



 Chair  Asst. A.G.

Oklahoma Broadband Governing Board Minutes for Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

Harvey Parkway Building, Room 105

301 Northwest 63rd Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73116

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Determination of a Quorum

- Chairman Meek called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., recognized those joining in person and online, and reminded everyone the meeting was being recorded.
- Members present: Mike Bradford, Mike Erhart, Dwight Hughes, Fob Jones, Jim Meek, and Russ Teubner.
- Members not present: Amanda Mullins, Matt Pinnell, and Todd Russ.
- Chair recognized a quorum.

2. Compliance with Open Meeting Act

- Chairman Meek acknowledged Assistant Attorney General Jillian Welch who, with OBO General Counsel Jennifer Walford, provides legal counsel to the Board.
- Chairman Meek reported that the notice of this regular meeting was timely filed with the Oklahoma Secretary of State and that, at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting, the agenda was posted prominently and publicly at the Harvey Parkway Building at 301 NW 63rd Street in Oklahoma City, at the Oklahoma Broadband Office, and on the OBO website.
- AAG Welch confirmed that the Board had complied with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act as it relates to providing notice and publishing and posting the agenda.

3. Office Policy regarding Comments and Questions on Grant Processes

- Chairman Meek recognized OBO General Counsel Jennifer Walford, who stated that the opportunity to make public comments has been provided for each grant process. She advised that all grant-related questions or comments be directed to the relevant email address: for SLFRF, ARPA@broadband.ok.gov; for CPF, CPFquestions@broadband.ok.gov; for BEAD, BEAD@broadband.ok.gov, and for Middle Mile, MiddleMile@broadband.ok.gov.

4. Discussion and Action to Approve Corrected Minutes of the March 25, 2025, Board Regular Meeting

- Chairman Meek stated that copies of the corrected March 25 minutes were distributed earlier to members. He asked for any further additions or corrections. Seeing none, he called for a motion to **Approve the corrected minutes of the regular Board meeting held on March 25, 2025, as presented.**

- Motion by Erhart; second by Teubner.
- Ayes: Bradford, Erhart, Hughes, Jones, Meek, and Teubner. Nays: none. Abstaining: none.
Motion approved.

5. Discussion and Action to Approve Minutes of the April 22, 2025, Board Regular Meeting

- Chairman Meek stated that copies of the April 22 minutes were distributed earlier to members. He asked for any additions or corrections. Seeing none, he called for a motion to **Approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on April 22, 2025, as presented.**
- Motion by Erhart; second by Bradford.
- Ayes: Bradford, Erhart, Hughes, and Meek. Nays: none. Abstaining: Jones and Teubner. Motion approved.

6. Opening Remarks by Chair

- Chairman Meek reported on the recent broadband groundbreaking event in Vera (Tulsa County) which had good media coverage from Tulsa TV stations.

7. Status Report from Oklahoma Broadband Office and Possible Discussion

- OBO Executive Director Mike Sanders gave program updates on:
 - Middle Mile – Expanding middle-mile infrastructure will go a long way in making high-speed internet more accessible and affordable for all Oklahomans. The Board will consider committee funding recommendations today.
 - BEAD – So far, more than 24 companies have qualified to apply for BEAD funding. ISPs must pre-qualify.
 - ARPA SLFRF – 73% of awarded projects have begun construction (Phase 3).
 - ARPA CPF – 3 projects have begun construction (Phase 3).
- OBO requested House Bill 1124, to create separate accounts for CPF funds and SLFRF funds, as required by our federal funders. It passed both the House and the Senate and is now law.
- Last week, OBO sent out the first edition of a newsletter, The Broadband Bulletin. The newsletter will feature updates on events, meetings, groundbreakings, project status, etc.
- No discussion.

8. Planning Update on Grant Programs and Possible Discussion

- OBO Chief Strategic Officer Edyn Rolls reported:
 - A. American Rescue Plan Act – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (ARPA - SLFRF)**
 - OBO has administered \$56,488,342.11 to date. OBO continues to host weekly meetings with ISPs. OBO will offer several webinars in the next few weeks for reporting, draw-down requests, and the close-out process.
 - B. American Rescue Plan Act – Capital Projects Fund (ARPA - CPF)**
 - OBO has administered \$1,810,286.30 to date. OBO uploaded quarterly reporting and CPF projects into Treasury's portal.
 - C. Oklahoma SLFRF Broadband Middle Mile Program**
 - (See agenda item 11.)
 - D. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)**

- Pre-qualification will close on May 19 at 11:59 p.m. All candidate pools will close on May 26 at 11:59 p.m. FAQs are updated regularly.

