

Technology Opportunity Program
Technology Leadership Team Meeting
Wednesday, November 20, 2002
Nandua High School
Accomack County, Virginia
5:30 pm

Present: Eveline Conquest, Margaret Nedab, Susan Obrien, Amy Betit, Paul Berge, Cynthia Wallop, Christianna Reid, Joe Simpkins, Iris Gunter, John Johnson (of Wachapreague), Billy Barton, Pauline Milbourne, Jon F. Johnson (VCE), Jaime Shetrone.

Pauline welcomed the group and confirmed that all participants had received the minutes of the previous meeting. Jaime Shetrone was introduced.

Introduction to Community Networks – Jaime talked briefly about her role with the TOP project and with the Blacksburg Electronic Village. She proceeded with her presentation with main points as attached (see meeting handout: Introduction to Community Networks).

John Johnson (of Wachapreague) commented that it appears that the TOP project is a duplication of the Eastern Shore Portal. Jon responded that the TOP project will seek to reach out to the underserved areas not currently included in the Portal project and the intent is not to compete with the portal. Billy Barton asked whether the project allow for a domain name. Jaime responded that it depended on how the group wanted to register the name. She explained how the name could be an extension from the top.bev. domain. Billy asked about the maintenance of the site. Jaime said that it would be the job of the TLT to determine this.

Take Charge – Accomack County will conduct the “Take Charge” series of meetings relative to the TOP project on these dates: February 11, 18, and 25. Each session will be 3 hours long. The sessions will alternate between Arcadia High School and Nandua High School.

The purpose of “Take Charge” is to enable leaders, decision makers and residents in a small community face the future by assisting those leaders and others to analyze the community, think about alternatives, and plan an action strategy for community economic development.

Suggestions for getting the word out about “Take Charge” included these: word of mouth, notices to churches, notices sent home via school age youth, flyers, etc.

Billy voiced concern about the mechanism for keeping the sites updated. Jaime commented that it will be the task of the TLT to determine how sites will be sustained and that perhaps this will be a job for a qualified volunteer. Also, Billy indicated that all the variations for using the Eastern Shore in the site name have been taken. In addition,

he suggested that in the promotional for “Take Charge” include information on the distinction between the TOP project and the Eastern Shore Portal.

Last, the group discussed about the supplies and materials needed for the “Take Charge” sessions. All agreed that we needed to keep the details as simple as possible. Eveline has volunteered to help secure notebooks and agreed to check with Ocean Way Deli to support the need for food. Amy agreed to check for restaurant donations. In addition, Amy indicated that she had a good connection for pizza. Billy said that he could get clam chowder.

Iris, Billy, Eveline, and John Johnson (of Wachapreague) agreed to serve on an informal committee to work out the details for materials, supplies, and food needed for “Take Charge”. The committee will meet on Tuesday, January 14, 2003, 5:30 p.m. at the Accomac Extension Office.

The group agreed that the “Take Charge” sessions would be from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Amy indicated that she would not be able to attend the next meeting of the TLT since she will be out of the country in Europe. Pauline agreed to send her a reminder about having someone to replace her for the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.