



## AGENDA

### QLife Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, March 25, 2021 | 12:00 pm

Via Google Hangouts - <https://meet.google.com/ybv-sgae-eki>

- 12:00 Call to Order
- 12:00 Approval of Agenda
- 12:00 **Consent Agenda** (*items of a routine nature: minutes, documents, items previously discussed*)
- **January 28, 2021 Minutes**
- 12:05 **Action Items**
- **Order #21-002 Appointment of Scott Randall to QLife Board**
  - **Election of 2021 QLife Officers**
- 12:15 **Finance**
- **Financial Report, Reconciliation and Analysis** - *Mike Middleton*
- 12:20 **Discussion Items**
- **Downtown Wifi** – *Matthew Klebes*
  - **QLife Vision for Future/Strategic Direction** – *Lee Weinstein*
  - **Aristo Technical Management Report** – *John Amery*
  - **Admin/Project Updates** – *Matthew Klebes, Tyler Stone, John Amery & Dan McNeely*

Old/New Business

Next Board Meeting Date: April 22, 2021 | 12:00 PM

Adjourn

*\*Agenda subject to change*

*\*Executive Session held as needed*

An executive session may, in the discretion of the presiding officer, be called based on one or more of the following: ORS 192.660 (2)(a) Consider employment issues; (2)(e) Real property; (2)(f) Consider exempt records or information; (2)(g) Competitive trade or commerce negotiations; (2)(h) Consult with counsel re litigation; (2)(m)(D) & (E) Discuss information regarding security of telecom systems and data transmission.



## *Consent Agenda*

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- [January 28, 2021 Minutes](#)



## MINUTES

QLife Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, January 28, 2021  
Via Google Hangouts

**Call to Order** President Hege calls the meeting to order at 12:03 PM.

**Roll Call** Scott Hege, Rod Runyon, Dale Lepper, Lee Weinstein, John Amery, Tom McGowan, Keith Mobley, Carrie Pipinich, Joseph Franell, Dan McNeely, Erik Orton, Kristen Campbell, Tyler Stone, Stephanie Krell, Matthew Klebes, and Mike Middleton.

### **Changes to the Agenda**

There are no changes to the agenda.

*[[Mr. Weinstein moves to approve the agenda. President Hege seconds the motion, which passes unanimously.]]*

### **Approval of the Consent Agenda**

There are no changes to the consent agenda.

*[[Mr. Weinstein moves to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Lepper seconds the motion, which passes unanimously.]]*

## **Finance**

### **Financial Report, Analysis and Reconciliation**

Mr. Middleton presents his report to the Board included in the packet. He notes that interest rates are cratering and the Maupin fund has more interest than anticipated because of this. The only expenses from the Maupin fund are from the monthly Wi-Fi contract.

The Operations fund is catching up a \$44,000 delinquent bill and staff are working through that. We are also awaiting payment for the buildout to Water's Edge. When you take out the outliers, the fund is executing at 54%.

President Hege asks about the two invoices for \$87,500 and Mr. Middleton explains that they cover the buildout cost to Water's Edge which was split between two entities. Mr. Lepper adds that he turned in the request for payment.

Mr. Middleton makes note that the header in the December report was not updated from October.

### **Audit Report**

Mr. Middleton informs the Board that the auditors felt that there was no reason to meet to discuss last fiscal year because everything looked good and they were very happy with the audit.

President Hege remarks that the current QLife financial position is more positive than it has been in the past.

Mr. Mobley asks to what extent Maupin was involved in the audit and Mr. Middleton responds that they were not involved in at all because we treat them as a customer and vendor. Mr. Mobley asks for an update on cash flow from the providers in Maupin and Mr. Middleton responds that nothing has come through from them. Mr. Stone adds that we are supposed to be paid quarterly by Gorge Net and annually by LS Networks and directs Mr. Middleton to keep pushing them.

## **Action Items**

### **Order 21-001 Reappointment of Budget Officer**

President Hege refers to the reappointment document in the board packet and asks if there are any thoughts or questions. There are none.

***[[Mr. Weinstein moves to approve Order 21-001 to reappoint Mike Middleton as Budget Officer for fiscal year 2021-2022. Mr. Lepper seconds the motion, which passes unanimously.]]***

### **PUD Pole Attachment Agreement**

Mr. Klebes informs the Board that he has been working with Northern Wasco PUD for the past year on a pole attachment agreement. He notes that as a non-government entity, we are not required to be in such agreement but found that there may be significant benefits. The term is for one year with renewal but includes termination language if the agreement becomes a hindrance. Mr. Klebes is looking for the approval of the Board to sign the agreement.

Mr. McGowan adds that the meetings brought good discussion and understanding of protocols so processing times will be efficient.

President Hege notes that he is glad to see we were able to work through those discussions and draft an agreement. Mr. Stone remarks that he is not in favor of regulation where it does not have to be but sees value in the document. He supports signing the agreement and thinks we should evaluate how well it worked next year.

Mr. Lepper asks for more detail on the cancellation terms and Mr. Klebes clarifies that it is a one-year agreement with year-to-year renewal and 30 days notice to cancel.

***[[Mr. Weinstein moves to approve the Wireline Pole Attachment Agreement between Northern Wasco PUD and QLife. Mr. Lepper seconds the motion, which passes unanimously.]]***

### **Commstructure Work Order #27 Downtown Bypass Project**

Mr. Klebes reminds the Board that they previously authorized a work order for feasibility for a downtown overbuild project to strengthen the downtown corridor and is seeking approval for this new work order for fielding, design and permitting of the project.

President Hege asks if this project is different from the Annex C project and Mr. Klebes confirms that is different but connected. President Hege asks for a status update on the Annex C project and Mr. Klebes informs the Board that North Sky has completed the run to Annex C and the Liberty Street handoff. We are still working on the room build out.

President Hege asks if the downtown bypass project has to do with capacity issues and Mr. Amery explains that the area has the most usage of our network and uses the most capacity. New fiber will be built on our existing network.

Mr. Lepper wonders why there is a planned diversion from 3<sup>rd</sup> Street on the project map and Mr. McNeely explains that the route follows pole lines.

***[[Mr. Weinstein moves to approve Work Order #27 for fielding, design and permitting of the Downtown Bypass Project. Mr. Lepper seconds the motion, which passes unanimously.]]***

### **Discussion Items**

#### **Aristo Management Report**

Mr. Amery updates the Board on the fiber damaged by the City of The Dalles dump truck. New cases have been developed and splicers can now be brought in to repair the damage. He adds that we are waiting to hear back from Ms. Long-Curtiss on her conversation with the city manager.

Mr. Amery updates the Board on the Curtis Homes project and informs them that it is still delayed but hopes that it will be complete next week. It is usable but the final cleanup work remains.

**Administrative Updates**

Mr. Klebes updated the Board on continued work on the Liberty Street project. It is taking longer than anticipated but PLA's and some engineering questions are being addressed by QLife and Blue Mountain Network. Mr. Franell adds that they are anxiously awaiting the backbone extension to be complete so they can begin work on their part. President Hege wonders if we have an estimated completion date and Mr. Klebes responds that he is hoping for movement soon.

Mr. Klebes informs the Board that he has submitted the BRIC sub application from QLife to the state and now the state will submit it to the federal government.

Mr. Klebes has reconnected with the city manager of Maupin to discuss CARES funding as a potential source of the Grey Eagle work.

Mr. Stone adds that he will be discussing potential opportunities for broadband deployment with Google in upcoming meetings.

The meeting is adjourned at 12:57 PM

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is set for February 25, 2021.

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These minutes were approved by the QLife Board on \_\_\_\_\_.

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Lee Weinstein, Secretary



## ***Action Items***

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- [Order 21-002 Appointment of Scott Randall to QLife Board](#)
- Election of 2021 QLife Officers



City Councilor Scott Randall was appointed by City Council to fill vacant Position #3 on May 26, 2020.

Born in Erie, Pennsylvania, and spent early childhood on 4<sup>th</sup> generation family farm. Moved with family to The Dalles in 1967. Graduated from The Dalles High School, class of '78. Enlisted in U.S. Navy and served three years active duty, and six years in Navy Reserves. Bachelor of Arts, (Political Science) Oregon State University, 1989. Served on Senate Staff, Oregon State Legislature before entering private sector as Sales/Service Representative for Cintas Corporation. Worked in Portland and Seattle plants until 1996, when I left the company and returned to The Dalles to work for Aramark Uniform Services.