E. Digital Equity Act (DEA)

- OBO was notified last Friday that program funding will cease and the program will be halted until further notice. OBO has a small amount of administrative funds that will be drawn down and the close-out process will begin. Any remaining balance will be returned to Washington. OBO will keep the Board posted on any Congressional changes that may occur.

9. Discussion and Action on Revised Internal Purchasing Procedures

- Copies of the revised Internal Purchasing Procedures were provided to members earlier.
- Chief Rolls explained the need for the revisions and what they are.
- No discussion.
- Motion to: **Approve the revised Internal Purchasing Procedures, as presented.**
- Motion by Jones; second by Bradford.
- No discussion on the motion.
- Ayes: Bradford, Erhart, Hughes, Jones, Meek, and Teubner. Nays: none. Abstaining: none.
Motion approved.

10. Committee Report(s) with Possible Discussion

A. Grant Review Committee Report

- Chairman Meek asked Mr. Hughes to hold his committee report until the next agenda item.

B. Evaluation and Compensation Committee Report

- Chairman Meek stated he would hold his committee report until the executive session.

11. Discussion and Action to Approve, Provisionally Approve, or Decline Funding of Projects from the American Rescue Plan Act – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (“ARPA-SLFRF”) Middle Mile Program

A. Member Recusals

- OBO General Counsel Jennifer Walford asked if there were any members who have potential conflicts with the list of applicants.
- No recusals.

B. Determination of a Quorum

- Chairman Meek confirmed that 6 members remained present, including himself, and there was still a quorum.

C. Grant Review Committee Report

- Grant Review Committee chair, Mr. Hughes, stated the Board’s Grant Review Committee met in person on May 6 to review the scoring of the Middle Mile program applications according to the scoring criteria adopted by this board on September 26, 2024.
- OBO’s Director of Grant Administration, Beverlee Harbuck, stated that the Middle Mile application was open for two weeks. As of April 11, 2025, the OBO received 72 applications totaling \$224,470,876.25, of which the OBO can award only **\$53,384,048.21**. In other terms, the OBO will be able to award only 24% of all the funding requested for this Middle Mile grant program. 71 of the 72 applications were reviewed for scoring because one submitted application (Resound Networks’ “Marshall-Love-Carter-Murray”) was withdrawn by the

applicant, Resound Networks. The OBO's vendor ran an automated score report for each project that was reviewed by two separate groups of OBO staff to confirm the automated score was accurate and true.

- Mr. Hughes thanked Ms. Harbuck and stated the Grant Review Committee was very pleased to see so many highly competitive projects submitted by our ISPs. He noted that the quality of the submissions meant that, once again, there were more qualified projects than there was funding.

D. Vote on Conditions for Awards

- Motion to: **Establish the following conditions for any projects approved by the board today:**
 - 1) **The first condition is that the total amount of the ARPA Middle Mile grant award shall not exceed the grant amount listed.**
 - 2) **Second, applicants shall account for ARPA Middle Mile grant award funds separately with a federally insured institution.**
 - 3) **Third, while a project has been accepted, applicants are only authorized to request grant funds for costs incurred for eligible expenses for the purposes of completing such project.**
 - 4) **Fourth, prior to and during the construction period, Applicants are required to comply with the requirement of all applicable federal and state statutory provisions, all state, federal and local permitting processes, all applicable ARPA rules, and the OBO ARPA Middle Mile Grant Agreement, Board rules, regulations, and grant policies. The Office Staff is authorized to determine what additional conditions may be necessary to assure compliance with the applicable requirements.**
 - 5) **Finally, the Office's staff is authorized to approve future modifications or additions to the project purposes and uses of approved funds, providing such modifications or additions will not materially or adversely affect the grant award.**
- Motion by Hughes; second by Erhart.
- AAG Welch asked Mr. Hughes if, by "the following projects" he meant those listed in the agenda. Mr. Hughes replied in the affirmative.
- Ayes: Bradford, Erhart, Hughes, Jones, Meek, and Teubner. Nays: none. Abstaining: none. Motion approved.

E. Votes on Projects

- Chairman Meek stated that all voting members of the Board present had been given the opportunity to review the application and scoring materials. He reminded members that the materials were also available to them at the meeting, if they wished to review anything further.
- AAG Welch asked Chairman Meek to confirm that all complete and final project applications would be discussed today. He answered in the affirmative.
- Chairman Meek opened the floor for discussion, asking if any members had questions or discussion about the Grant Review Committee's recommendations. Seeing none, he proceeded on to the motions.

