

## **MINUTES**

Eau Claire County

• **Broadband Committee** •

Thursday, November 19, 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](mailto: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, Collin Pomplun

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

Others Present: Tom Lange, John LeBrun

Press: None

1. Call to order and confirmation of meeting notice

Chairperson Mowry call to order the meeting at 4:05 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 October 22, 2020 – **Discussion/Action**

The committee reviewed the meeting minutes of October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Luke Hanson motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Scott Hoffman seconded the motion; motion carried on a voice vote with all in favor of the motion.

5. Letters of Support for the Drammen and Brunswick PSC Application – **Discussion**

Don Mowry and Rod Eslinger presented the letter of support for these projects.

6. Digital Literacy Proposal – **Information/Discussion**

Don Mowry presented the UW-EC digital literacy proposal with the committee and answered questions. This will serve a need in our community and ties into the grant applications.

7. Lake Eau Claire – Astera PSC Application – Discussion

Dave Hayden and Rod Eslinger gave the background of the project. Mr. Hayden indicated that he had communicated with the Astera team. The committee directed staff to draft a letter of support on their behalf. Sara Lipke suggested that the Broadband committee support all broadband expansion projects as it extends broadband service in Eau Claire County and it aligns with the committee's goals. Lynn Thompson motioned to direct staff to prepare a letter of support for the Lake Eau Claire/Astera project, Luke Hanson, seconded the motion: motion was carried on a voice vote with all in favor of the motion.

8. SpaceX Starlink Project – **Discussion/Action**

Dave Hayden and Tom Lange presented on the SpaceX Starlink proposal in Eau Claire County. Dave shared a service map with the committee that showed the area to be covered in rural Augusta. He noted the service costs and indicated that the County would secure the Angela account status. There is a \$25,000 grant available from the WEDC that would cover the costs of the equipment and the remaining fees would be passed along to the subscribers. The pilot project would be limited to 50 users. The anticipated monthly fee is \$99.

Mark Zuber motioned that the committee support the SpaceX Starlink Pilot Project provided the County approves its role as an Angel Account Agency, Luke Hanson seconded the motion; motioned carried on a voice vote with all in favor of the motion.

9. Wisconsin State Telecommunication Association (WSTA) offer – **Discussion/Action**

Rod Eslinger indicated that the County accepted assistance from the Wisconsin State Telecommunication Association offer to partner with a representative to help further our broadband connections.

10. Next Steps and future meetings – **Discussion/Action**

- a. Future Meeting: December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

11. Adjourn

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

Respectively submitted by,

Rodney J. Eslinger  
Director of Planning and Development