

MINUTES

Eau Claire County

• **Broadband Committee** •

Thursday, September 24, 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. 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 rod.eslinger@co.eau-claire.wi.us

Public Access: Dial In Number: 1-415-655-0001 Access Code: 145 340 5137

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

Members Present: Lynn Thompson, Donald Mowry, Scott Hoffman, Luke Hanson, Mark Zuber

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

Others Present: Bob Nelson

Press: None

1. Call to order and confirmation of meeting notice

Chairperson Mowry call to order the meeting at 4:07 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 26, 2020 – **Discussion/Action**

The committee postponed acting on the meeting minutes from June 26, 2020.

5. Update on current and future projects – Discussion/Action

Town of Drammen Update:

Mark Zuber, Town Clerk, gave the committee an update of the Town of Drammen broadband project. Mr. Zuber indicated 24/7 and TCC are moving forward with two separate PSC applications to build out the fiber network in the Town. Mark confirmed that the town board voted to support raising taxes to help the companies pay for the installation of the fiber in the town.

Wireless Towers:

Dave Hayden updated the committee on the LTE project. This project replaces the WiMAX technology with LTE technology.

Fiber to Substations:

Lynn Thompson indicated the Eau Claire Energy Cooperative is working with 24/7 on a possible PSC grant application to provide fiber to their substation in the Town of Brunswick.

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

Chair Mowry updated the committee regarding potential funding sources.

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.

8. Broadband Committee Vision Statement: Don Mowry – Discussion

Chair Mowry reviewed the updated Broadband Committee Vision Statement. The committee discussed several modifications to the draft and requested the final statement be reviewed at its next meeting for adoption.

9. Opportunity to apply for state level assistance: Don Mowry – Discussion

Chair Mowry shared with the committee that the Public Service Commission (PSC) and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) is offering a new Broadband Connectors Pilot program for Wisconsin communities. The program is to provide guidance and technical assistance to help communities apply for federal, state, and private-sector broadband expansion funds. The committee directed the chair and staff to make application for this opportunity.

10. Next Steps and future meetings – Discussion/Action

- a. Review Resolution in Support of the Drammen/24/7/TCC Broadband Grant
- b. Affirm the extension of the Broadband Committee for another 12 months
- c. Next meeting is scheduled for 4 p.m., October 22, 2020

11. Adjourn

Action: Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:20 p.m.

Respectively submitted by,

Rodney J. Eslinger
Director of Planning and Development