Listed below are the motions on the 71 complete project applications. Project applications were ranked and considered from highest to lowest score. All motions were approved by identical affirmative votes of the 6 out of 9 board members present: Ayes: Bradford, Erhart, Hughes, Jones, Meek, and Teubner. Nays: none. Abstaining: none. (6-0-0)

○ **FULL FUNDING APPROVALS**

- Funding motion 1, by Erhart, to approve an amount not to exceed \$1,280,500.49 for project application number ARPA-XX36, IEC – Naval Reserve to Pawya, by Indian Electric Cooperative Inc. Second by Teubner.
- Funding motion 2, by Jones, to approve an amount not to exceed \$7,051,507.97 for project application number ARPA-XX26, OWTC MM A- Talihina, by Hilliary. Second by Bradford.
- Funding motion 3, by Bradford, to approve an amount not to exceed \$3,463,347.22 for project application number ARPA-XX27, SWOT MM D - Granite, by Hilliary. Second by Jones.
- Funding motion 4, by Bradford, to approve an amount not to exceed \$5,739,439.58 for project application number ARPA-XX28, OWTC MM B -Daisy, by Hilliary. Second by Erhart.
- Funding motion 5, by Jones, to approve an amount not to exceed \$3,085,663.87 for project application number ARPA-XX29, SWOT MM C - Duke South, by Hilliary. Second by Erhart.
- Funding motion 6, by Erhart, to approve an amount not to exceed \$2,958,494.78 for project application number ARPA-XX30, SWOT MM B-Duke North, by Hilliary. Second by Teubner.
- Funding motion 7, by Bradford, to approve an amount not to exceed \$711,389.16 for project application number ARPA-XX37, IEC – Pawya to Pawhuska, by Indian Electric Cooperative Inc. Second by Erhart.
- Funding motion 8, by Erhart, to approve an amount not to exceed \$1,175,999.40 for project application number ARPA-XX66, Asher Middle Mile, by Trace Fiber Networks, LLC. Second by Hughes.
- Funding motion 9, by Jones, to approve an amount not to exceed \$3,454,184.64 for project application number ARPA-XX31, SWOT MM-E Cordell, by Hilliary. Second by Hughes.
- Funding motion 10, by Teubner, to approve an amount not to exceed \$2,716,000.00 for project application number ARPA-XX42, Latimer County Middle-Mile 2025, by Pine Telephone. Second by Erhart.
- Funding motion 11, by Bradford, to approve an amount not to exceed \$6,404,701.52 for project application number ARPA-XX32, SWOT MM A -Burns Flat, by Hilliary. Second by Jones.
- Funding motion 12, by Erhart, to approve an amount not to exceed \$6,078,548.00 for project application number ARPA-XX33, SPC MM B - Alex, by Hilliary. Second by Hughes.
- Funding motion 13, by Erhart, to approve an amount not to exceed \$2,742,452.83 for project application number ARPA-XX67, Garvin & Pontotoc Middle Mile, by Trace Fiber Networks, LLC. Second by Bradford.
- Funding motion 14, by Hughes, to approve an amount not to exceed \$486,115.93 for project application number ARPA-XX38, IEC - Cleveland to Osage Interconnection, by Indian Electric Cooperative Inc. Second by Teubner.
- Funding motion 15, by Teubner, to approve an amount not to exceed \$1,897,037.76 for project application number ARPA-XX39, IEC – Red Rock to Pawnee, by Indian Electric Cooperative Inc. Second by Hughes.
- Funding motion 16, by Bradford, to approve an amount not to exceed \$2,638,846.52 for project application number ARPA-XX34, SPC MM A- Gracemont, by Hilliary. Second by Jones.

- Funding motion 17, by Erhart, **to approve an amount not to exceed \$485,288.37 for project application number ARPA-XX48, Jackson-Harmon, by Resound Networks.** Second by Hughes.
- Funding motion 18, by Hughes, **to approve an amount not to exceed \$637,663.04 for project application number ARPA-XX49, Choctaw West, by Resound Networks.** Second by Teubner.
- **PARTIAL FUNDING APPROVAL** (Because of the limited availability of funds, the Board considered awarding the remaining balance to the next highest-scoring project.)
- Funding motion 19, by Erhart, **to approve an amount not to exceed \$376,867.13 for partial funding of project application number ARPA-XX50, Kay-Osage, by Resound Networks.** Second by Teubner.
- **CONTINGENCY FUNDING APPROVAL** (The projects listed in the table below could be funded, should funding become available. They are ranked by score, highest to lowest and would be funded in that order.)
- Funding motion 20, by Hughes, **to approve the following projects should funding become available.** Second by Teubner.

