

AGENDA

Eau Claire County

• Broadband Committee •

Thursday August 29, 2019

12:00 PM

Courthouse - Room #3312
721 Oxford Avenue • Eau Claire, WI

1. Call to order and confirmation of meeting notice
2. Public Comment (limit to 2 minutes per person)
3. Welcome and Introductions – Share background/experience/concerns
 - a. List of committee members attached
4. Brief overview of Robert’s Rule – **Discussion/Action**
 - a. Establish chair of the committee
5. Committee Logistics – **Discussion/Action**
 - a. Establish meeting schedule
 - b. Why are we here
 - i. Eau Claire County Broadband Resolution Review (attached)
 - c. What is the purpose of the Committee and projected outcomes
 - d. Definition of Broadband
 - e. Human Resources Information/Per Diem
6. Marathon County’s experience and plan – Melinda Osterberg via ZOOM at 12:30PM – **Information/Discussion**
7. Future agenda items – **Discussion/Action**
 - a. Goal setting, SWAT analysis, and coverage (map) review
 - b. Chris Straight from WCWRPC
8. Adjourn

Prepared by: Samantha Cole, Administration

Please note: Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through sign language, interpreters or other auxiliary aids. For additional information or to request the service, contact the County ADA Coordinator at 839-4710 (FAX) 839-1669 or (TDD) 839-4735 or by writing to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources Department, Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Ave., Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703.

Broadband Committee

Lynn Thompson – Eau Claire Electric Co-op

Joseph Malual – Extension

Don Mowry – Eau Claire County Board Supervisor

Mark Zuber – Town Clerk: Town of Drammen

Kevin Grokreutz – HSHS

Collin Pomplun – Augusta School District

Sara Lipke – CINC & CESA

Gerald Bauer – JB Systems

Joe Alf – Township Fire

Tim Laubach – Mega Co-op

Scott Hoffman – WIN Technology

Ex-Officio Members

Frank Draxler – Administrative Operations Manager

Rod Eslinger – Director of Planning & Development

Dave Hayden – Director of Information Systems

Committee Clerk

Samantha Cole – Administrative Specialist III (Department of Administration)

FACT SHEET

TO FILE NO. 19-20/020

This resolution creates a special committee to review and develop strategies to expand broadband services in Eau Claire County. Many areas in Eau Claire County are underserved or not served at all with broadband.

The term broadband commonly refers to high-speed Internet access that is always on and faster than the traditional dial-up access. Broadband includes several high-speed transmission technologies such as:

- [Digital Subscriber Line \(DSL\)](#)
- [Cable Modem](#)
- [Fiber](#)
- [Wireless](#)
- [Satellite](#)
- [Broadband over Powerlines \(BPL\)](#)

The broadband technology you choose will depend on a number of factors. These may include whether you are located in an urban or rural area, how broadband Internet access is packaged with other services (such as voice telephone and home entertainment), price, and availability.⁽¹⁾

The Special Committee shall include the following in their review/plan:

- Analysis of Cellular/Broadband coverage within Eau Claire County, including a phased plan to improve coverage Countywide Results from public participation/survey efforts;
- Provider information, their location(s) and details on current service and technologies;
- Industry findings and funding sources;
- Potential project partners;
- Legal and regulatory issues;
- Business and financial modeling in support of network build to include Fiber to the Home (FTTH), Fixed Wireless Broadband, or a Hybrid System;
- Provide ESRI ArcGIS shapefiles or geodatabase created or utilized for the project;
- Final list of recommendations and suggested implementation measures to be employed by Eau Claire County and its municipalities, together with a summary of data collected and relied upon for recommendation.

Fiscal Impact: It is estimated that there will be minimal committee expenditures for per diem and mileage that will be handled through existing committee and commission accounts. General expenditures for conducting necessary studies will be derived from existing budget accounts.

Respectfully Submitted,

(1) Definition retrieved from the Federal Communications Commission on May 30, 2019, <https://www.fcc.gov/general/types-broadband-connections>

4 - CREATING A SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RURAL BROADBAND

5 WHEREAS, currently access to broadband in rural Eau Claire County is limited; and,

6
7 WHEREAS, it is important for all residences to have access to broadband for education,
8 communication, employment, business development, and medical care; and,

9
10 WHEREAS, similar to water and electricity, high capacity internet (“broadband”) is
11 quickly being viewed as a 21st century necessity for communities, businesses and household
12 consumers; and,

13
14 WHEREAS, Eau Claire County desires to act as a catalyst with partner organizations and
15 individuals to improve access to broadband services; and,

16
17 WHEREAS, the Special Committee will identify under-served rural area and gaps in
18 service, identify potential funding resources, identify potential strategies to improve access, and
19 recommend cooperative ventures to improve rural broadband coverage; and,

20
21 WHEREAS, the committee will be comprised of varied stakeholders who represent
22 educational, technical, Extension, and rural partners; and,

23
24 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Eau Claire County Board of
25 Supervisors that a special committee on Rural Broadband be created consisting of 11 members
26 appointed by the county board chair, for a period of up to twelve months or until a final plan is
27 approved; and,

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29 OFFERED BY:

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Committee on Administration

43 Committee on Planning and Development Dated this _____ day of _____, 2019.

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