AGENDA

Eau Claire County Broadband Committee Thursday, June 16, 2022 4:00 P.M.

Courthouse – Room #3312 721 Oxford Avenue – Eau Claire, WI

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

- 1. Call to order and confirmation of meeting notice.
- 2. Roll Call
- 3. Public Comment (limit to 3 minutes per person)
- 4. Election of the Broadband Committee Chair and Vice Chair **Discussion/Action**
- 5. Appointment of the Broadband Committee Clerk **Discussion/Action**
- 6. Recognition of Don Mowry for his past service as the Broadband Committee Chair Discussion
- 7. Broadband Committee Term (20-21.080) and Membership **Discussion/Action**
- 8. Internet Service Provider (ISP) Updates **Discussion/Action**
 - a. Spectrum/Charter RDOF update
 - b. Mosaic Communications
- 9. Digital Equity/Inclusion "United Way" Resolution/MOU **Discussion/Action**
- 10. Strategy to serve the eastern Eau Claire County **Discussion/Action**
- 11. WI GEO Software **Discussion/Action**
- 12. Verizon 5G project **Discussion**
- 13. SpaceX Starlink Pilot Project Update **Discussion/Action**
- 14. Review/Approval of February 22, 2022, Committee Meeting Minutes **Discussion/Action**
- 15. Next Steps and future meetings **Discussion/Action**
 - a. Future Meeting: July 21, 2022.
- 16. Adjourn



CORPORATION COUNSEL

Timothy J. Sullivan

OFFICE OF CORPORATION COUNSEL

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

721 OXFORD AVE., SUITE 3520 EAU CLAIRE, WI 54703

PH: (715) 839-4836 Fax: (715) 839-6243



ASSISTANT
CORPORATION COUNSEL

Sharon G. McIlquham Richard A. Eaton Charles R. Ellefsen, III

October 5, 2020

FACT SHEET 20-21/080

This resolution extends the existence of the special committee on rural broadband. The committee was originally formed as the result of resolution 19-20/020. The committee was to be in existence for "up to 12 months or until a final plan was approved."

There is a need to extend the existence of the rural broadband committee so they can complete their work of "identifying under-served rural areas, identify funding resources, identify potential strategies to improve access, and to recommend cooperative ventures to improve rural broadband coverage."

Based on the information provided by Supervisor Mowry: as of this time the broadband special committee has developed a vision, mission, and goals/objectives but not a final plan. They have applied for a pilot program to WEDA and the PSC for the Broadband Connectors Pilot Program and their number one goal is to develop a plan to bring broadband access to all of Eau Claire County.

Timothy J. Sullivan Corporation Counsel TJS

APPROVED BY
CORPORATION COUNSEL
AS TO FORM

37 38

37 38

FACT SHEET

TO FILE NO. 19-20/020

This resolution creates a special committee to review and develop strategies to expand broadband services in Eau Claire County. Many areas in Eau Claire County are underserved or not served at all with broadband.

The term broadband commonly refers to high-speed Internet access that is always on and faster than the traditional dial-up access. Broadband includes several high-speed transmission technologies such as:

- Digital Subscriber Line (DSL)
- Cable Modem
- Fiber
- Wireless
- Satellite
- Broadband over Powerlines (BPL)

The broadband technology you choose will depend on a number of factors. These may include whether you are located in an urban or rural area, how broadband Internet access is packaged with other services (such as voice telephone and home entertainment), price, and availability.⁽¹⁾

The Special Committee shall include the following in their review/plan:

- Analysis of Cellular/Broadband coverage within Eau Claire County, including a phased plan to improve coverage Countywide Results from public participation/survey efforts;
- Provider information, their location(s) and details on current service and technologies;
- Industry findings and funding sources;
- Potential project partners;
- Legal and regulatory issues;
- Business and financial modeling in support of network build to include Fiber to the Home (FTTH), Fixed Wireless Broadband, or a Hybrid System;
- Provide ESRI ArcGIS shapefiles or geodatabase created or utilized for the project;
- Final list of recommendations and suggested implementation measures to be employed by Eau Claire County and its municipalities, together with a summary of data collected and relied upon for recommendation.