Appl. #	Project Name	Applicant Name	Amount Requested
ARPA-XX51	Woodward-Harper-Ellis	Resound Networks	\$ 497,288.37
ARPA-XX52	Greer-Kiowa-Washita	Resound Networks	\$ 1,076,339.53
ARPA-XX68	Marshall County Middle Mile	Trace Fiber Networks, LLC.	\$ 2,154,077.48
ARPA-XX69	Johnston-Bryan Middle Mile	Trace Fiber Networks, LLC.	\$ 1,534,736.48
ARPA-XX53	Kay-Noble	Resound Networks	\$ 922,576.74
ARPA-XX54	Custer-Washita-Caddo	Resound Networks	\$ 1,076,339.53
ARPA-XX35	SPC MM C -Stonewall	Hilliary	\$ 3,733,731.68
ARPA-XX25	Creek County Middle Mile	FiberLink LLC	\$ 1,883,609.24
ARPA-XX22	Red Oak to Talihina	Dobson Technologies	\$ 772,335.42
ARPA-XX21	CVEC Fiber - Middle Mile	CVEC Fiber, LLC	\$ 1,719,564.00
ARPA-XX55	Grant-Garfield-Kingfisher	Resound Networks	\$ 768,813.95
ARPA-XX56	Bryan-Marshall	Resound Networks	\$ 1,385,250.20
ARPA-XX02	Centranet Shawnee-Stroud-Stillwater	Centranet, LLC	\$ 5,343,428.00
ARPA-XX01	Oklahoma Star Network	Centranet, LLC	\$ 37,871,788.00

ARPA-XX64	HWY32	Terral Telephone Company	\$ 3,369,294.25
ARPA-XX65	Totah - OK SLFRF MM Grant	Totah Communications, Inc.	\$ 1,877,727.00
ARPA-XX47	Middle Mile South	Plains Internet, LLC	\$ 5,633,011.00
ARPA-XX46	Plains Internet	Plains Internet, LLC	\$ 4,562,317.00
ARPA-XX41	Oklahoma Community Anchor Network (OCAN) Middle Mile Expansion	Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education	\$ 29,800,700.00
ARPA-XX40	Middle Mile – MBO Project (“MMMBOP”)	MBO Video LLC	\$ 14,586,343.80
ARPA-XX71	Zayo North Tulsa (segment 1)	Zayo Group LLC	\$ 6,107,257.40
ARPA-XX18	OK Middle Mile - Washington County to Rogers County	Cox Communications	\$ 1,759,624.88
ARPA-XX23	Binger to Hinton Middle Mile IRU	Dobson Technologies	\$ 123,600.00
ARPA-XX72	Zayo South Tulsa (Seg 3)	Zayo Group LLC	\$ 7,884,618.78
ARPA-XX07	Lamont - Hunter	Chisholm Broadband	\$ 224,616.00
ARPA-XX05	Hammon - Leedy	Chisholm Broadband	\$ 561,540.00
ARPA-XX08	Medford - Deer Creek	Chisholm Broadband	\$ 336,924.00
ARPA-XX03	Besie - New Cordel - Rocky	Chisholm Broadband	\$ 336,924.00
ARPA-XX04	Canute - Burns Flats	Chisholm Broadband	\$ 561,540.00
ARPA-XX06	Jet - Nash	Chisholm Broadband	\$ 224,616.00
ARPA-XX43	Pioneer Telephone Cooperative – Bradley/Lindsay Middle Mile	Pioneer Telephone Cooperative	\$ 268,389.00
ARPA-XX57	Caddo-Grady-Canadian	Resound Networks	\$ 884,323.09
ARPA-XX61	McClain-Garvin	Resound Networks	\$ 922,576.74
ARPA-XX60	Craig-Ottawa-Rogers	Resound Networks	\$ 1,076,339.53

