

AGENDA
Eau Claire County
Broadband Committee
Thursday, February 18, 2021
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. 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 the e-mail address listed above.

Public Access: Dial in Number: 1-415-655-0001 Access Code: 145 855 8626

**mute your device upon entry*

1. Call to order and confirmation of meeting notice.
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment (limit to 3 minutes per person)
4. Review/Approval of January 21, 2021 Committee Minutes – **Discussion/Action**
5. SpaceX Starlink Pilot Project Update – **Discussion/Action**
 - a. Draft Survey
 - b. Allocations
 - c. Fundraising Update
 - d. WEDC Grant Application Submittal
 - e. Next Steps...
6. Starlink Beta Test – **Discussion/Action**
 - a. Citizen Communication
7. Next Steps and future meetings – **Discussion/Action**
 - a. Future Meeting: March 18, 2021
8. Adjourn

MEETING MINUTES

Eau Claire County

Broadband Committee

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4:00 P.M.

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

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

Others Present: John LeBrun, Bob Nelson, Mel Jahnke, Doug Carlson, Becca Cooke

Press: Ryan Patterson

1. Call to order and confirmation of meeting notice.

Chairperson Mowry call to order the meeting at 4:02 p.m. and he confirmed that the meeting was properly noticed.

2. Roll Call – Members present are noted above.
3. Public Comment (limit to 3 minutes per person)

Doug Carlson, Town of Brunswick citizen, inquired about the SpaceX Starlink pilot project. He asked if the committee had determined how they would measure successes and failures with the pilot project. He also asked about Starlink's future coverage area for the County and whether it was known at this time.

4. Review/Approval of December 17, 2020 Committee Minutes – **Discussion/Action**

The committee reviewed the meeting minutes of December 17, 2020. Scott Hoffman 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. SpaceX Starlink Funding and Participating Sites. – **Discussion/Action**

Dave Hayden presented the background information. He updated the committee regarding the county acting as the Angel account holder for the pilot project. There has been significant movement in raising the appropriate funds for the project, which includes three potential medical partners making contributions toward the pilot. Mr. Hayden introduced Becca Cooke and Mel Jahnke and explained their interests in supporting the project and the funding efforts.

The committee discussed other funding opportunities, such as CVTC and UWEC Foundations, school districts, business and accepting private donations.

Memorandum of Understanding may be necessary with some of the participating donors.

The committee also noted that the selected participants should be notified that they would be responsible for the installation of the equipment and that the system may not be available 100% of the time as noted by the provider.

6. Strategy planning for areas of the County that are unserved or underserved – **Discussion/Action**

The committee discussed planning strategies to explore where they could support broadband expansion in the county (last mile of service solutions) along with identifying future funding sources.

7. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) -Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021-
Information/Discussion

The committee briefly discussed the FCC Appropriations Act. After a short discussion, Mark Zuber motioned for staff to draft a letter in support of the Appropriations Act of 2021, Lynn Thompson seconded the motion, the motion carried on a voice vote with all in favor of the motion.

8. Next Steps and future meetings – Discussion/Action

- a. Future Meeting: February 18, 2021

Adjourn Action: Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 4:49 p.m.

Respectively submitted by,

Rodney J. Eslinger
Director of Planning and Development