Fiscal Impact: It is estimated that there will be minimal committee expenditures for per diem and mileage that will be handled through existing committee and commission accounts. General expenditures for conducting necessary studies will be derived from existing budget accounts.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank Draxler - Operations Manager, Adminstration

(1) Definition retrieved from the Federal Communications Commission on May 30, 2019, https://www.fcc.gov/general/types-broadband-connections

CREATING A SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RURAL BROADBAND

WHEREAS, currently access to broadband in rural Eau Claire County is limited; and,

WHEREAS, it is important for all residences to have access to broadband for education, communication, employment, business development, and medical care; and,

WHEREAS, similar to water and electricity, high capacity internet ("broadband") is quickly being viewed as a 21st century necessity for communities, businesses and household consumers; and,

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County desires to act as a catalyst with partner organizations and individuals to improve access to broadband services; and,

WHEREAS, the Special Committee will identify under-served rural area and gaps in service, identify potential funding resources, identify potential strategies to improve access, and recommend cooperative ventures to improve rural broadband coverage; and,

WHEREAS, the committee will be comprised of varied stakeholders who represent educational, technical, Extension, and rural partners; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors that a special committee on Rural Broadband be created consisting of 11 members appointed by the county board chair, for a period of up to twelve months or until a final plan is approved; and,

OFFERED BY: Committee on Administration Dated this ____ day of ______ Committee on Planning and Development Dated this 25th day of June, 2019 CORPORATION COUNSEL Reviewed by Finance Dept. AS TO FORM TJS

for Fiscal Impact

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DIGITAL EQUITY & INCLUSION PROJECT UNITED WAY OF THE GREATER CHIPPEWA VALLEY

& EAU CLAIRE COUNTY

WHEREAS, and because of the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic the use of the internet as a tool for education, business, and personal connectivity has become more important to allow individuals, businesses educational and medical providers to remain connected and continue to provide and receive services. The United States government through the American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") provided funding to local governments to assist their communities with recovering from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds included money that can be used for the development and expansion of highspeed internet services, otherwise known as "Broadband," within those areas that are underserved or that currently lack Broadband services.

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County (hereinafter "County") has created a committee dedicated to the expansion of broadband services into those areas of the county that currently lack or are underserved with Broadband service.

WHEREAS, the United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley (hereinafter "United Way") has an objective of using the principals of equity, diversity, and inclusion "EDI" in the expansion of broadband, including its expansion throughout Eau Claire County.

THEREFORE, the United Way and Eau Claire County through this Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") have committed to work together to develop and expand broadband service throughout Eau Claire County in manner that recognizes and employs the ideas and practices of EDI.

The goal of this MOU is to help bridge the digital divide throughout Eau Claire County, supported by the United Way's connecting with stakeholders in the community to promote digital equity and inclusion via four United Way core strategies:

- 1. **Access:** Ensuring all members of our community have access to affordable reliable broadband internet.
- 2. **Devices:** Meeting the community's needs for digital devices required to be healthy and successful at work, school, and home.
- 3. **Skills:** Equipping our community with the necessary digital skills, literacy, and vocational opportunities to participate and excel in the digital economy.
- 4. **Advocacy:** Using our voice to fight for the digital equity and inclusion of every member of the community.

The collaboration between Eau Claire County and United Way will focus on the following priority populations and organizations:

- *Individuals and Community based organizations in "broadband deserts" or areas of limited broadband connectivity.
- *Under-resourced schools in or near broadband deserts.
- *Households with school aged children.
- *Under-resourced schools or other education-focused community organizations.
- *Persons seeking employment, especially employment requiring moderate to high digital skill and/or other opportunities for "up-skilling."
- *Vulnerable populations, such as those experiencing domestic violence or homelessness.

1. Eau Claire County.

The County will do the following:

- a. Create a subcommittee consisting of members of the current Broadband Committee to work with the United Way on the goal of identifying and advising the United Way on potential individuals or organizations who may benefit from the United Way's digital inclusivity program.
- b. Designate an amount of funding, in an amount to be determined by and approved by the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors through the adoption of the appropriate resolution at a properly noticed meeting of the county board of supervisors, that is designated for use by the United Way in the digital inclusion project specifically for the expansion of broadband services use and knowledge within Eau Claire County.

2. United Way.

The United Way will do the following:

- a. Create a program consisting of employees or volunteers to address the issues of equity diversity and inclusion as it relates to the lack of broadband coverage in areas of Eau Claire County that are currently unserved or underserved by high-speed internet services. The program created by the United Way will have the goals of addressing such issues as:
 - -Access to equipment for those who currently lack equipment to access the internet.
 - -Education. Assisting through education or advice, those individuals or groups that do not have experience accessing internet though a broadband service to allow them to become proficient in the use of the internet.
 - -System Changes. Promote changes where needed to bring the most current technology, infrastructure and equipment to those areas that are currently underserved.