ARPA-XX58	Beaver-Texas	Resound Networks	\$ 497,288.37
ARPA-XX59	Comanche-Grady-Stephens	Resound Networks	\$ 1,383,865.11
ARPA-XX62	Logan-Oklahoma-Cleveland	Resound Networks	\$ 3,997,832.54
ARPA-XX12	Thomas - Custer City - Arapaho	Chisholm Broadband	\$ 673,848.00
ARPA-XX09	Choctaw County	Chisholm Broadband	\$ 337,920.00
ARPA-XX10	Latimer County	Chisholm Broadband	\$ 337,920.00
ARPA-XX11	Mangum - Eldorado	Chisholm Broadband	\$ 506,880.00
ARPA-XX24	Bristow to Okmulgee	Dobson Technologies	\$ 195,000.00
ARPA-XX19	OK Middle Mile - Mounds to Okmulgee	Cox Communications	\$ 1,179,849.71
ARPA-XX20	OK Middle Mile - Haskell to Muskogee	Cox Communications	\$ 951,743.67
ARPA-XX44	Pioneer Telephone Cooperative – Cashion/Piedmont Middle Mile	Pioneer Telephone Cooperative	\$ 1,553,053.00
ARPA-XX45	Pioneer Telephone Cooperative – El Reno Middle Mile	Pioneer Telephone Cooperative	\$ 753,938.00
ARPA-XX15	Roger Mills - Taloga	Chisholm Broadband	\$ 506,880.00
ARPA-XX13	Alva - Medford - Tonkawa	Chisholm Broadband	\$ 675,840.00
ARPA-XX14	Coal County	Chisholm Broadband	\$ 337,920.00
ARPA-XX16	Sayre - Elk City	Chisholm Broadband	\$ 658,944.00
ARPA-XX70	Wyandotte Middle Mile	Wyandotte Telephone Company	\$ 12,532,608.00
ARPA-XX17	Data Center Capacity	Chisholm Broadband	\$ 248,160.00

- Chairman Meek announced the conclusion of motions on project funding.
- AAG Welch asked Mr. Hughes to confirm that all complete and final project applications had been voted on. Mr. Hughes replied in the affirmative.

12. Discussion and Action to Convene in Executive Session Pursuant to 25 O.S. 2021, § 307(B)(1), to Discuss the Employment, Performance Evaluation, and Compensation of the Executive Director, Mike Sanders

A. Vote to resolve into executive session

- Motion to: **Enter executive session.**
- Motion by Hughes; second by Bradford.
- No discussion on the motion.
- Ayes: Bradford, Erhart, Hughes, Jones, Meek, and Teubner. Nays: none. Abstaining: none. Motion approved.
- Chairman Meek noted the time was 1:51 p.m. and asked members to adjourn to OBO's small conference room and invited the following non-Board members to join the executive session: Jennifer Walford & Jillian Welch.

B. Vote to return to open session

- Chairman Meek noted the time was 3:33 p.m. and that all members previously in attendance today returned.
- Motion to: **Exit executive session and resume open meeting.**
- Motion by Jones; second by Hughes.
- No discussion on the motion.
- Ayes: Bradford, Erhart, Hughes, Jones, Meek, and Teubner. Nays: none. Abstaining: none. Motion approved.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session

- Chairman Meek stated that no votes were taken in executive session, and no items not listed on the agenda for discussion in executive session were discussed.
- Motion to: **Approve the completed Performance Management Process (PMP) personnel appraisal form for Mike Sanders, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Broadband Office, for the period beginning April 10, 2024.**
- Motion by Jones; second by Teubner.
- No discussion on the motion.
- Ayes: Bradford, Erhart, Hughes, Jones, Meek, and Teubner. Nays: none. Abstaining: none. Motion approved.
- Motion to: **Adjust the annual salary of Mike Sanders, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Broadband Office, to \$208,000 beginning July 1, 2025, pending any administrative paperwork.**
- Motion by Erhart; second by Jones.
- No discussion on the motion.
- Ayes: Bradford, Erhart, Hughes, Jones, Meek, and Teubner. Nays: none. Abstaining: none. Motion approved.

14. New Business (Any matter not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting.) Title 25 Oklahoma Statutes Section 311(A)(10)

- No new business.

15. Next Meeting, Closing Remarks, and Announcements

jm Chair sw Asst. A.G.

- The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, June 10, at 10 a.m. in Room 105 of the Harvey Parkway Building at 301 NW 63rd Street in Oklahoma City.

16. Adjournment

- Chairman Meek adjourned the meeting at 3:38 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Kirk Martin and Natasha Holliday.

Board approved these minutes as presented on June 30, 2025.

Jim Meek
Jim Meek, Chair

Jillian Welch
Jillian Welch, Assistant Attorney General