Scott signed up with the Oregon National Guard in 1998, advancing in rank to Sergeant First Class, assigned to Headquarters as Battle Staff NCO. Placed on active duty in 2004 for deployment to Iraq. Spent one year in Kirkuk, taking part in Operation Iraqi Freedom II. Demobilized in 2006 (retired from National Guard in 2011). After returning to The Dalles, I began a new career with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as Power Plant Mechanic at John Day Dam. My work with USACE included developmental assignments at Headquarters in Washington D.C., Southwest Border District in Phoenix, and at Bonneville Dam. Completed several post-graduate courses in Public Administration.

He is married to Carla Knowland, with three children, four grandsons, and one granddaughter arriving soon. Volunteer as Range Safety Officer at Klickitat County Firearms Training Facility in Dallesport. Interests include history, politics, movies, music and pop culture.



QUALITYLIFE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCY

DBA "QLIFE NETWORK"

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF SCOTT RANDALL AS A QUALITYLIFE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCY CITY BOARD MEMBER

**ORDER #21-002**

NOW ON THIS DAY, the above-entitled matter having come on a regularly scheduled Board meeting for consideration, said day being one duly set in term for the transaction of public business and a majority of the Board of Directors being present; and

IT APPEARING TO THE BOARD: That QualityLife Intergovernmental Agency Bylaws state the Board is to consist of two Wasco County, two City of The Dalles and one at-large appointed members. This appointment is meant to fulfill the the City of The Dalles vacant Board seat; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE BOARD: That Scott Randall, Councilor At-Large, is willing and qualified to accept the appointment of this position; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED: That Scott Randall be and is hereby appointed as the QualityLife Intergovernmental Agency City Board member.

DATED this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

QLIFE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristen Campbell, QLife Legal Counsel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Hege, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rod Runyon, Board Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dale Lepper, Board Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lee Weinstein, Board Member



## *Financial Reports*

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- [February Financial Report](#)
- [January & February Reconciliations](#)
- [February Financial Analysis](#)

# Qlife Monthly Report

## Operations Fund - February 2021

Filters	
Fd	600
Cat	(Multiple Items)

Data						
Account	Current Budget	Current Actual YTD	Prior Year Actual YTD	Current Year Budget Executed	Prior Year Budget Executed	Current FY - Prior FY YTD
<b>Revenue</b>						
Qlife Operations						
Qlife-R						
Qlife-R						
INVESTMENT EARNINGS-R						
INTEREST EARNED	1,200	1,086	1,647	90.5%	173.8%	(561.61)
INVESTMENT EARNINGS-R Total	1,200	1,086	1,647	90.5%	173.8%	(561.61)
MISCELLANEOUS-R						
MISC RECEIPTS	200	1,200	1,200	600.0%	600.0%	-
MISCELLANEOUS-R Total	200	1,200	1,200	600.0%	600.0%	-
CHARGES FOR SERVICES-R						
UTILITY SERVICE CHARGES	667,200	770,855	461,221	115.5%	69.3%	309,633.72
CONNECT CHARGES	1,000	-	-	0.0%	0.0%	-
CHARGES FOR SERVICES-R Total	668,200	770,855	461,221	115.4%	69.2%	309,633.72
PASS-THROUGH PAYMENTS-R						
	-	-	-	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	-
Qlife-R Total	669,600	773,141	464,068	115.5%	69.5%	309,072.11
Qlife-R Total	669,600	773,141	464,068	115.5%	69.5%	309,072.11
Qlife Operations Total	669,600	773,141	464,068	115.5%	69.5%	309,072.11
<b>Revenue Total</b>	<b>669,600</b>	<b>773,141</b>	<b>464,068</b>	<b>115.5%</b>	<b>69.5%</b>	<b>309,072.11</b>
<b>Expense</b>						
Qlife Operations						
Qlife-E						
Qlife-E						
MATERIALS & SERVICES-E						
ADMINISTRATIVE COST	60,431	45,323	29,336	75.0%	50.0%	15,987.75

## Qlife Monthly Report Operations Fund - February 2021

Account	Current Budget	Current Actual YTD	Prior Year Actual YTD	Current	Prior Year	Current FY - Prior FY YTD
				Year Budget Executed	Budget Executed	
ADVERTISING & PROMOTIONS	1,500	-	-	0.0%	0.0%	-
BLDG REPAIR & MAINT	1,600	1,904	226	119.0%	14.1%	1,677.75
CONTR SRVCS - AUDIT CONTRACT	6,500	7,000	6,300	107.7%	150.0%	700.00
CONTR SRVCS - OTHER	15,100	-	6,868	0.0%	45.5%	(6,867.61)
CONTRACTED SERVICES	-	-	-	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	-
DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	2,000	2,064	759	103.2%	25.3%	1,305.08
EQUIPMENT - NON CAPITAL	5,000	-	-	0.0%	0.0%	-
GENERAL GRANTS	2,000	-	-	0.0%	0.0%	-
INSURANCE & BONDS	20,000	18,198	18,237	91.0%	86.8%	(39.02)
LEGAL NOTICES & PUBLISHING	400	-	291	0.0%	72.8%	(291.38)
MEALS LODGING & REGISTRATION	5,000	-	737	0.0%	14.7%	(736.54)
MISC EXPENDITURES	1,000	-	0	0.0%	0.0%	(0.05)
NETWORK COMPONENTS	5,000	-	-	0.0%	0.0%	-
POSTAGE	200	96	91	47.9%	45.6%	4.60
SUPPLIES - OFFICE	200	85	-	42.5%	0.0%	85.00
TAXES/PERMITS/ASSESSMENTS	800	-	579	0.0%	72.4%	(579.32)
TELEPHONE	500	138	278	27.6%	55.6%	(140.18)
TRAINING & EDUCATION	700	-	-	0.0%	0.0%	-
UTILITIES - WALNUT ST	800	411	413	51.4%	51.7%	(2.02)
RENT - OFFICE	7,752	3,876	1,938	50.0%	25.0%	1,938.00
CONTR SRVCS - LEGAL COUNSEL CONTR	6,000	8,545	4,960	142.4%	82.7%	3,585.00
OUTSIDE PLANT MAINTENANCE	20,000	3,122	104	15.6%	0.5%	3,018.09
CONTRACTED SVCS - ENGINEERING	50,000	36,711	23,946	73.4%	47.9%	12,765.12
CONTRACTED SVCS - NETWORK SYSTEM MANAGEMENT	71,000	47,789	26,614	67.3%	37.5%	21,175.82
POLE CONNECTION FEES	12,392	10,032	5,286	81.0%	42.7%	4,745.98
RIGHT OF WAY FEES	20,016	15,321	13,837	76.5%	68.9%	1,484.66
SCHOLARSHIP	2,000	-	-	0.0%	0.0%	-
EASEMENTS - NON-CAPITAL	-	-	-	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	-
<b>MATERIALS &amp; SERVICES-E Total</b>	<b>317,891</b>	<b>200,616</b>	<b>140,799</b>	<b>63.1%</b>	<b>44.6%</b>	<b>59,816.73</b>
<b>CAPITAL OUTLAY-E</b>						
EASEMENTS	-	-	-	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	-
EQUIPMENT - CAPITAL	20,000	-	-	0.0%	0.0%	-
<b>CAPITAL OUTLAY-E Total</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TRANSFERS OUT-E</b>	<b>376,220</b>	<b>250,813</b>	<b>218,013</b>	<b>66.7%</b>	<b>66.7%</b>	<b>32,800.00</b>
<b>Qlife-E Total</b>	<b>714,111</b>	<b>451,429</b>	<b>358,813</b>	<b>63.2%</b>	<b>54.1%</b>	<b>92,616.73</b>

## Qlife Monthly Report Operations Fund - February 2021

Account	Current Budget	Current Actual YTD	Prior Year Actual YTD	Current	Prior Year	Current FY - Prior FY YTD
				Year Budget Executed	Budget Executed	
Qlife-E Total	714,111	451,429	358,813	63.2%	54.1%	92,616.73
Qlife Operations Total	714,111	451,429	358,813	63.2%	54.1%	92,616.73
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>714,111</b>	<b>451,429</b>	<b>358,813</b>	<b>63.2%</b>	<b>54.1%</b>	<b>92,616.73</b>

