

MINUTES

Eau Claire County

• **Broadband Committee** •

Thursday, October 22, 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 rod.eslinger@co.eau-claire.wi.us.

Public Access: Dial In Number: 1-415-655-0001 Access Code: 145 345 4061

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

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

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

Others Present: Jim Kusilek 24/7 Telcom Inc., Buck Webb TCC, John LeBrun, Travis (call in)

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 June 25, and September 24, 2020 – **Discussion/Action**

The committee reviewed the meeting minutes of June 25th and September 24th. Joe Alf motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Lynn Thompson seconded the motion; motion carried on a voice vote with all in favor of the motion.

5. Update on application to the State's Broadband Connectors Pilot Program – **Discussion**

Chair Mowry and Rod Eslinger updated the committee regarding the State's Broadband Connectors Pilot Program application that was filed with the Public Service Commission (PSC) and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC). It was noted that Eau Claire County was not awarded to participate in the program. Mr. Eslinger stated that there were 96 applications filed with the PSC.

6. Update from 24/7 and TCC PCS Broadband Grant Applications: Buck Webb and Jim Kusilek – **Discussion**

Mr. Webb and Mr. Kusilek updated the committee regarding where they are at in the process in applying for a PSC Broadband grant. They indicated that their respective companies are gathering data and letter of supports for their applications. Both indicated they are on track to file their application the week of November 16th.

7. Review letter of support for 24/7 and TCC PCS Broadband Grant Applications – **Discussion/Action**

The committee reviewed the draft letter of support.

A motion by Lynn Thompson to approve the letter, Mark Zuber seconded the motion; motion carried on a voice vote with all in favor of the motion.

8. Review the "final" Eau Claire County Broadband Committee vision/mission/goals – **Discussion/Action**

Chair Mowry reviewed the updated Broadband Committee Vision Statement.

A motion by Mark Zuber to approve the Broadband Committee Vision Statement, Luke Hanson seconded the motion; motion carried on a voice vote with all in favor of the motion.

9. Resolution extending the length of the Broadband Committee for two-years – **Discussion**

Chair Mowry notified the committee that the Committee on Administration approved extending the Broadband Committee's length of service two years.

10. Town of Brunswick 24/7 expansion project – **Discussion**

Jim Kusilek of 24/7 Telcom informed the committee that it would be making a second PSC Broadband Grant application in the Town of Brunswick. The project consists of approximately 30 residences and provide fiber to the Eau Claire Energy Cooperative site. The Town of Brunswick supports the project. The committee supported providing a letter of support for the project.

11. Next Steps and future meetings – Discussion/Action

- a. Staff to provide letter of support and survey results to 24/7 Telcom and TCC
- b. Future Meeting: November 19, 2020

12. Adjourn

Action: Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:12 p.m.

Respectively submitted by,

Rodney J. Eslinger
Director of Planning and Development