

**CRAIG COUNTY
TECHNOLOGY COALITION MEETING**

**CRAIG COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
JUNE 2, 2003
7:00 PM**

Members Present – Michelle Adcock, Debbie Snead, Jon Johnston, Paul Paradzinski, Matthew Mathai, Adele Morris, Pam Gibson, Robert Roberts

Services and Infrastructure – Matthew Mathai

- Matthew – Are there any questions or concerns before we begin?
- Paul – How do we handle groups like Ku Klux Klan, etc. who may request having a page/site?
- Matthew – Site administrator and team will decide who will have access to the site. TLT will decide on guidelines for site access.
- Jon – Cumberland County is working on a model for these guidelines.
- Matthew – No challenges to BEV site as of yet. BEV disallows non-family oriented material.
- Paul – Expressed concerns about legal responsibility.
- Matthew – Site is hosted by and protected by BEV. BEV will take care of major infractions. September 2004 is terminal point of grant. BEV umbrella began October 2001. BEV will request an extension after that time period. The cost to continue hosting the site following the grant period will be \$380 per year.
- Debbie – Andrew said the focus of the grant would be economic development. After grant, businesses cannot be hosted.
- Matthew – The grant was written to get businesses started and to use web site to have a web presence. Micro-businesses would not pay \$20 – free until the completion of the grant.
- Debbie – Voiced concerns about volunteer administration.
- Pam – Can a 4-H'er take this job?
- Michelle – Other commitments may prevent 4-H'ers from fulfilling this job.
- Debbie – Requested financial status/statements. What does the \$2000 per year cover?
- Matthew – The \$2,000 is a match and will cover the following items.
 - Technical support – years 2 and 3
 - Salaries
 - Lap Tops
- Debbie – Suggested we look at EVA as a top-notch model for an electronic village. Rick Boucher supported this program.
- Michelle – We need to return to the question of an administrator to oversee the site.
- Adele – What will be the responsibilities for this person?
- Matthew
 - Will not develop sites
 - Will receive training
 - Home page receives the most changes.
- Adele – Who is managing Craig County Rural Electronic Village (CCREV)?

- Debbie – Debra with the County Administrator's office had volunteered originally, but is no longer able to do this.
- Adele – Volunteered to be the volunteer administrator for the TOP project. She
 - suggested having a training class
 - expressed the need for a community readiness workshop
 - Robert will be the point of contact for future workshops, training sessions, etc.
- Debbie – Voiced concern over businesses. Are we slighting businesses? The grant is through the Department of Commerce, so there is a focus on economic development.
- Matthew – Businesses will still have listings with basic information and a link to their own site (this site will not be hosted by BEV).
- Debbie – 54% of Craig County is National Forest (less than _ of tax base). Our county is in the red. We need to highlight the treasures of Craig County through this community network.
- Matthew – The grant does not allow for infrastructure, but does provide for infrastructure planning.
- Jon – Outreach in Chester – Model for sharing county sites, statistical information, etc. (www.yesvirginia.org). Outreach can help us to market the county. E-corridors - Fiber optics infrastructure is a means to help achieve this. Agritourism is a possibility. Work Force Development is at the forefront now.
Check out the following web site(www.luisaelectronicvillage.net)
- Matthew – Power Point Presentation
Some of the key points of the presentation included
 1. Electronic Village Components – people, content, services, infrastructure
 2. Services – BEV in a Box
 - Database backed web site
 - Village mall and civic group directory
 - Community calendar
 - Online discussion forum
 3. Telecommunications Infrastructure –
 - Components that comprise the network
 - Includes ducts, cables, hubs, routers, etc.
 - Used for providing access to services
 - Transparent to the end user
 - Critical to having high speed network
 - Fiber optics
 4. Issues Facing Rural Communities –
 - Historically owned by local telephone company
 - Mostly old copper which was adequate for voice
 - Fiber (more recent) needed for higher bandwidths
 - Long wait in rural areas for fiber deployment. Lower population densities in rural areas are not attractive to service providers.

Minutes

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5. Why Invest in Infrastructure –
 - Economic development without compromising quality of life.
 - Education – Workforce Development – online education
 - Public Health and Tele-medicine applications
 6. Benefits to the Community –
 - Jobs, resident retention
 - Youth will stay
 - Residents have strong investment and interest in the community
 - Seniors can now join in (otherwise cut off)
 - Suitable outsiders who can help sustain community
 7. Benefits – Community-Owned Infrastructure –
 - Open access
 - Various service providers can utilize the same infrastructure
 - Fosters healthy competition
 8. Community Revitalization Steps –
 - Planning and Organizations
 - Education within communities to publicize
 - Electronic Villages disseminate information
 - <http://www.ecorridors.vt.edu> – infrastructure
 - http://www.bev.net/project/digital_library/
- Paul – Cost per mile for fiber optics – nearest hub is Roanoke
 - Matthew – Will check on this figure
 - Next Meeting – July 14, 2003, 5:30 pm, Craig County High School Lab
 - Begin to examine content for the Craig County web site
 - Use the back door to get in – back entrance
 - Adele will put a note on the door

Submitted by,
Michelle Adcock
4-H Extension Agent