## Qlife Monthly Report Capital Fund - February 2021

Filters	
Fd	601
Cat	(Multiple Items)

Data							
Account	Current Budget	Current Actual YTD	Prior Year Actual YTD	Current Year Budget Executed	Prior Year Budget Executed	Current FY - Prior FY YTD	
<b>Revenue</b>							
Qlife Capital							
Qlife-R							
Qlife-R							
INVESTMENT EARNINGS-R							
INTEREST EARNED	25,200	7,639	19,329	30.3%	76.7%	(11,690.24)	
INVESTMENT EARNINGS-R Total	25,200	7,639	19,329	30.3%	76.7%	(11,690.24)	
TRANSFERS IN-R							
TRANSFER FROM QLIFE OPERATING FUND	376,220	250,813	218,013	66.7%	66.7%	32,800.00	
TRANSFER FROM QLIFE MAUPIN FUND	50,000	-	-	0.0%	#DIV/0!	-	
TRANSFERS IN-R Total	426,220	250,813	218,013	58.8%	66.7%	32,800.00	
CHARGES FOR SERVICES-R							
CONNECT CHARGES	19,000	49,140	-	258.6%	0.0%	49,140.00	
CHARGES FOR SERVICES-R Total	19,000	49,140	-	258.6%	0.0%	49,140.00	
Qlife-R Total	470,420	307,592	237,343	65.4%	63.9%	70,249.76	
Qlife-R Total	470,420	307,592	237,343	65.4%	63.9%	70,249.76	
Qlife Capital Total	470,420	307,592	237,343	65.4%	63.9%	70,249.76	
<b>Revenue Total</b>	<b>470,420</b>	<b>307,592</b>	<b>237,343</b>	<b>65.4%</b>	<b>63.9%</b>	<b>70,249.76</b>	
<b>Expense</b>							
Qlife Capital							
Qlife-E							
Qlife-E							
MATERIALS & SERVICES-E	-	31,776	-	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	31,775.64	
CAPITAL OUTLAY-E							
BUILDINGS	-	-	-	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	-	

**Qlife Monthly Report**  
**Capital Fund - February 2021**

Account	Current Budget	Current Actual YTD	Prior Year Actual YTD	Current	Prior Year	Current FY - Prior FY YTD
				Year Budget Executed	Budget Executed	
EQUIPMENT - CAPITAL	80,000	-	-	0.0%	0.0%	-
PRIMARY SYSTEMS	878,003	260,734	209,444	29.7%	31.7%	51,289.93
SECONDARY LINE EXTENSION	300,000	1,798	35,221	0.6%	17.6%	(33,423.42)
<b>CAPITAL OUTLAY-E Total</b>	<b>1,258,003</b>	<b>262,531</b>	<b>244,665</b>	<b>20.9%</b>	<b>26.0%</b>	<b>17,866.51</b>
TRANSFERS OUT-E	-	-	-	#DIV/0!	0.0%	-
RESERVE FOR FUTURE EXPENDITURES-E	675,125	-	-	0.0%	0.0%	-
<b>Qlife-E Total</b>	<b>1,933,128</b>	<b>294,307</b>	<b>244,665</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>14.9%</b>	<b>49,642.15</b>
<b>Qlife-E Total</b>	<b>1,933,128</b>	<b>294,307</b>	<b>244,665</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>14.9%</b>	<b>49,642.15</b>
<b>Qlife Capital Total</b>	<b>1,933,128</b>	<b>294,307</b>	<b>244,665</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>14.9%</b>	<b>49,642.15</b>
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>1,933,128</b>	<b>294,307</b>	<b>244,665</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>14.9%</b>	<b>49,642.15</b>

# Qlife Monthly Report

## Maupin Fund - February 2021

Filters	
Fd	602
Cat	(Multiple Items)

Data							
Account	Current Budget	Current Actual YTD	Prior Year Actual YTD	Current Year Budget Executed	Prior Year Budget Executed	Current FY - Prior FY YTD	
<b>Revenue</b>							
Qlife - Maupin							
Qlife-R							
Qlife-R							
INTERGOV'T REV - NON SINGLE AUDIT-R	-	-	-	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	-	
INVESTMENT EARNINGS-R							
INTEREST EARNED	700	758	1,541	108.3%	2567.8%	(782.63)	
INVESTMENT EARNINGS-R Total	700	758	1,541	108.3%	2567.8%	(782.63)	
MISCELLANEOUS-R	-	-	-	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	-	
TRANSFERS IN-R	-	-	-	#DIV/0!	0.0%	-	
CHARGES FOR SERVICES-R							
CITY OF MAUPIN	-	-	144,765	#DIV/0!	100.0%	(144,765.00)	
UTILITY SERVICE CHARGES							
CITY OF MAUPIN FRANCHISE FEES	-	-	-	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	-	
CITY OF MAUPIN - GORGE.NET RECEIPTS	3,360	-	1,335	0.0%	39.7%	(1,334.74)	
CITY OF MAUPIN - LSN RECEIPTS	4,000	-	-	0.0%	0.0%	-	
CHARGES FOR SERVICES-R Total	7,360	-	146,100	0.0%	96.0%	(146,099.74)	
Qlife-R Total	8,060	758	147,640	9.4%	81.0%	(146,882.37)	
Qlife-R Total	8,060	758	147,640	9.4%	81.0%	(146,882.37)	
Qlife - Maupin Total	8,060	758	147,640	9.4%	81.0%	(146,882.37)	
<b>Revenue Total</b>	<b>8,060</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>147,640</b>	<b>9.4%</b>	<b>81.0%</b>	<b>(146,882.37)</b>	
<b>Expense</b>							
Qlife - Maupin							
Qlife-E							
Qlife-E							
MATERIALS & SERVICES-E							

**Qlife Monthly Report  
Maupin Fund - February 2021**

Account	Current Budget	Current Actual YTD	Prior Year Actual YTD	Current Year	Prior Year	Current FY - Prior FY YTD
				Budget Executed	Budget Executed	
ADMINISTRATIVE COST	-	-	-	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	-
INSURANCE & BONDS	-	-	-	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	-
CONTR SRVCS - LEGAL COUNSEL CONTR	2,500	-	72	0.0%	2.9%	(72.00)
CONTRACTED SVCS - ENGINEERING	-	-	-	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	-
POLE CONNECTION FEES	1,050	-	-	0.0%	0.0%	-
CONTRACTED SVCS - WIFI	14,160	10,241	6,240	72.3%	44.1%	4,001.59
BROADBAND SUPPORT	-	-	-	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	-
MATERIALS & SERVICES-E Total	17,710	10,241	6,312	57.8%	35.6%	3,929.59
CAPITAL OUTLAY-E						
EQUIPMENT - CAPITAL	-	-	-	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	-
PRIMARY SYSTEMS	51,000	-	10,605	0.0%	66.3%	(10,605.40)
SECONDARY LINE EXTENSION	-	-	-	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	-
CAPITAL OUTLAY-E Total	51,000	-	10,605	0.0%	66.3%	(10,605.40)
TRANSFERS OUT-E	50,000	-	-	0.0%	#DIV/0!	-
Qlife-E Total	118,710	10,241	16,917	8.6%	50.2%	(6,675.81)
Qlife-E Total	118,710	10,241	16,917	8.6%	50.2%	(6,675.81)
Qlife - Maupin Total	118,710	10,241	16,917	8.6%	50.2%	(6,675.81)
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>118,710</b>	<b>10,241</b>	<b>16,917</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>50.2%</b>	<b>(6,675.81)</b>

