

Welcome to Broadband 101



*Thanks to Sara Nichols,
Erica Anderson & Land of
Sky Team*



Remember this technology?

Sara gave
me three
tasks!

Welcome

Importance of endeavor

West Next Generation
Network



So -



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Importance: Things you already know!

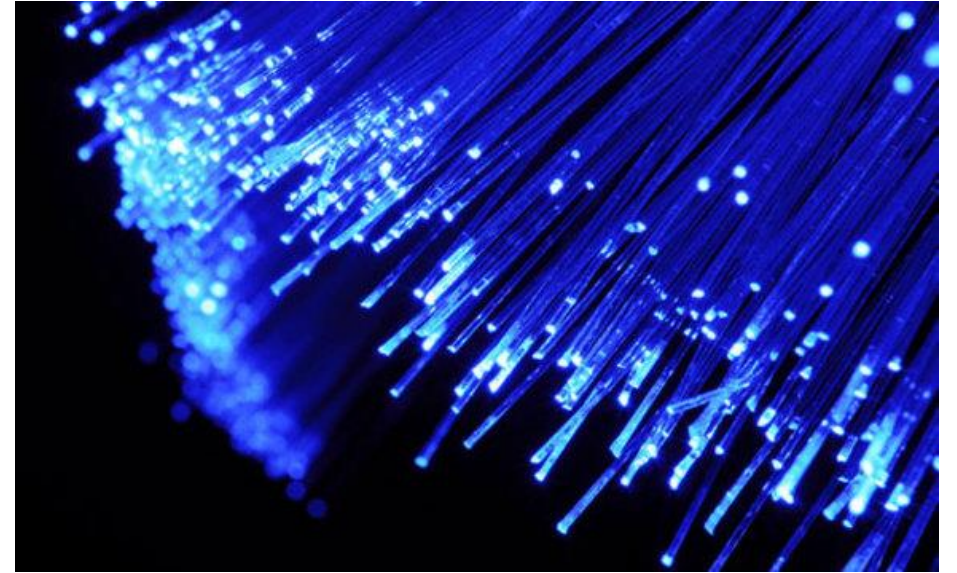
- Access to high speed broadband is essential to the future of Western North Carolina!
 - Telemedicine
 - Education
 - Commerce
 - Tourism
 - Governmental services
- Gigabit speeds are needed
 - 100 Mbps by 2020 (National plan)
 - 1 Gigabit by 2030



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Importance: Things you already know!

- Fiber is essential for every part of Western North Carolina!
 - Fiber is reliable and long lasting
 - Area does not want separation of haves and have nots
 - 5 G wireless requires fiber backbone
 - Cells within 100s of feet to fiber



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Importance: Things you already know!

- Solutions require public/private partnerships
 - Current approach treats broadband as a private, not public good
 - Government limits governments providing service
 - Critical need for data and selling of potential markets for private firms



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Our approach has been to build upon the work of the NC Next Generation Network organization



