

USDA official visits Holyoke

Written by Chris Lee



USDA Rural Development Deputy Administrator for Rural Utilities Service Jessica Zufolo, pictured in middle, made a visit to Holyoke Wednesday, June 13 to speak with PC Telcom CEO Vince Kropp, at left. PC Telcom was the recipient of broadband funding through the Recovery Act Funds and the USDA Rural Development Broadband Program. Statewide, \$59,558,461 was invested from 2009-2010. Zufolo said the stop was one of many to check in with the borrowers that benefitted from the funds. Also pictured is Teri Baird who is Zufolo's Colorado rep. —Enterprise photo

USDA Rural Development Deputy Administrator for Rural Utilities Service Jessica Zufolo stopped in Holyoke Wednesday, June 13 to speak with PC Telcom employees.

PC Telcom was the recipient of broadband funding through the Recovery Act Funds and the USDA Rural Development Broadband Program back in 2009-10. Zufolo made a swing through Colorado to visit with borrowers that benefitted from the funds.

Zufolo joined business leaders and community members in a roundtable discussion Tuesday, June 12 in Wiggins to gather feedback on how the Obama Administration can advance infrastructure in rural areas and improve rural economic conditions and create jobs.

The roundtable provides government leaders an opportunity to hear directly from business leaders around the country about ideas on how to grow the economy. They also are intended to educate participants about USDA programs and other federal resources that help rural businesses, residents and communities.

The roundtable was hosted by Wiggins Telephone Association, a recipient of a \$4.3 million broadband loan funded in 2010 through USDA under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

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As part of Zufolo's visit to Colorado, she met with two entities that were recently awarded funding through the Rural Development Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Program.

Brush School District RE-2(J) and Northeast Colorado Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) in Haxtun were awarded DLT grants totaling \$557,551 to assist 16 school districts in eastern Colorado with the purchase of distance learning equipment.

In addition to visiting PC Telcom last Wednesday, Zufolo visited N.E. BOCES in Haxtun, Peetz Cooperative Telephone Company and Plains Cooperative Telephone Association.

Zufolo also made a stop at Grainland Cooperative last Wednesday which has worked with PC Telcom to set up a virtual private network. She wanted to speak with a broadband customer to see how funding has helped others.

Holyoke Enterprise June 21, 2012