**Qlife Monthly Report**  
**Accounts Receivable - February 2021**  
**Accounts Receivable Summary**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Total Receivable</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>30-59 Days</b>	<b>60-89 Days</b>	<b>90-119 Days</b>	<b>Over 120 Days</b>
600	76,675.00	3,985.00	-	3,600.00	-	69,090.00
601	-	-	-	-	-	-
602	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jan-21	262,425.78	10,935.00	94,900.00	87,500.00	5,785.00	63,305.78
Dec-20	326,575.78	257,485.00	-	5,785.00	-	63,305.78
Nov-20	300,805.78	228,675.00	8,825.00	-	44,100.00	19,205.78
Oct-20	93,555.78	30,250.00	-	44,100.00	-	19,205.78
Sep-20	92,770.78	29,465.00	44,100.00	-	-	19,205.78
Aug-20	86,435.78	66,780.00	-	-	450.00	19,205.78
Jul-20	73,415.78	53,760.00	-	450.00	-	19,205.78
Jun-20	27,790.78	8,165.00	-	420.00	-	19,205.78
May-20	31,125.78	8,460.00	420.00	3,040.00	-	19,205.78
Apr-20	37,920.78	8,825.00	6,465.00	3,425.00	-	19,205.78
Mar-20	40,130.78	17,500.00	3,425.00	-	-	19,205.78
Feb-20	36,285.78	17,080.00	-	-	-	19,205.78
Jan-20	29,820.78	10,615.00	-	-	-	19,205.78
Dec-19	29,180.78	9,975.00	-	-	-	19,205.78
Nov-19	26,615.78	7,410.00	-	-	-	19,205.78
Oct-19	30,530.78	11,325.00	-	-	-	19,205.78
Sep-19	23,255.78	4,050.00	-	-	-	19,205.78
Aug-19	47,430.78	28,225.00	-	-	-	19,205.78
Jul-19	44,087.06	24,881.28	-	-	-	19,205.78
Jun-19	153,555.78	134,350.00	-	-	-	19,205.78
May-19	49,540.78	30,335.00	-	-	-	19,205.78
Apr-19	45,445.78	26,240.00	-	-	-	19,205.78
Mar-19	30,495.78	11,290.00	-	-	-	19,205.78
Feb-19	49,520.78	30,315.00	-	-	-	19,205.78
Jan-19	33,980.78	7,575.00	-	-	-	26,405.78
Dec-18	38,445.78	12,040.00	-	-	-	26,405.78
Nov-18	61,291.78	34,740.00	-	146.00	-	26,405.78

### January 2021 Bank Reconciliation

Main Checking Bank						LGIP Account Bank					
		Eden 600	Eden 601	Eden 602	Eden Total		*.11403 Eden 600	Eden 601	Eden 602	Eden	
Beginning Balance	562,156.61	218,916.60	166,280.70	161,175.29	546,372.59	Beginning Balance	1,511,747.64	39,639.50	1,469,302.96	2,805.18	1,511,747.64
Credits						Deposits					
Deposits	122,185.00	122,833.94	31,351.67	-	154,185.61	Debit					
Withdrawals						Dividends/Interest	962.90	120.36	766.47	76.07	962.90
Checks	53,356.77	77,294.00	729.36		78,023.36	Credit					
Other Decreases											
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>630,984.84</b>	<b>264,456.54</b>	<b>196,903.01</b>	<b>161,175.29</b>	<b>622,534.84</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>1,512,710.54</b>	<b>39,759.86</b>	<b>1,470,069.43</b>	<b>2,881.25</b>	<b>1,512,710.54</b>
Deposits in Transit	-					Ending GL	1,512,710.54				
Outstanding Checks	\$8,450.00				-						
<b>Adjusted Balance</b>	<b>622,534.84</b>	<b>264,456.54</b>	<b>196,903.01</b>	<b>161,175.29</b>	<b>622,534.84</b>	LGIP Variance	-	12.5%	79.6%	7.9%	
Variance	-					Mike M 2/22/2021		Interest Allocation Rate			
Mike M 2/22/2021											
Name	Check #		Amount								
Campbell Phillips	5445		\$1,450.00								
Merina & Co	5461		\$7,000.00								
			\$8,450.00								

## February 2021 Bank Reconciliation

Mike M - 4/21/2020

	Main Checking Bank	Eden 600	Eden 601	Eden 602	Eden Total		LGIP Account Bank	*.11403 Eden 600	Eden 601	Eden 602	Eden
Begininng Balance	630,984.84	264,456.54	196,903.01	161,175.29	622,534.84		1,512,710.54	39,759.86	1,470,069.43	2,881.25	1,512,710.54
Credits											
Deposits	243,785.00	243,785.00	31,351.67	-	275,136.67	Debit	870.32	123.59	679.72	67.01	870.32
Withdrawals											
Checks	13,139.39	48,447.32	875.77	-	49,323.09	Credit					
Ending Balance	861,630.45	459,794.22	227,378.91	161,175.29	848,348.42		1,513,580.86	39,883.45	1,470,749.15	2,948.26	1,513,580.86
Deposits in Transit	-										
Outstanding Checks	\$13,282.03				-						
Adjusted Balance	848,348.42	459,794.22	227,378.91	161,175.29	848,348.42						
Variance	-										
Mike M 3/22/2021											

Ending Balance	1,513,580.86	39,883.45	1,470,749.15	2,948.26	1,513,580.86
Ending GL	1,513,580.86				
LGIP Variance	-	14.2%	78.1%	7.7%	
Mike M 3/22/2021		Interest Allocation Rate			

Name	Check #	Amount
Cambell Phillips PC	5445	\$1,450.00
Aristo Networks	5465	\$6,471.20
Comstructure	5470	\$4,465.79
Hire Electric	5471	\$648.94
Northern Wasco PUD	5472	246.10
		\$13,282.03

## Qlife – Financial Analysis for February 2021 Financial Statements

The financial statements for through the 8<sup>th</sup> month of the 2021 Fiscal Year (FY21) are presented. The statements are intended for the use of Management and are not audited. The expected straight-line assumption for accounts is 66.7% (8/12). This is a typically a good starting point for analysis.

Due to time constraints, the reporting was not created for January. Due to the reports being year-to-date, the reporting for February is inclusive of the January reporting.

### Operations Fund

Total revenues for the fund are \$773,141. This is a budget execution of 115.5% - which is significantly more than the expected execution rate of 66.7%.

- The first factor causing this is a catchup billing to a customer of \$44,100 for last fiscal year as discussed in the September report. This was a one-time bump in revenue and increases the budget execution by 7%. The catchup billing invoice has not been paid as of 3/23/2021.
- Two (2) invoices for \$87,700 each to two different customers splitting the cost of expanding service to Water's Edge. These were billed in November and both have been paid in February 2021.
- In December another customer was billed for a multi-year agreement for \$74,700. This has been paid in February 2021.
- Utility Service Charges is executing at 115.5% with these outliers included. When these four (4) invoices are factored in, the execution rate for Utility Service Charges is 71.4% - still ahead of the expected execution rate.

Utility service charges are executing at 115.5% - when the one-time billings are factored out, the execution is on at 71.4% - still ahead of the expectations.

Accounts receivable has dropped back down to \$76,675. The current portion is \$3,985 The over 120 Days category has grown due to a customer missing an invoice (September was not paid but all since then have been paid.) The catchup billing for \$44,100 is still outstanding.

Interest is down - \$562 – versus last year. This is due to decreasing interest rates at the LGIP. Current rates are 0.60% for LGIP as of December.

Expenditures are executing at 63.2% - under the 66.7% expectation. The cost of contracted services for engineering and network system management are considerably higher than last fiscal year - \$13K & \$21K respectfully – with execution rates of 73.4% and 67.3%.

Legal costs are executing at 142.4% - this is \$3,585 more than last year at this time and \$2,545 more than budgeted.

## **Capital Fund**

Transfers In from the Operation Fund are proceeding as budgeted.

Interest is executing at 30.3% which is \$11,690 less than last fiscal year. As stated in the Operating Fund discussion, the allocation formula has been adjusted. Additionally, interest rates are decreasing which will be a factor in future statements.

Expenses are executing at 15.2%. This is a total of \$294,307 compared to \$244,665 last fiscal year at this time. The total expense was mostly for the Primary System as discussed in prior reports.

## **Maupin Fund**

Revenue for the fund is at 9.4 budget execution. This is due to only receiving interest as revenue. This is \$783.

There should be some receipts later in the year, but not as of yet. The funds outstanding from last fiscal year through Maupin did arrive and are accounted for.

At this point, the only expenses charged to the Maupin fund are for the Contracted Services – WIFI support – which is executing as expected.

While there is a transfer budgeted, it will be done near the end of the year when the trends of the fund can be examined more closely to ensure the fund is not cut short. This will be paid out of the fund balance.

## **Summary**

The year is getting close to 3/4<sup>th</sup> complete. The spending in the Operations fund for contracted services should be watched as this is the only area with a trend developing to watch. The biggest concern at this point is the remaining outstanding outlier invoice as well as Maupin fund revenues.

## **Reconciliations**

Bank reconciliations are completed for January and December are attached. These have been reviewed by the County Administrator and County Treasurer.