- b. Develop funding sources that allow the digital inclusivity project to become self-sustaining through grants or donations to the program.
- c. Develop a program outline to provide uniform service to those individuals or groups who are served through the Inclusivity project.

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY	UNITED WAY OF THE GREATER CHIPPEWA VALLEY
BY: KATHRYN SCHAUF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR	BY: ANDREW NEBORAK EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Date	Date
EAU CLAIRE COUNTY BROADBAND COMMITTEE	UNITED WAY OF THE GREATER CHIPPEWA VALLEY
BY: , CHAIR	BY: KYLE DARLEY, CHAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Date	Date

FACT SHEET

TO FILE NO. 22-23/028

The goal of the Digital Equity and Inclusion Program and the Memorandum of Understanding between the United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley and Eau Claire County is to bridge the digital divide throughout Eau Claire County, supported by the United Way's connecting with stakeholders in the community to promote digital equity and inclusion based on the four pillars of digital equity and inclusion:

- Access to high-speed internet service
- Access to internet capable devices
- Access to digital literacy training
- Access to quality technical support

The collaboration between Eau Claire County and United Way will focus on the following priority populations and organizations:

- *Individuals and Community based organizations in "broadband deserts" or areas of limited broadband connectivity.
- *Under-resourced schools in or near broadband deserts.
- *Households with school aged children.
- *Under-resourced schools or other education-focused community organizations.
- *Persons seeking employment, especially employment requiring moderate to high digital skill and/or other opportunities for "up-skilling."
- *Vulnerable populations, such as those experiencing domestic violence or homelessness.

The Eau Claire County collaboration will be modelled after the successful Techquity program developed by United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County and using National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA) recommendations and resources for digital equity coalition building.

Fiscal Impact:

To accomplish the goal of digital equity and inclusion, the Broadband Committee will be requesting funding from Eau Claire County through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) or other funding sources over a period two years. Those requests will be:

- Year 1 \$19,656.25
 - The estimate for the first year is \$78,625. We have been awarded a PSC grant that will provide \$58,968.75 of the first-year funding.
- Year 2 \$79,920
- Total request \$99,576.25

The goal of the Digital Equity and Inclusion Program is for the program to be self-sustaining by the end of year 2. The resolution requesting funding from Eau Claire County will be presented to the Eau Claire County Board as a part of a resolution containing other funding requests from the Eau Claire County ARPA funds.

Respectfully submitted:

DESIGNATING AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS TO BE USED BY THE BROADBAND COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF DIGITAL EQUITY AND INCLUSION PROGRAM UNITED WAY OF THE GREATER CHIPPEWA VALLEY AND EAU CLAIRE COUNTY BROADBAND EXPANSION

WHEREAS, with the COVID-19 pandemic the lack of service through Eau Claire County and the need for broadband service in underserved areas has become more apparent as many people in those areas were not able to connect to work, school or healthcare services through the internet; and

WHEREAS, among other things, one of the permitted uses of ARPA funds is investment into Broadband infrastructure, that would help to expansion of broadband services to the rural areas of Eau Claire County; and

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County has already created a Broadband Committee that is charged with the mission of exploring ways to expand broadband services to the residents in rural areas of Eau Claire County that are not currently served by broadband services; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Digital Equity and Inclusion Program and the Memorandum of Understanding between the United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley and Eau Claire County is to bridge the digital divide throughout Eau Claire County, supported by the United Way's connecting with stakeholders in the community to promote digital equity and inclusion based on the four pillars of digital equity and inclusion:

- Access to high-speed internet service
- Access to internet capable devices
- Access to digital literacy training
- Access to quality technical support; and

WHEREAS, the collaboration between Eau Claire County and United Way will focus on the following priority populations and organizations:

- *Individuals and Community based organizations in "broadband deserts" or areas of limited broadband connectivity.
- *Under-resourced schools in or near broadband deserts.
- *Households with school aged children.
- *Under-resourced schools or other education-focused community organizations.
- *Persons seeking employment, especially employment requiring moderate to high digital skill and/or other opportunities for "up-skilling."
- *Vulnerable populations, such as those experiencing domestic violence or homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for the first year of the project is \$78,625. This project has been awarded a PSC grant that will provide \$58,968.75 toward the first-year funding; and