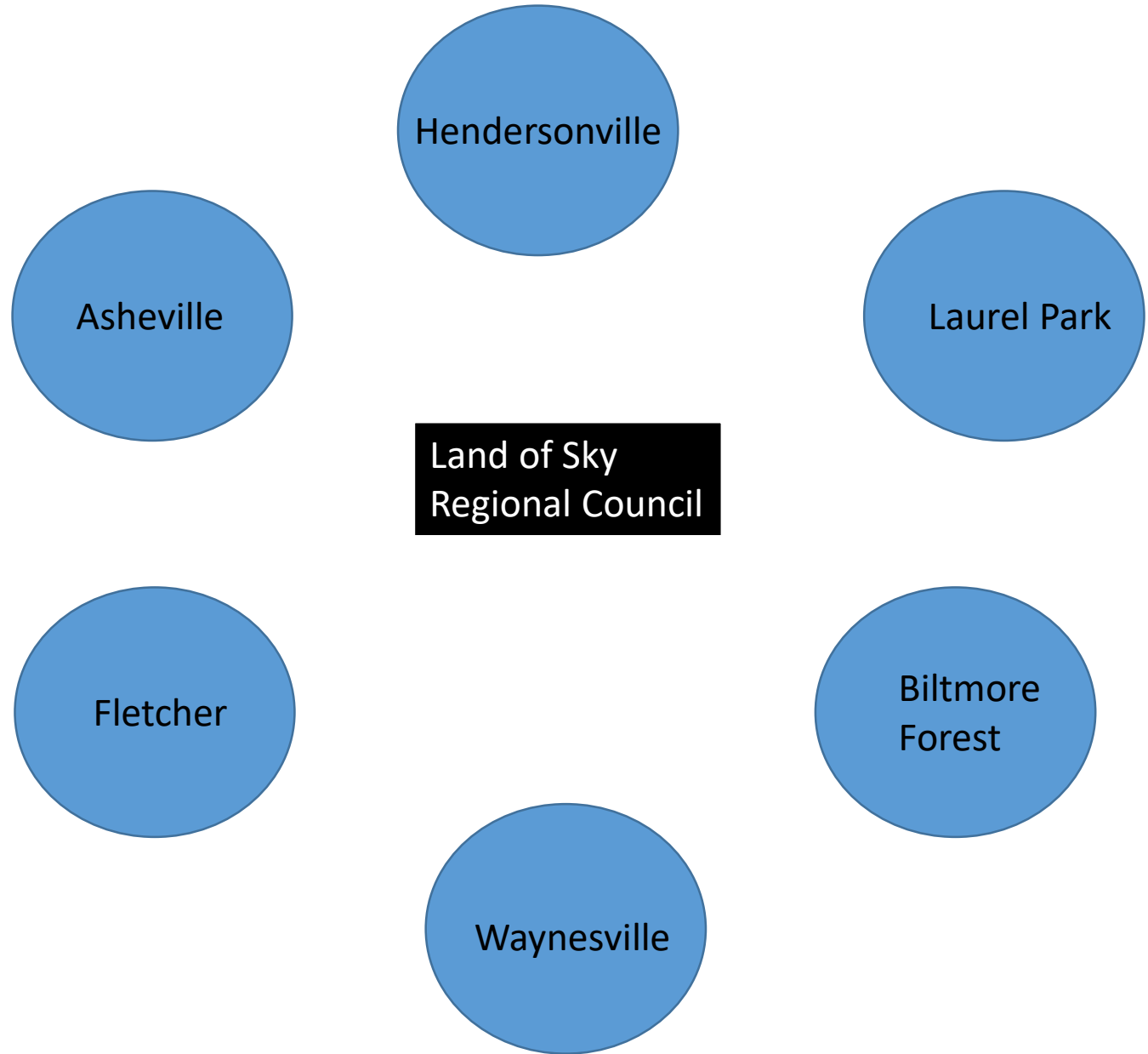
My one good picture is back!

WNGN - Two Phases



- Phase 1 – Urban areas along fiber networks with available “dark fiber”
 - Asheville, Waynesville, Hendersonville, Fletcher, Laurel Park & Biltmore Forest
 - RiverStreet and Hotwire selected from RFN

Six communities
created West
Next Generation
Network
(WNGN)



Along fiber optic backbone!

Phase One Update

- Public hearings in four cities with RiverStreet
 - Hendersonville, Fletcher, Laurel Park & Biltmore Forest
- Working on getting public feedback about market potential
- Asheville – conversations with new city manager
- Waynesville – potentially inviting RiverStreet to analyze market



Laurel Park Public Hearing – Dec. 2018

WNGN - Two Phases



- Phase 2 – Less urban areas in Land of Sky service region (Henderson, Transylvania, Buncombe & Madison Counties)
 - Planning grant from Appalachian Region Commission (ARC)
 - Supporting local initiatives
 - Building Inclusive strategy

Phase Two Update

- Vertical Asset Analysis
- Measuring of service availability
- UNCA student project creating an App to assist measurement
- Local planning guidance

More from Sara



Latest Developments

- RiverStreet busy marketing – bests response is Laurel Park (13%) - need 40%
- ERC increasingly active in meeting local needs
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – meetings on July 22
 - 9 AM at LOS & 1:30 in Hendersonville with city managers
- Land of Sky presentations of their study & meeting with providers
- Meeting on July 23 with steering committee to talk about next steps
 - Fall summit with Marc Hoit & state leaders
- GREAT grants may be available for Tier 2 Funding

