



# UPPER VALLEY LAKE SUNAPEE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Region – Broadband Planning Program

### Broadband Stakeholders' Meeting – Minutes 6/26/2013

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**Staff Present:** Rachel Ruppel and Adam Ricker

**Members of the Public Present:** Bill McGonigle, Jeff Kessler, Steve Bilski, Steve Schneider,  
Bernie Folta and Andre Garron.

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The meeting began at 4:15

Rachel Ruppel started the meeting with introductions and introduced Andre Garron of UNH Cooperative Extension. Andre followed with a presentation that covered the Broadband Training and Technical Assistance that the Cooperative Extension offers. Andre's presentation covered: the uses of broadband, the economic development impact of broadband, sector needs, current availability across the state of NH and the training programs that are currently available through the UNH Cooperative Extension regarding broadband.

The slides from Andre's presentation can be found at <http://www.uvlsrc.org/files/2713/7288/2059/AndreGarronPresentation.pdf> .

Following Andre's presentation, Rachel Ruppel spoke about the Municipal Broadband Map Verification project. Rachel shared maps of each community in our region that were provided by UNH that display the DSL and Cable Broadband Availability Area in each municipality. The data used for the maps is provided by the service providers. The RPC is being tasked with verifying that the data is accurate and making corrections to the data as needed.

The improved data will allow for maps to show exactly where service ends and starts versus the currently available maps which if a single home or business within a census block is served, the entire census block is displayed as having Broadband service. Rachel explained that Census blocks typically have a population of about 400 residents, but that due to the rural nature of much of our region, the census blocks will many times have a much smaller population. Rachel explained that UNH has heard anecdotes where sections of roads do not have service, and this is a more thorough way of seeking local input.

Rachel also asked those BSG members that were present for their help in working this summer to verify the broadband availability data; Rachel will follow up with each town individually.