## *Discussion Items*

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- [Downtown Wifi](#)
- [QLife Vision for the Future and Strategic Direction](#)
  - [Mission Statement](#)
  - [QLife Network 2002](#)
  - [PR Packet Draft](#)
  - [2013 Broadband Strategic Plan](#)
  - [QLife Network Map](#)
- [Aristo Technical Management Report](#)
- [Admin/Project Updates](#)



QualityLife Intergovernmental Agency

## Who We Are

QualityLife Intergovernmental Agency (QLife) is a collaborative effort of public entities in The Dalles, Oregon, that began in 2002, who created a 17-mile fiber optic loop through the city. The goal is to enhance the region's economic development efforts with a reliable, cost effective, open access link to the Bonneville Power Administration's fiber, which runs through The Dalles.

## **The QLife Network Project**

### Access – to the Columbia River, and to the New Economy.

The work underway to reconnect The Dalles to the Columbia River is obvious to all who pass through the construction zone on the I-84 freeway.

Less conspicuous is work in progress to connect The Dalles to a river that leads to the ocean of information known as the Internet, to the world of electronic commerce, and to the “information economy.”

The Dalles has been a river trade center for centuries. We have enjoyed the benefits of the Columbia, but we lost access to it when the freeway was built.

Access to the information highway and the knowledge economy requires on-ramps, and we have a chance to build a big one. Opposition to this opportunity motivates this attempt to explain it. For readers not familiar with telecommunications technology, the following may be helpful in understanding the issues.

### How Do We Get There?

Fiber optic lines, hair-size bundles of glass sheathed in protective layers and delivered on huge spools, have become the best carrier of bits, the binary off/on signals that become text, pictures, music, data and movies. Digital formats have been created to convey, at very high speeds, information essential to education, medicine, business, and the arts.

Fiber optic lines provide the biggest and best digital access in terms of speed and reliability – the best broadband, preferred by those that work with and understand the alternatives. Broadband is the term used to describe fast access through these “big pipes.” They provide bit transfer rates many times faster than the best dial-up modem, which is about 56 kilobits (56,000 bits) per second.

The Bonneville Power Administration has fiber optic lines on its transmission towers, with more fibers available than it requires for its own use. Knowing that rural economies could be made stronger if fiber was made available, BPA offered it on an “open access” basis. BPA asked for telecommunications providers to take advantage of this opportunity and enter into agreements with them. None of the telephone, cable, or other companies stepped up. An organization of public utility districts in Washington eventually did, created Northwest Open Access Network (NoaNet) and signed an agreement with BPA.

NoaNet then began signing up local entities looking for on-ramps. Under the leadership of the Northern Wasco County People’s Utility District, the QualityLife Intergovernmental Agency was created. Doing business as QLife Network, this entity functions under a board of directors consisting of representatives from the PUD, Wasco County, and the City of The Dalles. Under the QLife/NoaNet agreement, QLife must provide open access, that is, use of the NoaNet fiber to all who will qualify.

### A Change of Plans.

Engineers were hired to design a fiber loop around and through The Dalles that would be the equivalent of water mains, accessible to businesses, schools and homes. QLife asked “last-mile” providers to join with them so it could provide the water mains and be only a “middle-mile” provider. Neither the local telephone or cable provider were interested in this public/private partnership, so it became necessary to seek other alternatives to make this open access on-ramp possible.

The “business plan” was substantially amended by the QLife Network board. Instead of being financed on the basis of contracts with last-mile providers, it would be financed on the basis of contracts with a limited number of customers. The loop would be built in phases, starting where it originates at the BPA/NoaNet Big Eddy fiber connection, known as a Point of Presence, or “POP.” Preconstruction service contracts are being negotiated with customers most in need of broadband.

### A Phased Approach.

The first phase will see spools of fiber being unrolled from the POP to the Mid-Columbia Medical Center, with the costs of that phase being covered by revenues generated under a QLife Network contract with MCMC.

The second phase unrolls from MCMC to Columbia Gorge Community College, to serve the college and its tenants, including the Region Nine Education Service District, which in turn serves the schools of Wasco County. The ESD also serves schools in Hood River County, and is working with another NoaNet affiliate to meet its fiber needs there. Other phases are in negotiation. As the fiber is rolled out, it is expected that other customers will want to sign on, and that it can soon be a “closed loop,” one that provides the important benefits of “redundancy” or “route diversity.”

### Opposition Continues.

Opposition to this fiber optic loop came from some predictable sources and some that were surprises. Opposition is to be expected from companies that have enjoyed exclusive franchises in the community for traditional telephone and cable service. That is, at least initial opposition was expected. When the big pipe is in place, with its access to the world through the Big Eddy/NoaNet POP, those companies may decide to take advantage of the open access the QLife fiber loop will provide.

Open access will help assure competition among last-mile providers, a benefit to existing and future consumers of telecommunications services in our region. We will be helping achieve goals that were trumpeted by leaders in the telecommunications industry and in Congress upon enactment of the federal Telecommunications Act in 1996.

Other opposition has surfaced in litigation filed by one of the QLife partners, the Northern Wasco County People’s Utility District. The litigation is for the purpose of confirming the authority of the PUD board to enter into the intergovernmental agreement and have representation on the QLife board of directors. A local businessman who has been a vocal critic of actions taken by the PUD has entered the litigation to oppose PUD

participation in QLife. A ruling from the local circuit court provided the confirmation the PUD was seeking, but an appeal of that ruling could take 18-24 months and result in the PUD withdrawing from the intergovernmental agency, at least until the appeal has run its course.

Project Ranks High as Economic Development Priority.

This project has been ranked as Wasco County's top economic development priority for three successive years, and has been assigned a high priority for the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District region as well.

A Unique Selling Proposition for Attracting Businesses.

The Big Eddy POP provides a major advantage, in that it is a point on both the Oregon and Washington NoaNet systems, adding route diversity not enjoyed by any other community on either system.

Conclusion.

When this project is completed, we will have competitive broadband services, primarily through private last-mile providers, to meet the needs of existing and future businesses, as well as the needs of education, training and social service providers.

We can look forward to again having access to the Columbia River, and to major broadband access that will allow us to compete in the information economy.

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# Q-Life Network

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# ABOUT

Fiber optic lines, hair-size bundles of glass sheathed in protective layers and delivered on huge spools, have become the best carrier of bits, the binary off/on signals that become text, pictures, music, data and movies. Digital formats have been created to convey, at very high speeds, information essential to education, medicine, business, and the arts.

Fiber optic lines provide the biggest and best digital access in terms of speed and reliability - the best broadband, preferred by those that work with and understand the alternatives. Broadband is the term used to describe fast access through these "big pipes." They provide bit transfer rates many times faster than the best dial-up modem, which is about 56 kilobits (56,000 bits) per second.

QLife is an intergovernmental agency owned by Wasco County and the City of The Dalles. This partnership was successful in creating a seventeen mile fiber loop in the early 2000's.

Since then, QLife has been able to connect many essential services including many MCMC facilities, Columbia Gorge Education Service District, Columbia Gorge Community College, the Deschutes Rim Health Clinic and many City and County facilities. The network has a strong record of supporting access for critical community facilities as well as enhanced connectivity for residents and businesses through provision of backbone fiber connecting areas in The Dalles and South Wasco County.

- BROADBAND
- SAVINGS
- SPEED
- EFFICIENCY





# BENEFITS



## GLOBAL

Q-Life connects the Mid-Columbia region to the world with modern fiber optic telecommunications. Distance is no longer a barrier!

## BUSINESS

Affordable access to Broadband fiber optic network through Certified ISP's brings new resources, cost saving, access to global markets and improves our economy.



## HEALTHCARE

Cost savings, better patient care, access to worldwide medical resources and telemedicine services to rural areas.

## GOVERNMENT

More efficient local government, better service to citizens and improved public safety.

## SCHOOLS

Q-Life reduces costs and provides large bandwidth connections between schools for distance education and new resources for students.



## CITIZENS

Q-Life brings improved access to affordable Broadband. Your local ISP now has more choices for quality connections to Internet.

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# IN THE NEWS

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"The city council, eager for a hi-tech exit from industrial decline, ploughed tax dollars into the local 'Q-Life' broadband network. They built it, and the people came. The Dalles rose to become 'the de facto capital of a whole region devoted to storing our online selves'."