WHEREAS, to accomplish the goal of digital equity and inclusion, the Broadband Committee is requesting funding from Eau Claire County through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and other funding sources over a period two years. The request from Eau Claire County ARPA funding is: • Year 1 - \$19,656.25• Year 2 - \$79.920• Total request – \$99,576.25 THERFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors designates a total of \$99,576.25, consisting of a Year 1 contribution of \$19,656.25 and a Year 2 contribution of \$79,920.00 for a total of \$99,576.25, to be provided for through the American Rescue Plan Act Funds to be used as funding for the Digital Equity and Inclusion Program United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley and Eau Claire County Broadband Expansion project for the expansion of broadband service within Eau Claire County. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the funds shall be administered by the Eau Claire County Broadband Committee consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding between the United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley and Eau Claire County. ADOPTED: **Broadband Committee** Dated this day of June 2022 Committee on Administration

Dated this day of June 2022.

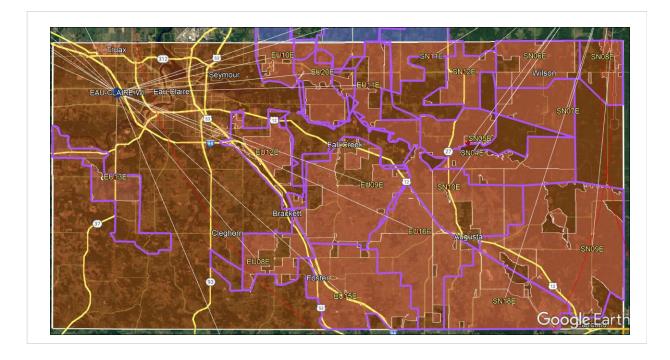
Hill, Mike S Rod Eslinger RE: RDOF update Wednesday, April 6, 2022 11:06:47 AM image001.png image002.png

WARNING!! This email originated outside Eau Claire County. Do not click any links or attachments unless you know the sender.

Hi Rod, below is the information you requested regarding the RDOF plans of this date in Eau Claire county.. The OLT name can be identified on the map below is the purple polygons. I hope this get you what you needed from us for now..

Thanks Rod

OLT			Activation	
Name	Miles	Passing's	Month/Year	Notes
EU02E	22	167	Oct 2022	
EU08E	31	132	2022	Activated
EU09E	50	249	Sept 2023	
EU10E	16	118	July 2022	
EU11E	36	248	Dec 2022	
EU12E	23.5	172	Sept 2022	
EU15E	20	150	Dec 2022	Estimated
EU16E	20	150	Oct 2023	Estimated
				CBG being reviewed, may
EU17E	20	150	2023	not build
EU20E	19	164	Aug 2022	





Mike Hill | Director, Government Affairs O: 715.833.7384 | C: 715.456.9956 1201 McCann Drive | Altoona, WI 54720 E: mike.hill@charter.com

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Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 3:12 PM
To: 'Rod Eslinger' <Rod.Eslinger@co.eau-claire.wi.us>

Subject: RE: RDOF update

Hi Rod, yes let me get some information from the Construction team regarding the RDOF area progress and I will share with you.

Thanks for reaching out

Mike



Mike Hill | Director, Government Affairs O: 715.833.7384 | C: 715.456.9956 1201 McCann Drive | Altoona, WI 54720 E: mike.hill@charter.com

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From: Rod Eslinger < Rod. Eslinger@co.eau-claire.wi.us>

Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 2:47 PM
To: Hill, Mike S < mike, hill@charter.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RDOF update

CAUTION: The e-mail below is from an external source. Please exercise caution before opening attachments, clicking links, or following guidance

Hi Mike

The Eau Claire County Broadband Committee is looking to get a progress update from Charter/Spectrum regarding the installation of broadband infrastructure within the RDOF area in the County. The update could include miles of fiber installed to date, locations (passing) served, and the future build out (areas to be served) plans in the county. If you're more comfortable updating the committee in person, and if you're available; you could do so at their next in person meeting on April 21 at 4 pm.

At this point, the committee is excited to focus on supporting broadband expansion efforts in the eastern part of Eau Claire County, whereas you know, much of the area is either unserved or underserved.

Please reach out if you have any questions.

Thanks, Mike for your consideration.

