

Science/Technology/Innovation (STI) Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
July 11, 2012

The Science/Technology/Innovation (STI) Committee meeting was held in the Madison-Jefferson County Extension office conference room at 7:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 11th. Participants were Tom Harrington, Tom Phillips, Ed Handl and guest Keith Kress. The meeting started with approval of the May meeting minutes.

Introductions were made and discussion opened with the current fiber internet request that was pending through NWE. Tom H. read the response letter from Vernan Hogge, NWE IT Manager, disapproving the request for access to new dark fiber lines being installed near the Sunlight Business Park (SBP). The reasons cited included being not related to the scope of the company business, competition with other internet providers and unfair advantage over other communities. Tom H. provided an overview of the SBP and the desire to provide internet redundancy and the idea to link with the Rocky Mountain Super Computing Center (RMSC) in Butte as an important part of the virtual natural resource center and as a marketing tool for companies needing expanded computing capability. Discussion followed and Keith gave an overview of the internet provider company he works for, Little Apple Technologies. He indicated their main focus was residential applications and that they have done some businesses support work.

An update on current Sunlight Business Park activity was provided that included discussions about LGT wind development, construction of an office warehouse building and the Natural Resource Interpretive Center. Tom P. talked about the new radar system at the mine that is being used to monitor ground movement and provides instant real time data and alerts. The system uses about 20MB of internal capacity and he will be research getting a fiber link to the mine. Discussion on the fiber hub in the SBP is in the GSM utility corridor and could be easily extended. Discussed the current status of the Borden Hotel project and that alternative energy will be a key component and involve solar and other sources as feasible. The building will also be a smart building and Keith indicated they could assist with the planning and provide the service if needed. Ed discussed he was recently attended training on heat pump applications and that this has potential for use at the building.

Other items discussed: Discussed the school is being funded for a small wind tower with solar capability and a weather station. Discussion occurred if there is a science club at the school and what it involves. Discussion deferred to next meeting when a school representative would be available.

The meeting was productive and the next meeting will be held in the Extension office conference room Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Harrington