- The Independent

"Initial funding for the [2 Million dollar Maupin] network was secured in 2015 and design, facilitated by QLife Network, began in 2016. Full build-out was completed in early 2019. Today... more than 300 homes and businesses have full access to the network."

- Cision, PR Newswire

"It is clear that when we make wise, targeted infrastructure investments, as we did with the Q-Life fiber optic network, we can produce excellent opportunities for communities throughout Oregon.

- Senator  
Ron Wyden

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# Wasco County and Q/Life Broadband Strategic Plan

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Q/Life

5/1/2013

This planning effort was supported by the State Broadband Data and Development Program and has been funded through an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant administered through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the Oregon Public Utility Commission and the Oregon Business Development Department.

## Wasco County and Q-Life Network Broadband Strategic Plan

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### **Acknowledgements**

Wasco County and Q-Life Network wish to thank the community and business members who participated in this planning effort.

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#### Community Development Sector

Keith Mobley  
Dave Karlson  
Bill Fashing  
Chris Tamarin  
Paul Ferguson  
Dennis Ross  
Scott Mckay  
Linda Griswold  
Scott Anderson  
Maggie Pando  
Nolan Young

#### Organization

QLife Network  
Google  
MCCOG  
Oregon Business Development Department  
Wasco County  
Cityof Maupin Resident  
Mid-Columbia Senior Center  
YouthThink  
Radcomp Technologies  
The Dalles/Wasco County Library  
City of The Dalles

#### Economic Development Sector

Amanda Hoey  
Joan Silver  
Carrie Pipinich  
Andrea Klaas  
  
Mary Kramer  
Mike Canon  
  
Frank J. Kay III  
Jeff Davis  
Mary Merrill  
  
Donella Polehn  
Keith Mobley  
  
Jeff Renard

Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD)  
Wasco County Economic Development Commission  
MCEDD  
Port of The Dalles  
Columbia Gorge Community College, CET and Resident, City of Dufur  
Klickitat County Economic Development  
City of Maupin, Wasco County Economic Development Commission  
Wasco Electric Cooperative  
Columbia Gorge Community College, SBDC  
Polehn Farms Inc, Wasco County Economic Development Commission  
QLife Network  
Wasco County Economic Development Commission,  
The Dalles Chamber of Commerce

**Education & Healthcare Sector**

Brian Ahier	Qlife, Mid-Columbia Medical Center
Laurie Miller	Columbia River Women's Clinic, Gorge Health Connect
C.S. Little	Dufur School District
Gary Peterson	Columbia Gorge ESD
Teri Thalhofer	North Central Public Health District (NCPHD)
Kathi Hall	NCPHD
Dan Spatz	Columbia Gorge Community College (CGCC)
Adam Gietl	CGCC
Coco Yackley	Columbia Gorge Coordinated Care Organization
Brian Goodwin	North Wasco County School District 21
Kelly Keith	Mid-Columbia Center for Living
Molly Rogers	Wasco County Youth Services
Timothy McGlothlin	North Wasco County School District 21
Cody Harman	CGESD
Keith Mobley	QLife
Tom Cunningham	Mid-Columbia Medical Center

**Resources & Utilization Sector**

Scott Hege	Wasco County
Michael Weidman	LS Networks
Lynette Ranney Black	Oregon State Extension Service
Eugene Walters	Juniper Flat RFPD
Seth Reiter	Johnson NETwork
Clinton Johnson	Johnson NETwork
Wilfred Pinfeld	Intel Corp
Dale Clark	PGE
Brian Adams	SawNet
Dan Bubb	Gorge Networks
Dan Wallace	Charter Communication
Eric Hastings	Charter Communication
John Amery	Aristo Networks/QLife
Mary Roehr	Charter Communication
Marian Jackson	Charter Communication
Keith Mobley	QLife Network
Karen Stewart	CenturyLink
Todd Reeves	Mosier WiNet
Herb Watts	Oregon Telco

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# Wasco County & the Q-Life Network Broadband Adoption and Utilization Strategic Plan

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## **Broadband Vision Statement:**

We will leverage current technology planning efforts in our region, the region's broadband infrastructure and our investment in middle-mile fiber plant to enhance our region's economic vitality and quality of life.

## **Broadband Goals:**

- 1. Increase the number of new businesses entering the county and existing business retention and expansion by creating a technically fluent workforce.**
- 2. Through digital literacy campaigns, increase adoption and utilization rates of broadband.**
- 3. Improve health and education outcomes by leveraging tele-health and on-line learning modalities throughout the county.**
- 4. Increase availability of high quality broadband service in ALL Wasco County communities by driving demand through education.**

## **Overview**

Broadband is transforming and expanding our ability to communicate, participate, create, educate, inform and compete. Because of this transformation, access to adequate broadband resources and the ability to fully utilize broadband-associated tools and technologies are determining factors in the economic and civic vitality and of our communities.

Today, high-speed broadband is transforming the landscape of America more rapidly and more pervasively than earlier infrastructure networks. Like railroads and highways, broadband

accelerates the velocity of commerce, reducing the costs of distance. Like electricity, it creates a platform for America's creativity to lead in developing better ways to solve old problems. Like telephony and broadcasting, it expands our ability to communicate, inform and entertain. Broadband is the great infrastructure challenge of the early 21st century. But as with electricity and telephony, ubiquitous connections are means, not ends. It is what those connections enable that matters. Yet there are still critical problems that slow the progress of availability, adoption and utilization of broadband.

According to research cited in the National Broadband Plan published in 2010, nearly 100 million Americans do not have broadband today. Fourteen million Americans do not have access to broadband infrastructure that can support today's and tomorrow's applications. More than 10 million school-age children do not have home access to this primary research tool used by most students for homework. Jobs increasingly require Internet skills; the share of Americans using high-speed Internet at work grew by 50% between 2003 and 2007, and the number of jobs in information and communications technology is growing 50% faster than in other sectors. Yet millions of Americans lack the skills necessary to use the Internet. Electronic health records could alone save more than \$500 billion over 15 years. Much of the electric grid is not connected to broadband, even though a Smart Grid could prevent 360 million metric tons of carbon emissions per year by 2030, equivalent to taking 65 million of today's cars off the road. Online courses can dramatically reduce the time required to learn a subject while greatly increasing course completion rates, yet only 16% of public community colleges—which have seen a surge in enrollment—have high-speed connections comparable to our research universities.

### **The Strategic Planning Process**

In 2012, the Oregon Broadband Advisory Committee (OBAC) and the Oregon Business Development Department selected Wasco County and the Q-Life Network to participate in a broadband strategic planning process focused on identifying goals and strategies to increase broadband adoption and utilization in the community. Wasco County and the Q-Life Network is one of eight Oregon communities participating in the broadband planning process funded under a grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Agency's Broadband Telecommunications Opportunity Program (BTOP)<sup>1</sup>. The county formed four "community sector" groups (Community Development, Education and Healthcare, Economic Development and Resource Utilization) which have met in planning forums to develop the goals and strategies of this broadband adoption plan. This document presents the outcome of this process.

The County and Q-Life worked with the OBDD to develop its strategic planning process, using a planning template developed by OBDD for all eight participating cities. The planning template encourages wide participation from the community in a series of face to face facilitated planning workshops. In January 2013 the County and Q-Life brought individuals from key sectors in the community together in the first series of workshops to explore the following questions:

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<sup>1</sup> The grant is administered by the Oregon Business Development Department

- *Why are broadband inclusion, adoption and utilization important in our communities? What's at stake for the economic, social, educational and healthcare future of our communities?*
- *What parts of our communities are most affected by lack of broadband access, awareness, adoption, and utilization capabilities?*
- *What barriers prevent broadband access, awareness, adoption and utilization?*
- *What community assets and opportunities can be leveraged to overcome barriers?*

A draft report was distributed to all workshop participants in February, and a follow-up plenary planning session was held in March. In the Plenary session, participants reviewed the draft strategies and goals, and focused on identifying and prioritizing key actions. The planning participants identified **shorter term strategies** that would allow the community to achieve **early impacts** in broadband awareness, access and adoption, as well as **longer term strategies** that will improve broadband adoption, support economic development and education and health development goals, enhance the region's businesses, and eliminate digital divide and equity issues.

## Findings

Discussion of the above questions by community members led to the following findings.