Rodney J. Eslinger

Planning and Development Director

721 Oxford Ave., Suite 3344• Eau Claire, WI 54703 **Direct:** 715-839-1657 **Cell:** 715-210-2436 **Fax:** 715-831-5802

Email: rod.eslinger@co.eau-claire.wi.us



Planning and Development

"Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful." -- Albert Schweitzer

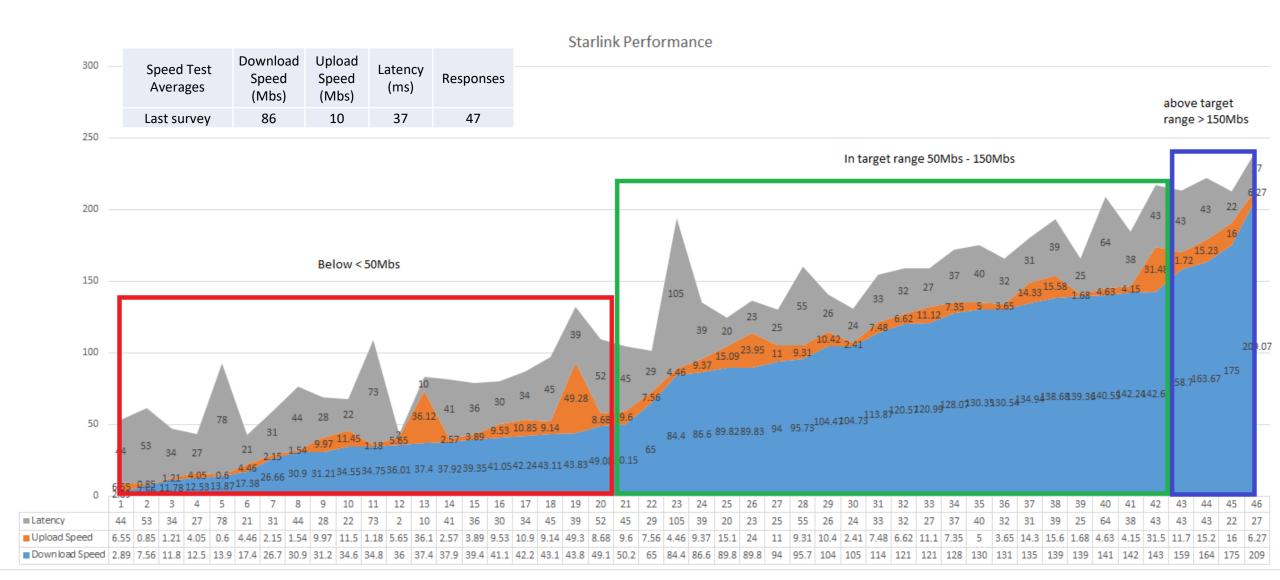
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Starlink Pilot – survey results

Speed Test Averages all surveys	Download Speed (Mbs)	Upload Speed (Mbs)	Latency (ms)	Responses
Survey 1	68	12	40	30
Survey 2	69	10	40	23
Survey 3	76	10	37	27
Survey 4	97	9	38	34
Survey 5	111	11	43	30
Survey 6	98	10	44	43
Survey 7	115	13	36	43
Survey 8	81	14	25	4
Survey 9	149	13	40	26
Survey 10	124	13	37	30
Survey 11	122	13	32	26
Survey 12	113	13	34	33
Survey 13	98	9	38	30
Survey 14	122	10	35	26
Survey 15	89	8	41	29
Survey 16	85	6	36	28
Survey 17	93	8	35	25
Overall	101	11	38	

Starlink Pilot – last reported speed test by participant



12-22-21 to 1-11-22

1-26-22 to 2-8-22

2-9-22 to 2-22-22

2-23-22 to 3-8-22

3-9-22 to 3-22-22











Outages or degraded service Reported by Starlink

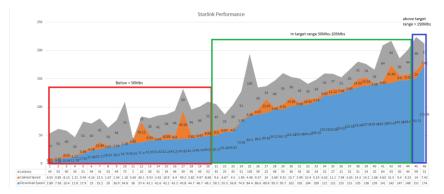
1/7/2022 – global outage 90min 2/14/2022 – intermittent service 2/24/2022 – degraded service

