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Doris S. Mason  
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## Upper Shore Regional Council IT Directors Minutes, June 26, 2013

**Location:** 122 N. Cross St., Chestertown

**Time:** 12:30 – 2:30 PM

**Participants:** Scott Boone, Megan DelGaudio, Scott Mesneak, Jackie Brown, Doris Mason  
**Guests:** Edward Vitalos, Broadband Implementation Coordinator for Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative; John McQuaid, Broadband Implementation Coordinator for Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative

### Time

#### **12:30-12:40 Opening /Meeting Purpose**

Doris Mason welcomed everyone and thanked them all for attending. At this time she introduced the presenters for the meeting, Ed Vitalos and John McQuaid.

**12:40-1-10** Ed Vitalos and John McQuaid briefly shared with the group their backgrounds and career histories. After which, they spoke of a Broadband Deployment Plan that Dr. Mike Scott, GIS at Salisbury University, the Business, Economic and Community Outreach Network (BEACON), and the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative has drafted in conjunction with the Maryland Broadband Cooperative. Their position was discussed in the plan, and there is approximately 18 months allotted for the completion of their mission. The Broadband Deployment Plan studied the potential challenges in implementing broadband in the Upper Eastern Shore, ways to overcome those challenges and benefits to the Upper Eastern Shore residents and businesses. The purpose of the deployment plan is to bring attention to the disparities in broadband access for rural Maryland areas. Mr. McQuaid and Mr. Vitalos are in charge with assisting to alleviate those disparities. Ms. DelGaudio asked if there was a map that would show where and what providers are servicing what areas in the State of Maryland in the provision of broadband high speed internet services. John McQuaid committed to requesting that the Maryland Broadband Cooperative provide a map showing where their fiber is laid.

#### **1:10-1:30 Feasible Alternatives to Completing the 'Last Mile' in Upper Shore Region**

One alternative is getting the smaller ISP's interested. For example Atlantic Broadband, Wave Vision, or Blue Surf may be an alternative to Verizon. Megan suggested setting up a meeting with Steve Crawford who is from Skyline an internet service provider. It was noted that Queen Anne's County contractors ran much of the fiber at no cost to the county. The current anchor institutions (CAI) on the Upper Eastern Shore will need to be connected using a fiber backbone that should have the ability to support last mile connectivity for the residences and businesses from other private investments. It was



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suggested that our plans need to be made first, and then we will need to look for and apply for grant funding. Another responsibility we need to take on is educating the public regarding the feasibility of providing fiber optic high speed internet service. Our mission is to provide residential, business and public anchor institutions with the opportunity to be served by the evolving and most current information technologies available today.

Optionally, everyone on the Upper Eastern Shore will have equal access to affordable and current information technologies.

Finally, key areas, which we want to reach first must be identified. They must also be upgraded and maintained.

### 1:30-1:45 Strategy Session

Scott Mesneak suggested forming a steering committee. The task will be to invite as many Rural IT Directors in the state of Maryland for a one day meeting. The objective is to share data, ideas, new and existing models, and support one another in moving ahead with their projects.

It was suggested that Mrs. Mason present at the County Commissioners meeting and update them on the work that the group had done thus far and present to them our strategy for moving forward. It was also mentioned the time for the IT Directors to meet with DBED should be at the next meeting. It was proposed to meet with DBED prior to presenting at the County Commissioners meeting. Meeting with DBED would give insight on what direction they are going.

### 1:45-2:00 Summary/Action Steps

1. Ms. GelGaudio is scheduled to invite Steve Crawford, subcontractor for DO-IT, to our next meeting.
2. Ms. Mason agreed to attend and present at the county Commissioners meetings during the upcoming quarter.
3. Ms Mason agreed to talk with DBED to see what direction they are willing to go in at this point before attending the County Commissioners meeting.
4. Ms. Mason will contact MD Broad Band and get maps of the fiber after conferring with John McQuaid regarding his progress on the matter. The team thinks this will be very useful.
5. The group agreed to a recess in July and will resume meetings on August 21, 2013 at 12:30 pm. at the Upper Shore Regional Council Offices.