### Inequities in broadband access, adoption and utilization

- Broadband and technology fluency are essential to a skilled and productive workforce, a connected citizenry, and equitable opportunity for all.
- Income, age, and lack of availability of broadband service contribute to inequities in broadband adoption and utilization.
- Technology can be an asset, but too often is a barrier for underserved communities that are without broadband access or economically disadvantaged populations who are without devices or the coaching they need to use technology.
- Closing these divides is essential to developing connected and productive citizens and a skilled, digitally-fluent workforce.
- There is a lack of awareness among many in the community of the impact or relevance of broadband in their lives. These may be people with the access and means to adopt broadband but are not motivated now to do so.

### Opportunities for Innovation and Improved Healthcare and Education Outcomes

- New health care and education innovations and opportunities made possible by broadband are emerging in the county. These innovations can improve healthcare and education outcomes and reduce cost.
- All emerging healthcare opportunities are dependent on consumers' awareness and adoption of broadband.
- Lack of technology fluency will inhibit the entry of in-home healthcare programs and to patient access to health information.
- The connection between health and education is an important issue for planners now. New thinking about the healthcare/education nexus is putting the needs of the individual ahead of systems concerns. There is a new understanding of the child health requirements to support learning. As a result, education/healthcare silos (and silos

between school districts and between Pre-K-12 and higher education) are beginning to dismantle.

### **Role of Broadband in Economic Development and Community Vitality**

- Broadband is an essential for 21st century economic development, including small businesses, the developing technology sector, the agriculture sector, teleworkers and the overall vitality of rural communities.
- Utilization skills among small businesses need to increase in order to have access to global markets.
- In order to keep and attract young people to our rural communities we must be able to offer technology-based economic opportunity.
- High capacity broadband service like that envisioned through the publicly funded Q-Life network can enable Wasco County to remain competitive. The fiber optic network established by Q-Life provides a strong foundation for the expansion of broadband access in our community. It has already made it possible to attract major new employers, such as Google.
- There is more to do to meet the goal of bringing robust, high capacity bandwidth to the region. Broadband service is lacking in most areas outside The Dalles, frustrating opportunities to make telework, health care, social services, and extended education opportunities more immediately and readily available.
- It may be possible to leverage existing fiber and other infrastructure resources, including Q-Life, to eliminate the broadband service inequities that plague the rural areas of the County.

### **Discussion of the Four Broadband Strategic Goals**

The planning process produced four strategic goals that address economic development, community development, education and health, and utilization of resources in the community. The goals and associated strategies are discussed below and arrayed on the summary "Conceptual Broadband Strategic Plan" attachment.

#### **Goal One: Increase the number of new businesses entering the county and existing business retention and expansion by creating a technically fluent workforce.**

Adequate, high capacity broadband is essential to businesses large and small, to teleworkers and to the county's important agricultural sector. High quality, high capacity broadband service will enable small businesses to flourish, and attract skilled workers and entrepreneurs to the County. Quality of life is why people choose to live in Wasco County communities but many are prevented from building home businesses or telecommuting due to a perceived lack of broadband service. Service is improving in the region, but broadband needs to be ubiquitously available to optimize economic development. Wireless broadband sufficient for agriculture applications is unavailable. Agricultural uses require a "big/fast mobile pipe" that is "a threshold above the norm."

The region has broadband, cheap power and relatively cheap land. Google took note, and established a large presence in The Dalles. The County invested in the establishment of Q-Life, a fiber optic, high-capacity middle-mile network. Planning participants also want to incentivize Intel, Microsoft, Nike and other large employers to encourage employees would be looking for the quality of life and natural beauty the area has to offer to telecommute from the area. The area is also “home” to many “week-enders” and Portlanders with vacation homes. More of these part-time residents would spend more time (and money) here if broadband service were affordable and available to them.

### **Our Priority Action Agenda:**

1. **Provider collaboration on increasing adoption rates by establishing access ‘hubs’.** “Hubs” are single locations that have high speed broadband connections and that are open to the public. By establishing additional neighborhood access and business hubs, we can extend broadband to rural communities. A “one hub per year” strategy was proposed to create hubs in Maupin, Dufur, and Tygh Valley. It is important to involve broadband providers in the effort to increase adoption by working with them to establish the neighborhood hubs, along with education efforts on broadband benefits and skills.
2. **Recruit and support local entrepreneurs in technology fields to start or expand businesses in the county.** Develop partnerships to increase business awareness of broadband-linked opportunities, to assist with adoption and utilization skills, and to make technology more accessible to small business.
3. **Expand bi-state collaboration within Mid-Columbia Region on broadband training, adoption and rural access initiatives.** The most likely partnerships are between the City of The Dalles and Klickitat County because they are already partnering on major assets such as a regional airport.
4. **Assist fruit growers and other local businesses to adopt broadband-enabled strategies to compete in global markets.** Pilot projects can demonstrate the effectiveness of broadband partnerships. A suggested pilot between Q-Life and Polehn Farms could demonstrate the potential of global marketing.

### **Our Implementation Strategy:**

- Explore partnership opportunities between Wasco, Hood River, and Sherman counties, as well as with organizations like the Gorge Technology Alliance, the Small Business Development Center at Columbia Gorge Community College, our agricultural groups, and the County Library System.
- Create a bi-state Regional Center for Innovation. Work with the states, the Federal Communications Commission and other federal, state and local agencies and companies to participate in better linking our educational institutions, workforce development entities, and local businesses to support development of a technically fluent workforce.
- Work with the Oregon State University Extension, business organizations, WyEast Resource Conservation Development Corp. and BPA on assisting fruit growers and others. There are already efforts to use high technology to report water content in soil and other applications, and there may be natural partnerships to be developed.

**Long Term Strategies:**

- Market the business and quality-of-life benefits of The Dalles and Wasco County as a "connected community" to large employers with a telecommuting workforce. Get CEO's to talk to CEO's to start the business to business conversation.

**Goal Two: Through digital literacy campaigns, increase adoption and utilization rates of broadband.**

There is a very real broadband opportunity divide between The Dalles and adjacent rural areas. Some rural areas have substandard service while others have limited broadband access. Broadband affordability is also a problem, in both rural and more urban Wasco County communities. Affordability and availability are significant issues, especially for economically disadvantaged individuals and families. But participants in this broadband planning process recognized that low adoption rates also indicate lack of public awareness of the benefits of broadband and its growing necessity. Barriers to adoption may include fear of technology, lack of familiarity with computers, concern about security and privacy, non-English speaking, and doubt about the relevance of the Internet. Even those who own computers may lack the skills to use the Internet to find a job, to pay bills, or find a product or service at a low price.

**Our Priority Action Agenda:**

1. **Develop and promote a policy for access to Broadband in the County.** Establish a "broadband access for all" principle, which will guide policy and determine actions that might provide both affordability programs and initiatives to incentivize or subsidize development of rural broadband infrastructure.
2. **Deploy an effective public awareness and outreach campaign that articulates broadband benefits and value proposition.** This outreach can draw on many sources for content, including the library system, community college, university extension and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC).
- **Establish partnerships to provide digital literacy training. Develop a community-based Technology Users Group with the mission of helping others, "neighbor-to-neighbor", with broadband/ technology utilization skills.** Develop agreements with service providers, device retailers, computer support service providers, coffee shops and others to distribute the outreach materials. These materials should include specific information (how to set a password, how to check e-mail, how to use a browser, etc.). Broadband literacy is cultivated by exposure to devices and fast networks. Develop skills centers within libraries, coffee shops, computer labs in schools, "after school" programs, and at other locations to offer access to devices and support for use of broadband technologies.

**Our Implementation Strategy:**

- Spread the philosophy to all organizations that interface with communities. Meals on wheels, senior centers, counseling centers, the Library, Churches and other service organizations can be recruited to assist with creating awareness of digital literacy and its benefits.

- Create a public awareness campaign using multi-media outlets (pamphlets, videos, on-line messages, social media, etc.) that publicizes where broadband access is available, what it costs, and what it can do to improve job skills, education and quality of life.
- Find funding to develop a mobile broadband awareness program (perhaps a “broadband van”) that can visit communities, the homebound, schools and other community. “There is no substitute for one-on-one coaching” to enable the uninitiated to navigate broadband-enabled technologies. “Neighbor to neighbor” coaching is the best means of supporting broadband utilization skills.
- Involve community institutions to teach digital literacy and broadband skills. “Create an army” of mentors, involve families to raise digital skill sets for all generations in the family. Coaching can occur via teens to seniors, business-owner-to-business-owner, middle-school students to parents, and through after-school programs, library efforts or other formally or informally sponsored programs.

