill Buchanan	BARC
Tammy Minnigh	The Recorder
Hunter Moore	CSPDC

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Ron Wimer called the BHNA meeting to order at approximately 1:10 PM and all in attendance introduced themselves.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the past meeting on April 17, 2023 were provided to the members. The BHNA members reviewed the minutes. Mr. Bender moved, seconded by Mr. Hogshead, to approve the April meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Insurance Renewal

Ms. Moore communicated that she received the FYE 2024 insurance renewal documents from Highland County Administrator Roberta Lambert. The CSPDC will keep the copy in their files for the BHNA.

V. Electronic Participation Policy Amendment



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Ms. Moore presented an amended electronic participation in meetings resolution for the BHNA members. Updates from the previous authorization included adopting a policy for a limited number of all-virtual meetings each year and adding another reason for members to attend remotely. Mr. Hogshead moved, seconded by Mr. Bender, to approve the BHNA electronic participation in meetings resolution (#2021-01). The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Update on BHNA VATI Project

Ms. Moore updated the Board on the BHNA VATI 2022 project. She stated we are halfway through the project. Ms. Moore followed by communicating an update provided by MGW's Robbie Huff: *In June, majority of mainline fiber installed was in the Rt. 220 corridor south of Rt. 39 including some lateral road crossings which serve residential areas. A larger one of those is the Ashwood area, and fiber is available in over 90% of the Ashwood area. Fiber has also been installed in some residential areas around Warm Springs, including "through" some areas that are not in our project area in order to get to those that are (and of course we cannot include any of those addresses as passings for the project, but we can provide FTTH outside of VATI. FTTH hookups continue in all areas where fiber is available, including some "long-drop" connections over on Big Back Creek Rd (Mountain Grove area). In July, work continues along Rt. 220 south of Warm Springs, in the Warm Springs area, and installing laterals off mainline for West Warm Springs and other communities in the area.*

Ms. Moore also provided the Board with an update on the DHCD site visit in May for the B-H VATI project. She explained that she, Mr. James Illicete (DHCD), Mr. Huff, and Mr. Bolster completed a windshield survey of routes north of McDowell. Ms. Moore explained that we can expect DHCD site visits every six months throughout the project. She also mentioned that DHCD may complete a virtual check-in prior to the next site visit.

In addition, Ms. Moore offered an additional update on the 2021 & 2022 projects. Mr. Huff is *anticipating that some of our project milestones will get a slight push while we are in the final months of the VATI '21 project and beginning that closeout process. Once that project is done, then VATI '22 gets the attention of 100% of our fiber crews.* Mr. Hogshead asked about the locations in '21 project that do not have a connection to home (area south of McDowell). Ms. Moore responded that she presumed the '21 effort would include them, but will need to check with Mr. Huff. Mr. Wimer asked if the area was near Route 678. Mr. Hogshead provided an explanation of the location he was referring to. He planned to contact Mr. Huff about his inquiry.

VII. Provider Updates

Mr. Buchanan gave a concise update on BARC activities. Contractor (H&M) is doing work in Bath County area (Hot Springs and Warm Springs).

VIII. Cell Service Discussion

Ms. Moore mentioned her June 28th email where she shared two online articles discussing agreements between T-Mobile and Starlink regarding cellular support/services via satellites. After general discussion on the topic, Mr. Hogshead planned to reach out to a tower erector. He also mentioned getting back in touch with a Verizon point of contact to see about gaining affirmation on whether he can release his information. Mr. Hogshead asked for confirmation if previous federal dollars excluded efforts to improve cellular service in the region. Ms. Moore responded that she believed this was correct. Mr. Hogshead asked if some funding can be diverted to improving cellular service in the region. Ms. Moore planned to look into this question.



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Mr. Becker followed this topic by informing the Board that Bath County is applying for a DHS REMCDP grant to upgrade their communication system. He indicated that Green Bank Observatory provided a thumbs up for the system upgrade. Mr. Becker noted that there is still a funding gap should the grant get awarded. It was also mentioned that Sprint's coverage was impacted as a result of lowering angle/power due to the Green Bank Quiet Zone.

IX. Other Business

Ms. Moore reminded members that her last day at the CSPDC will be July 13th. Mr. Bolster will take over Hunter's role serving the BHNA. Mr. Bender expressed the Board's appreciation for all that she has done for the Authority and wished her well as she transitions to staying home with her family.

X. Adjournment

With no further discussion, Mr. Bender moved, seconded by Mr. Hogshead, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The BHNA meeting concluded at approximately 1:35 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 16, 2023 at 1 PM at the Bolar Ruritan Club.

2023 Meeting Dates:

Monday, October 16th at 1 PM

