



Carroll County Broadband
Rick Hiland and Steve Knox, Co-Chairmen
Town of Albany NH
1972-B NH Route 16
Albany, NH 03818-7442 USA

CC BROADBAND 8/26/2019 UPDATE:

At the June 24th workshop/meeting Rick Hiland, Steve Knox, and Glenn Coppleman (NCC), due to the interest of several towns, proposed that a county committee be formed to continue work that they had started. The committee will continue to research bringing affordable, high speed fiber internet to residents, businesses, local government and anyone who needs this access which is the infrastructure of the 21st century that will benefit the Carroll County region's economic development.

This committee will consist of Selectman appointed representative (and alternate) from each interested Town in Carroll County, a representative from the Carroll County Delegation, a representative from Carroll County Commissioners, a representative from NCC, a representative from LRPC, a representative from WEDCO, and a representative from the MWVEC. The name of our committee will be Carroll County Broadband (CC Broadband) with a logo.

To aid in our effort, Carol Monroe, from ValleyNet, gave a detailed presentation and Q&A regarding the inclusion of our Broad Band Initiative (CC Broadband) in the USDA RCDI grant applied for by a consortium/partnership of 3 organizations. The consortium of partners in this USDA RCDI Community Technical Assistance Program grant application are CTC Technology & Energy, Rural Innovation Strategies Inc., and ValleyNet (Carol Monroe). See URLs below. Carol Monroe has been a speaker and advisor at two of our earlier Broadband Initiative workshops. The grant application was submitted June 5, 2019.

It is also important to know that even though our Carroll County Broadband Initiative is a new group, we have been designated as one of two initiatives in rural New Hampshire and two initiatives in rural Vermont, one in Arkansas and one in Maryland included in a USDA RCDI Community Technical Assistance Program grant application for funding to do a feasibility study and create a financial/business plan in each of these six rural areas.

NH - North Country Council (NCC) – CC Broadband Committee Initiative
NH - Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Region Planning
Roxbury Vermont
Readsboro Vermont
Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Garrett County, Maryland

Their goal is to collect high-quality, early-stage technical and financial guidance to enable these rural communities to develop successful strategic approaches to improve access to affordable, resilient broadband services. The grant request is for \$250,000 with matching \$250,000 funds to be paid by the consortium partners (see below). They anticipate three (3) years or less to complete this work. North Country Council (NCC) will be Carroll County's sponsoring entity in this grant application which we should know results by early fall of 2019.

CTC Technology & Energy, Kensington MD – putting up \$150,000
Rural Innovation Strategies Inc., Hartland VT - putting up \$75,000
ValleyNet, Royalton VT - putting up \$25,000

CTC Technology & Energy - <http://www.ctcnet.us/> - Kensington, Maryland
Rural Innovation Strategies Inc. - <https://ruralinnovationstrategies.com/> - Hartland, Vermont
ValleyNet - <http://www.valley.net/> - Royalton, Vermont

- We met with Jeff Nevins and Ellen Scarponi from Consolidated Communications (bought out Fairpoint) in a meeting arranged by NHMA Executive Director Margaret Byrnes at NHMA.
- There is more fiber out there than what is currently on any of the outdated maps we have seen.
- We met with the Sandwich, Effingham, Harts Location, and Albany Select Boards and have exchanged emails & phone calls & conversations with Eaton, Chatham, Brookfield, Wakefield, Tamworth, Ossipee, Bartlett, Jackson, Conway, Madison, Moultonboro, Wolfeboro, and Tuftonboro Select Boards.
- We met with the Carroll County Commissioners and Business Manager.
- The Carroll County Delegation has appointed NH Representative Jerry Knirk to represent them on our CC Broadband Initiative Committee.
- We met with Executive Councilor Mike Cryans and we have his support.
- We have had discussions with the Margaret Byrnes at NHMA regarding their proposed amendment to the SB 103 legislation to further define the multi-municipality bonding intent. NH Senator Jeb Bradley was also instrumental and worked hard to get this amended legislation through the process and passed.
- We attended & addressed an NCC CEDS meeting held at the MWVEC conference room in Conway. We have their support. After this meeting we had conversation with Jac Cuddy of the MWVEC and we have their support also. Jac has volunteered to be the MWVEC representative to our CC Broadband Initiative Committee and has offered their meeting rooms for any of our future meeting/workshops.
- Also at the NCC CEDS meeting we spoke with representatives from the CDBG, EDA, CDFA, USDA, and NBRC regarding setting up meetings with each of them to discuss grants & qualifications for a feasibility/financial study. We have met with Bev Mason from USDA.
- Also at the NCC CEDS meeting we talked with Chuck Henderson from US Senator Shaheen's office have their support as well as a representative from US Congressman Chris Pappas' office.
- We have had several good news articles written about our broadband initiative effort.
- We met with Chris Canney & Scott Allen from FirstLight (purchased the 186 Group).
- We have been contacted by several interested participants Internet Providers (ISPs) (several from outside NH) on our broadband initiative project.
- We have upcoming meetings scheduled with Kerem Durdag GWI (Maine) and Chris Lynch from Matrix Design Group in September.
- To all those folks who have helped/worked behind the scenes – Thank you.

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 Steve Knox - Co-Chairman 447-2887 s_knox@roadrunner.com
 Ken Robichaud - Clerk 539-7751 krobichaud@carrollcountynh.net

***Committee members to date:

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|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| ○ Albany – Steve Knox (Albany NCC/EC Rep.) | ○ Hale's Location – Ken Robichaud (County Adm.) |
| ○ NHMA – Rick Hiland (Albany Selectman & NHMA Director) | ○ Jackson – tbd |
| ○ NCC – Glenn Coppleman | ○ Bartlett – tbd |
| ○ LRPC – Patricia Farley | ○ Conway – tbd |
| ○ MWVEC – Jac Cuddy | ○ Madison – under advisement |
| ○ WEDCO - Denise Roy-Palmer | ○ Brookfield – Rich Zacher (Selectman) |
| ○ Chuck Henderson (US Senator Shaheen) | ○ Tuftonboro – William "Chip" Albee (Selectman – Chairman) |
| ○ Carroll County – Ken Robichaud (County Adm.) | ○ Wolfeboro – tbd |
| ○ Carroll County Delegation – NH Rep. Jerry Knirk | ○ Moultonboro – Bill Gassman (appointed by Selectmen) |
| ○ Tamworth – Rebecca Mason (Selectperson) | ○ Effingham – Chuck Fuller (Selectman) |
| ○ Eaton – John Border (Appt. by Selectmen) | ○ Ossipee – tbd - |
| ○ Sandwich – Leo Dwyer (Selectman) | ○ Freedom – tbd |
| ○ Harts Location – John Gallagher/ Mark Dindorf (Selectmen) | ○ Wakefield – Kelley Collins /Mark Duffy (TA / Selectman) |
| ○ Chatham – Micah Voter (Selectman) | |