### **Goal Three: Improve health and education outcomes by leveraging tele-health and on-line learning modalities throughout the county.**

Broadband is ushering in new modalities of education and health services. Health care services, including monitoring of vital signs, medication management, and face-to-face consultations between patients and doctors will be possible over a broadband link. Seniors won't have to travel to a doctor's office to be monitored. Consultations with major medical centers in other cities will be possible without leaving the local community.

On the education front, students will be able to take courses from educational institutions anywhere in the world over broadband. Virtual schools are developing and educating students today in Oregon, and throughout the country. Distance education is a significant part of the state's “40-40-20” educational goals, and Oregon State University wants to provide on-line courses in partnership with Columbia Gorge Community College.

#### **Our Priority Action Agenda:**

- 1. Establish a policy to get broadband access to every address to support healthcare and education service delivery.** Work with the State, health care providers, insurers and others to actively promote service delivery via broadband.
- 2. Establish a public/private consortium for collaboration and sharing best practices across the education and healthcare sectors.** Involve health care providers, educational institutions and state agencies to work together to address the policy/protocol issues holding back service delivery over broadband. These issues include federal privacy standards, lack of affordable broadband services and user devices, and lack of organizational skills and programs to offer on-line services.
- 3. Initiate a pilot program to test assumptions and develop best practices for using broadband to improve healthcare and/or educational outcomes.** Establish a cross-sector pilot project to demonstrate the health and education benefits of broadband adoption and to advance demand for these services in the County.

#### **Our Implementation Strategy:**

- Involve Gorge Health Connect, Oregon Health Network, MCMC/MCGC, the County, Columbia Gorge Educational Service District, CGCC, Head Start and other service organizations and educational institutions in framing a regional access policy to insure service is available and affordable to all homes and schools.
- Convene Information Technology professionals from all of the agencies mentioned above as well as regional business IT professionals to identify best practices, standards and learning resources that can be put to use in promoting access to broadband.
- Develop demonstration pilot projects including:
  - Access your healthcare information at the school.
  - NORCOR (Juvenile Justice) adoption pilot project.
  - A community education guide for how to access healthcare information.
  - Pilot "loop technology" in public buildings and churches for hearing assistance.

**Goal Four: Increase availability of high quality broadband service in ALL Wasco County communities by driving demand through education.**

As a result of the presence of Q-Life in The Dalles Google constructed a major data center here, bringing new employment opportunities to a community that had suffered the loss of well-paying jobs in the aluminum industry. Q-Life now has a revenue stream that could create a portion of the funding to promote broadband to other parts of our community. There is strategic value in revisiting the Q-Life strategy to build additional partnerships that focus on rural connectivity, rural broadband education, provider partnerships and awareness of the potential of broadband for communities and individuals.

**Our Priority Action Agenda:**

1. **Drive demand for service through education and marketing the impacts and benefits of broadband.** Education is key to "unlocking" latent demand for service, that would help make the business case for extending more capacity and services in rural areas.
2. **Explore partnerships to focus on demand activation and last mile accessibility.** Leverage other infrastructure, such as fiber assets owned by local power companies, telecommunications carriers, and state and federal government, to reduce cost of deployment through smart partnering and incentives.
3. **Explore all possibilities for leveraging existing public and private infrastructure to bridge rural last mile gaps.** The rural access problem is not limited to Wasco County, but exists in all rural areas of Oregon and in many rural areas across the nation.

**Our Implementation Strategy:**

- Develop a statewide policy to address rural broadband equity, and engage with the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council, Oregon Public Broadcasting and Oregon Business Development Department to formulate a statewide strategy to overcome rural broadband disparities.
- Drive "high capacity utilization" by businesses through education about web conferencing, video sharing, use of social media and other "power" uses of the Internet for marketing and business development.
- Market "lifeline" services, such as the \$9.95 low income options offered by carriers through meals-on-wheels or other in-home service delivery organizations.

- Form a cooperative effort between carriers to drive marketing and education on a public-private partnership basis to encourage adoption of broadband throughout the region.

**Long-Term Strategies:**

- Advocate for state or federal level policies or programs which extend rural broadband service. Participate in policy reform efforts focused on incentivizing rural accessibility.
- Partnership or pilot project with OPB, OBAC and OBDD to demonstrate a rural broadband project.

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE**

Leverage current technology planning efforts in our region, the region's broadband infrastructure and our investment in middle-mile fiber plant to enhance our region's economic vitality and quality of life.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

Economic Development	Community Development	Education and Health	Utilization of Resources
<b>GOALS</b>			
<p>1. Increase the number of new businesses entering the county and existing business retention and expansion by creating a technically fluent workforce.</p>	<p>2. Through digital literacy campaigns, increase adoption and utilization rates of broadband.</p>	<p>3. Improve health and education outcomes by leveraging tele-health and on-line learning modalities throughout the county.</p>	<p>4. Increase availability of high quality broadband service in ALL Wasco County communities by driving demand through education.</p>
<b>Strategies &amp; Tactics (strategies in bold are highest priority)</b>			
<p>a. Provider collaboration on increasing adoption rates by establishing access 'hubs'.</p> <p>b. Recruit and support local entrepreneurs in technology fields to start or expand businesses in the county.</p> <p>c. Expand bi-state collaboration within Mid-Columbia Region on broadband training, adoption and rural access initiatives.</p> <p>d. Assist fruit growers and other local businesses to adopt broadband-enabled strategies to compete in global markets.</p> <p>e. Market the business and quality-of-life benefits of The Dalles and Wasco County as a "connected community" to large employers with a telecommuting workforce.</p>	<p>a. Develop and promote policy for access equity in the County.</p> <p>b. Deploy an effective public awareness and outreach campaign that articulates broadband benefits and value.</p> <p>c. Establish partnerships to provide digital literacy training. Develop a community-based Technology Users Group with the mission of helping others, "neighbor-to-neighbor", with broadband/ technology utilization skills.</p> <p>d. Establish means of increasing service and device affordability, e.g. neighborhood hot spots, equipment recycle program and grants or subsidies.</p>	<p>a. Establish a policy to get broadband access to every address to support healthcare and education service delivery.</p> <p>b. Establish a public/private consortium for collaboration and sharing best practices across the education and healthcare sectors.</p> <p>c. Initiate a pilot program to test assumptions and develop best practices for using broadband to improve healthcare and/or educational outcomes.</p>	<p>a. Drive demand for service through education and marketing the impacts and benefits of broadband.</p> <p>b. Explore partnerships to focus on demand activation and last mile accessibility.</p> <p>c. Explore all possibilities for leveraging existing public and private infrastructure to bridge rural last mile gaps.</p> <p>d. Advocate for state or federal level policies or programs which extend rural broadband service. Participate in policy reform efforts focused on incentivizing rural accessibility.</p> <p>e. Partnership or pilot project with OPB, OBAC and OBDD to demonstrate a rural broadband project.</p>



Dallesport

Memaloose Island

Lone Pine Island

The Dalles

Hazeldell Orchards Reservoir

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Google Earth

historical imagery from 1985.

QLife Fiber Network - Maupin



Aristo Networks LLC  
Technical Management Report  
By  
John Amery  
3/23/2021

Items of Interest:

- QLIFE damages.
  - Sorosis Park. A tree fell on the line however did not sever the line. Line was pulled off the utility poles and was a safety hazard.
    - QLIFE had The Fiber Guys in town for another job. We asked them to put the fiber back up on the poles to eliminate the safety hazard.
  - Walnut Street repair (damaged by a dump truck).
    - Northsky splicers were in town splicing another job for QLIFE. We had them splice in the new cases for the repair of this site.
- Path feeding Curtis Homes by Sorosis Park awarded to “The Fiber Guys”
  - Job is pretty much complete. Commstructure has developed a “punch list” of items to complete before QLIFE’s buy-off. The fiber guys expect to complete that list this week.
- Switch at St. Marys is having fan issues. Fan is hot swapable however switch is end of life and new spares are unavailable. QLIFE has a spare switch (with fan) in stock but will be unable to purchase additional fans in the future. We may be able to simply place new fans of the same size into the hot swapable fan tray.
- Patch panels at St. Marys requires some cleanup and a better solution for patching. Environmental elements are impacting the site. Additionally, with the high density of the panels some ports are currently unavailable due to crossing patch cables.