

Science/Technology/Innovation (STI) Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 13, 2013

The Science/Technology/Innovation (STI) Committee meeting was held in the Madison-Jefferson County Extension office conference room at 7:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 13th. Participants were Tom Harrington, Ed Handl, Marcy Lamb, Tom Phillips, Charmaine Weyer, Ted Dodge, Todd Breitenfeldt and Lee Good. The meeting started with approval of the January meeting minutes.

Lee G. discussed the high speed fiber capability in the area and is attempting to establish a link to Boulder. He is in the process of expanding the school capability. He discussed the new FCC frequencies that will help with congestion. He discussed the Ubiquity equipment that is setting a new standard in the industry and the company is a rising star in the internet arena. The data center concept was discussed and a site visit to Billings is still being planned to look at the operation and see what may be needed to get a center in Whitehall. Ed H. discussed the conceptual idea and thought putting together an information sheet with the site/location advantages would help sell the concept. He has also sent an inquiry to a Goggle contact requesting data center development process and is waiting to hear back. Discussed LGT is interested in data center concept as a power provider and is working with internet providers. NWE responded back that they have adequate capacity at this time and are not interested in developing a data center at this time. They also mentioned the dark fiber lines they have in the area are designated for future internal company use.

An update on the status of the Borden Hotel project was provided and that the financing package is still being finalized. The alternative energy piece is being incorporated and the cogeneration component using Capstone turbines is being reviewed as a part of the project. Discussion on cogeneration opportunities followed.

Todd B. discussed wind/solar tower grant through NWE and that the project is being brought on line. He indicated a weather station and web cams will be incorporated. Tom P. mentioned GSM is in the process of replacing their existing security cameras and could donate the older cameras to the school which are in very good shape. He is working on a renewable energy class that will incorporate sustainable living and have some astronomy classes incorporated. He is also proposing a student community service requirement that will consist of 20 hours of volunteer time. He also had students attend the grant hearing on weeds. Marcy L. talked about replacing the school wireless system. She mentioned the school heating system is being replaced and they are currently looking at options. The school is also looking at developing a community room that would be available as a meeting place for local groups.

Other items discussed: Ted D. discussed that the Jefferson River ground study application is moving through the Legislature. The Boulder project is wrapping up and results are expected this spring. The sedimentation and Milfoil weed funding appropriation is also progressing and is estimated at \$1.4M.

The meeting was productive and the next meeting will be held in the Extension office conference room Wednesday, March 13th at 7:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Harrington