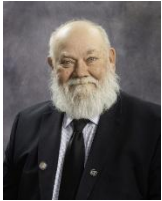


Tuesday, August 18th - All Sessions Garden City Parlor AB

8:30am	Welcome Bridger Mahlum, General Manager, BroadbandMT	
8:45am	 USTelecom Update: A Conversation with Jonathan Spalter Jonathan Spalter, CEO, USTelecom - The Broadband Association Jason Williams, CEO, Blackfoot Communications A leading voice for our industry in Washington, USTelecom convenes broadband and technology innovators to create new opportunities to compete, grow and thrive. Jonathan Spalter will give us a “lay of the land” in a conversation with USTelecom past chair Jason Williams.	
9:30am Keynote	The Trust Advantage: Strengthening Trust with Employees, Teams, and Managers Scott Linklater, CEO, TrustBuilder Specializing in building confidence across teams, TrustBuilder converts research into action for companies to take their culture to the next level. Scott Linklater will help us rethink trust as fuel for collaboration and innovation.	
10:30am	Break – Visit Sponsor Tables	
10:45am	A Word from Senator Daines’ Office Joshua Sizemore, Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Senator Steve Daines Making his eleventh Annual Meeting appearance, Joshua Sizemore joins us with an update on U.S. Senator Steve Daines’ work to advance broadband connectivity in Montana.	
11:15am	Previewing the 2027 Legislative Session Rep. David Bedey (HD 86 - Hamilton) Sen. Denley Loge (SD 45 - St. Regis) Sen. Shane Morigeau (SD 50 - Missoula) Rep. Mark Thane (HD 89 - Missoula)	    The 70th legislative session will be here before we know it! Area legislators are on hand to discuss the top issues when they convene in January.
12:00pm	Annual Awards Luncheon – Garden City Parlor CD	
1:15pm	Polling the 2026 Cycle Erik Iverson, President and Managing Partner, Peak Insights Renowned pollster Erik Iverson will preview the 2026 elections and public opinion trends in Montana, in addition to sharing how polling has evolved in recent years and its future.	
2:00pm	 Navigating the Economic Landscape Sam Kem, Utility Capitol Solutions (formerly NCSC) Armed with the latest macro-level economic data, Sam Kem joins us to connect economic trends to specific challenges for broadband providers and offer insights on how providers can position themselves for resilience and growth.	
2:45pm	Break – Visit Sponsor Tables	
3:00pm	Observations From Shaping and Implementing Broadband Grant Policy Misty Ann Giles, Director, Montana Department of Administration and Chief Operating Officer Reflecting on more than five years at the helm of Montana’s broadband office and experience in prior roles that impact our industry, Misty Ann Giles will discuss where we have been and where we are going as it concerns broadband grants.	

3:30pm	A Conversation on Permitting Three state agency directors and a representative of the Montana Broadband Office will share their insights and initiatives on permitting in Montana, in addition to BEAD's influence on the process.     Chris Dorrington, Director, Montana Department of Transportation Amanda Kaster, Director, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Sonja Nowakowski, Director, Montana Department of Environmental Quality Mitch Hergett, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, CTC Technology & Energy
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Wednesday, August 19th - All Main Sessions Garden City Parlor AB

8:00am	TrustBuilder Trustee Session – Garden City Parlor AB Scott Linklater, CEO, TrustBuilder In this trustee and director-only session, attendees will explore their trust-building strengths and breakers and learn why trust is the foundation of collaboration and decision-making.	BEAD Breakout Session – Glacier Room Mitch Hergett, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, CTC Anthony Curcio, Senior Partner, Summit Attendees will hear from Montana Broadband Office consultants about the latest on the BEAD program and discuss the implementation phase.
9:00am	Peer Group Roundtables Board Directors & Trustees – Garden City Parlor AB CEOs & GMs – Madison Room Supervisors – Jefferson Room	Finance, Accounting, HR, & Customer Service – Gallatin Room Sales & Marketing – Glacier Room Engineering, Technical, & Operations – Yellowstone Room Associate Members / Vendors – Montana Board Room
10:00am	  The Policy and Politics of the USF Jason Hendricks, Chief Government Relations Officer, Range Michelle Owens, Manager of Regulatory Affairs, Blackfoot Communications The Universal Service Fund is under the microscope in all three branches of government. Public affairs and regulatory experts will parse the debate over the future of the USF and how our industry is weighing in.	
10:45am	Break – Visit Sponsor Tables	
11:00am	Telling Your Telco Story Ian Doescher, Managing Editor, Telecompetitor; Director of Media and Story, Pivot In today's competitive landscape, differentiation is more important than ever. Journalist Ian Doescher will share his insights on storytelling as a tool to give rural providers an edge.	
11:45am	Fireside Chat with U.S Senator Tim Sheehy Rob Johnstone, CEO, Range We are honored to feature Senator Sheehy as our closing word for the 2026 Annual Meeting. Pull up a chair for this fireside chat with BroadbandMT board president and Rob Johnstone as they discuss broadband policy and the Senator's key initiatives.	 
12:15pm	Closing Remarks and Rural Education Fund Drawing	
12:45pm	BroadbandMT Board Meeting – Montana Board Room	

Speaker biographies available online: www.broadbandmt.com/annual-meeting

Service Awards – Congratulations!		In Memoriam
Blackfoot Communications Jeffrey Baker - 35 Tom Eggensperger - 30 Butch Friede - 30 Michelle Owens - 30 Eric Schwenk - 30 Brenda Evans - 25 Stuart Morton - 25 Northern Telephone Cooperative Kirby Lohr - 35	3 Rivers Communications Dillon Doane - 25 Carl Nagel - 25 Michelle Gjerde - 25 Triangle Communications Richard Stuker - 40 Sharlyn Bakken - 30 Freida Fleming - 30 Lisa Harris - 30 Jack Maloughney - 25 Life Saver: Kevin Solomon	<u>Blackfoot Communications</u> James “Jim” Blush passed away on June 1, 2026, at the age of 73. He served on Blackfoot's board for more than 20 years. <u>Northern Telephone Cooperative</u> Bradly “Brad” Tomsheck passed away on April 28, 2026, at the age of 67. He served on Northern's board for 30 years. <u>Range</u> Richard “Dick” Craft passed away on June 1, 2026, at the age of 83. He served on Range's board for 40 years.

Board of Directors and Member Companies

President – Rob Johnstone, Range

Vice President – Aimee Dietrich, Northern Telephone Coop.

Secretary/Treasurer – Doran Fluckiger, Southern Montana Telephone

Directors

DJ Bulkley, Hot Springs Telephone

Bryce Daniel, LincTel Communications

Craig Gates, Triangle Communications

Mitch Miller, Siyeh Communications

Jason Moothart, InterBel

Scott Paul, Nemont

Jay Preston, Access Montana

Tim Riley, 3 Rivers Communications

Jason Williams, Blackfoot Communications

Associate Board Member

Zeke Hiott, Calix



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AWARDS LUNCHEON



Save the Date!

2027 Showcase: January 13 – 14: DoubleTree by Hilton, Billings

2027 Annual Meeting: August 23 – 25: Delta Marriott Helena Colonial Hotel