

## **MINUTES**

Eau Claire County

### **• Broadband Committee •**

Thursday, June 25, 2020

**4:00 P.M.**

Remote Meeting via Webex Events

*Those wishing to make public comments must submit their name and address no later than 30 minutes prior to the meeting to [frank.draxler@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:frank.draxler@co.eau-claire.wi.us). Comments are limited to 3 minutes, you will be called on during the public comment section of the meeting. Written comments will also be accepted and should be submitted to [frank.draxler@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:frank.draxler@co.eau-claire.wi.us).*

#### **Public Access:**

Dial In Number: 1-415-655-0001

Access Code: 929-468-480

***\*mute your personal device upon entry***

Members Present: Lynn Thompson, Donald Mowry, Scott Hoffman, Luke Hanson, Mark Zuber, Collin Pomplun, Joe Alf

Staff: Rodney J. Eslinger – Director of Planning and Development, Dave Hayden – Director of Information Systems

Others Present: John LeBrun

Press: None

1. Call to order and confirmation of meeting notice  
Chairperson Mowry call to order the meeting at 4:01 p.m. and he confirmed that the meeting was properly noticed.
2. Roll Call – Members present noted above.
3. Public Comment (limit to 3 minutes per person)  
None
4. Review/Approval of Committee Minutes from May 21, 2020 – **Discussion/Action**  
The committee reviewed the meeting minutes of May 21<sup>st</sup>. Mark Zuber motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Joe Alf seconded the motion; motion carried on a voice vote with all in favor of the motion.
5. Update on current and future projects – Discussion/Action

Mark Zuber gave the committee an update of the Town of Drammen broadband project. Mr. Zuber indicated that the town advisory survey is complete. The town board set a goal of receiving 75% of surveys from its citizens. At the close of the survey, only 64% of 226 survey were received from the property owners. Of those that submitted surveys 177 supported raising taxes to install fiber in the Town of Drammen. Mark reported that the Town of Drammen Town Board will meet on July 13<sup>th</sup> to vote on whether to support raising taxes to support the installation of fiber in the or not based on the survey results.

Dave Hayden updated the committee regarding work on LTE on several towers in Eau Claire County. This project replaces the WiMAX technology with LTE technology. He noted that this is a public/private partnership with Astera (formerly Packerland). Mr. Hayden indicated that all by one of the county towers have been equipped with the LTE hardware. The antenna arrays went from a three-antenna array to a four-antenna array, which provides better overall services.

Lynn Thompson inquired about whether there has been more demand for these services living within the Astera's service boundaries. Mr. Hayden indicated that there was a higher demand for services in these areas.

6. Funding sources for project match and any new grant funding opportunities - Discussion

Don Mowry updated the committee regarding potential funding sources. He noted that the PSC received the next round of funding for September 1<sup>st</sup> with application deadline later in the year.

Mark Zuber indicated that he had connected with the Mondovi School District regarding the possibly of the school district supporting any grant application.

7. Broadband Survey Update – Discussion/Action

Rod Eslinger updated the committee on the broadband survey results that have been received to date. He presented the updated maps and the comments to the committee. Mr. Eslinger noted that since the last committee update; 46 surveys have been submitted via the online broadband survey.

8. Broadband Committee Vision Statement: Don Mowry – Discussion

Chair Mowry reviewed his proposed Broadband Vision Statement for the committee. The committee had a general discussion on statement and recommended definition for high speed internet would be set at 100 mbps for up and download speeds. The committee also wanted to make sure the statement included business and agricultural operations in addition to those that are unserved or underserved. The statement needs to be “forward looking.”

9. Next Steps and future meetings – Discussion/Action

- a. Next meeting is scheduled for 4 p.m., August 20, 2020

10. Adjourn

**Action:** Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted by,

Rodney J. Eslinger  
Director of Planning and Development