

# **RVBAT Meeting - June 5, 2024 (Fathom AI)**

## **Attendees:**

Grace Hochhalter	A Greater Applegate
Lucas Turpin	Oregon State University Extension Service
Keith Grunberg	Hunter Communications
Natalie Mettler	Ashland Parks and Recreation - Senior Services Division
Ann Marie Alfrey	Rogue Valley Council of Governments
Ryan Barber	Althea/T-mobile
Jim Teece	Project A/Southern Oregon Innovation Hub
Aaron Cook	SOESD
Victor Villegas	Oregon State University Extension Service
Shannon Hauberg	Josephine Community Library District
Barbara Madruga	City of Medford
Parvaneh Scoggin	Jackson County Library Services

## **Absent:**

Rick Dyer	Jackson County
Mark Decker	Jackson County
Carrie Turney Ross	Jackson County Library Services
Jason Whyte	Jackson County Library Services
Eric Molinsky	Jackson County Library District
Kari May	Jackson County Library District
Seth Thompson	Business Oregon
Chrsitina Berger	American Connection Corps
Dave Tribbett	Southern Oregon Research and Innovation Network (SORIN)

## **Meeting Purpose**

Regroup the Rogue Valley Broadband Action Team (RVBAT) after the previous coordinator's departure and discuss next steps.

## **Key Takeaways**

- The group represents diverse interests (education, libraries, service providers, local government) working towards broadband access and digital literacy in the region.
- Challenges were discussed around applying for broadband infrastructure grants due to burdensome requirements and lack of detailed census/demographic data.

- There is interest in creating a repository of digital literacy resources/classes being offered and tracking attendance.
- The Oregon Broadband Equity Coalition was highlighted as a valuable statewide group to join.

## **Topics**

### **Introductions and Interests**

- Education representatives want to inform broadband decisions impacting students and look at equity/access issues.
- Libraries aim to provide barrier-free digital literacy classes, especially for seniors.
- Service providers shared challenges around applying for infrastructure grants.
- Local government representatives came to learn and explore partnership opportunities.

### **Grant Challenges**

- Stringent requirements and lack of detailed census data made some grants too burdensome to apply for, even for larger companies.
- Suggestion to provide feedback to state broadband office on improving grant processes.

### **Digital Literacy Repository**

- Interest in creating a central repository of digital literacy class offerings, audiences, and attendance to demonstrate impact.
- Libraries, education providers, and service providers could contribute.

### **Oregon Broadband Equity Coalition**

- Statewide multi-sector coalition focused on digital equity, with monthly meetings.
- Seen as a valuable group to join for collaboration.

## **Next Steps**

- Proceed with planning the July RVBAT meeting.
- Follow up on creating the digital literacy repository, involving key contributors.
- Share information on the Oregon Broadband Equity Coalition for members to join.

## **Action Items**

- Provide feedback on grant application process barriers
- Collect information on digital literacy resources, classes offered, audiences, and attendance; share information within group; and offer classes based on community needs

