

ALBEMARLE BROADBAND AUTHORITY
AGENDA

March 27, 2019
County Office Building
5:00 P.M., Room 235, 2ND Floor

1. **Establish Quorum and Call to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Approval of January 23, 2019 Minutes**
4. **Presentation and Discussion: Real Estate Values and Broadband**
 - a. **Guest Speaker: Paul McArtor**
5. **Public Comment**
6. **Old Business**
 - a. Recap FOIA, Policy, and Procedural Work
 - b. Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) Update
7. **New Business**
 - a. Welcome our newest member: Waldo Jaquith
 - b. USDA ReConnect Grant and Loan Program Overview (attached)
8. **Other Matters**
9. **Adjourn**



ReConnect Engineering Requirements 101

USDA RUS ReConnect Program

1. What is USDA ReConnect? <https://reconnect.usda.gov> is a 3 option funding mechanism for rural broadband projects: 100% Grant | 50% Grant/50% Loan | 100% Loan.
2. What are the due dates? May 31, 2019 | June 21, 2019 | July 12, 2019
3. Does ABBA have time to apply? Yes.
4. Does ABBA require a partner?¹ For the Grant options – probably. For the loan option probably not.
5. Do we know of any interest? No; ABBA, if interested, should talk with ISPs soon.
6. Are there ReConnect eligible areas in Albemarle?¹ Yes, based on the ReConnect Eligibility Map.
7. How are eligible areas defined?
 - a. For a 100% Grant; the proposed funded service area (PFSA) must demonstrate that 100% of the households do not have sufficient access to broadband defined at 10/1
 - b. For a 50% Grant/50% Loan, the PFSA must demonstrate that 90% of the households do not have sufficient access to broadband defined at 10/1
 - c. For a 100% Loan, the PFSA must demonstrate that 90% of the households do not have sufficient access to broadband defined at 10/1
8. How are the PFSAs validated? USDA Staff will visit PFSAs and validate.
9. What is the minimum speed for projects? 25/3; though higher speeds receive more “points”.
10. Are there ABBA funding requirements? Yes, each application must include a design certified by a professional engineer. The Grant application requires a 25% match.
11. Are there limitations on the size of the PFSA?¹ Not certain.

¹ ABBA requested a meeting with our USDA Regional Rep to discuss items 4., 6., and 11.