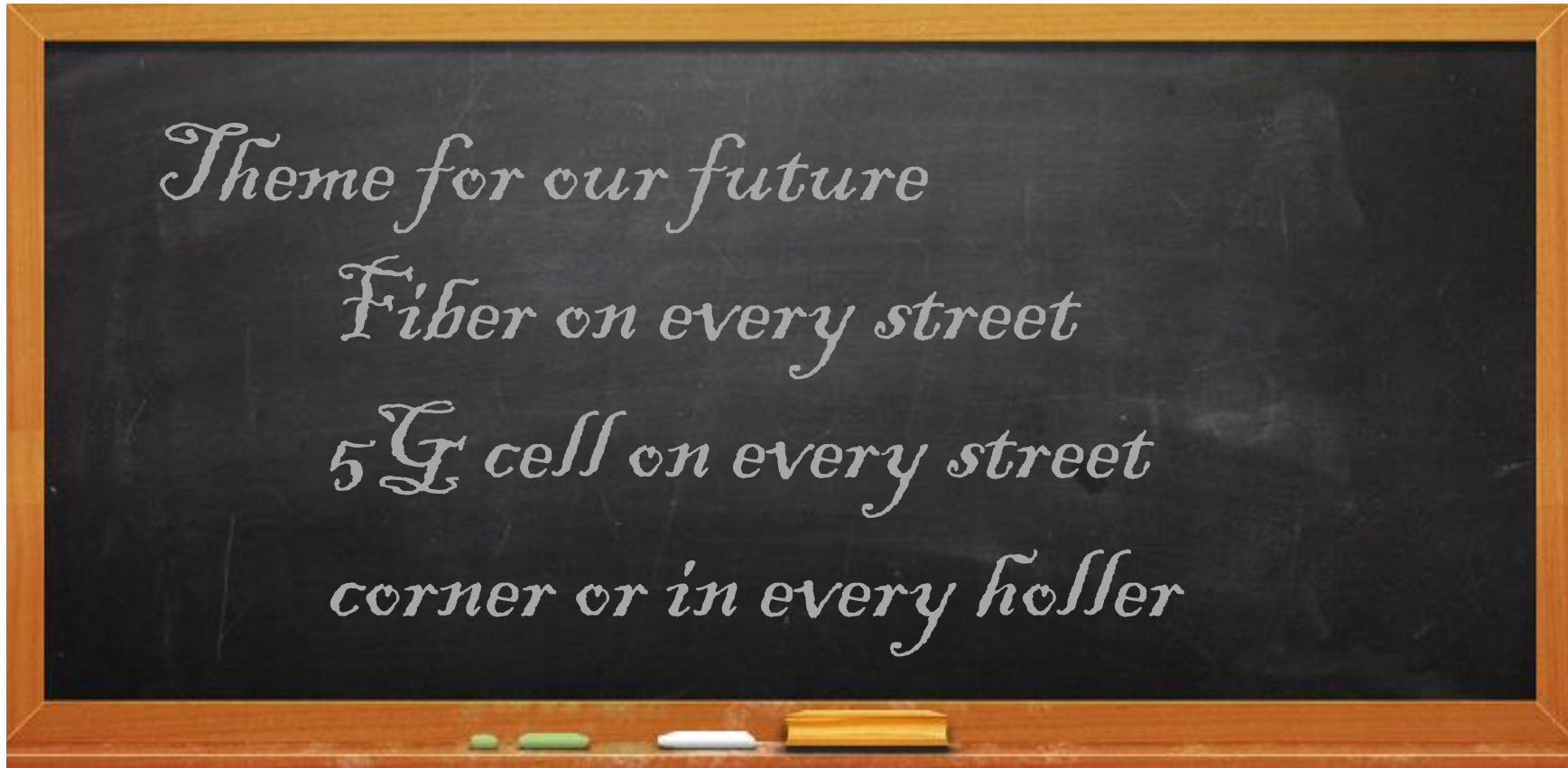
Future requires

Collaboration

Innovative strategies

Money





Allows WNC to be competitive!



Theme provided by Stagg Newman – former chief technologist for the FCC.

*You all get an A! -
Assuming you pay
attention*

