



TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT in BROADBAND: IDENTIFYING THE POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS

During the Tribal Nations Broadband Workshop, participants were asked to identify next steps that could be taken to improve broadband connectivity for their communities. The participants were put into three groups and wrote their ideas on flip chart sheets after identifying the topic of concern. The groups were asked to pass them around to other groups, who added more ideas. This process was repeated three times so that everyone could contribute to each topic.

As you can see, each group chose a similar topic. This gives our UW Extension Broadband team a clear indication where the Wisconsin Tribal Nations feel they could use support in the coming years that broadband is a focus.

PARTNERSHIP MODELS

- **Historical:** research existing
 - **Existing/Surrounding Jurisdictions:** Collaborate with nearby jurisdictions to share resources and knowledge.
- **Money:** Secure funding and manage budgets effectively.
- **Human Capacity:** Assess and utilize the skills and workforce available.
- **Time:** Allocate sufficient time for planning and implementation.
- **Skillsets:** Identify and leverage the specific skills needed for the project.
- **Bringing Partnerships by Ability:** Form partnerships based on the strengths and capabilities of each party.
- **Existing Collaborations:** Build on current partnerships and collaborations.
- **Technology Needed:** Determine the technology required for the project.
- **Equipment (Standardizing):** Standardize equipment to ensure compatibility and efficiency.
- **Processes:** Develop and streamline processes for effective collaboration.
- **Pilots:** Conduct pilot projects to test and refine approaches.
- **Sponsorships:** Seek sponsorships to support initiatives.
- **Content specific Support:**
 - **AI for Community:** Use AI to enhance community services.
 - **Education:** Focus on educational initiatives.
 - **Healthcare (Telemedicine):** Implement telemedicine for better healthcare access.
 - **Cultural Preservation:** Ensure that cultural preservation is a priority.
 - **Project Management Software:** Use software to manage projects efficiently.
 - **Training:** Provide training to build necessary skills.

ESTABLISHING AN INTER-TRIBAL ISP

- **Tribal ISP:** Develop a tribal ISP. This will be complex and take time.
- **Consolidating on a Single Tech:** Use unified technology across tribes if possible.
- **Differing Levels of Infrastructure:** Address varying infrastructure levels.
- **Board of Directors - Oversight:** Establish a board for oversight.
- **Maintenance - Cost of Connection:** Plan for maintenance and connection costs.
- **Payout/Investment Structure:** Define the financial structure.
- **Standardize Costs and Fees:** Standardize costs and fees for consistency.

PARTNERSHIPS- IN GENERAL

- **Identify Individual Needs:** Understand the specific needs of each partner.
- **Define Overlap & Shared Needs:** Identify common needs and areas of overlap.
- **Create Communication Committee:** Form a committee to facilitate communication and education.
- **Short Time Frames (Iteration):** Plan for short, iterative time frames.
- **Timing & Pace of Grants:** Align projects with the timing and pace of grant opportunities.
- **Personal Relationships:** Build and maintain strong personal relationships.

Utilize Resources on Hand

- **Tribal Government:** Utilize tribal government resources.
- **GLITC and Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST):** Leverage support from these organizations.
- **WI, MN, MI:** Collaborate with resources from Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan.

Use a Mission-Driven Approach

- Ensure that all efforts are mission-driven and not solely focused on business outcomes.