3/05/2022 – degraded service 4/18/2022 – degraded service

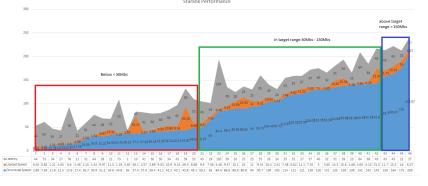
4/21/2022 - degraded service

4/28/2022 – intermittent service

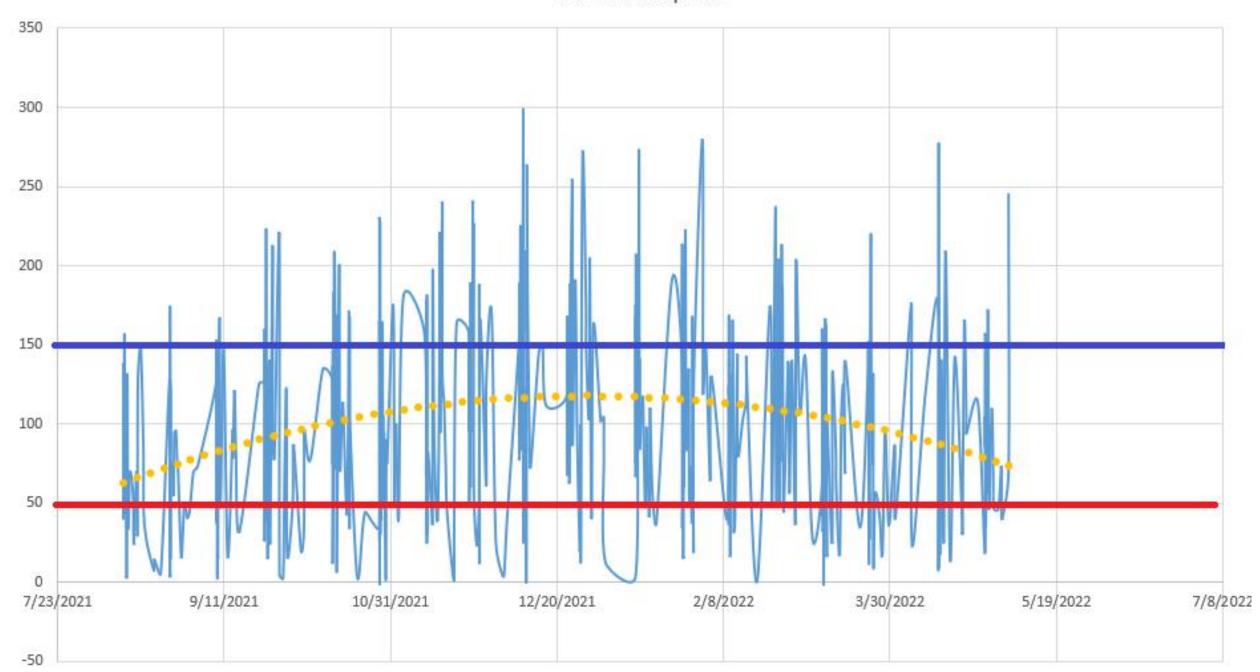
3-23-22 to 4-12-22



4-13-22 to 4-26-22



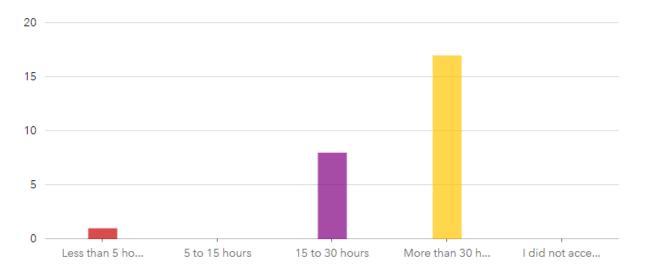
Download Speed



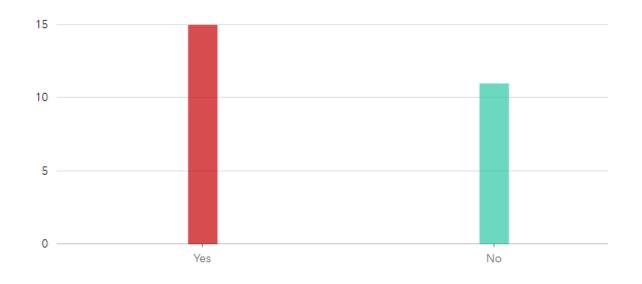
Survey 17: 4-13-22 to 4-26-22

What is your Starlink participant ID? * Answered: 26

Since the last survey, approximately how much time did you use Starlink to access the internet? *



Since the last survey, did you experience any connectivity issues with your Starlink internet access? *

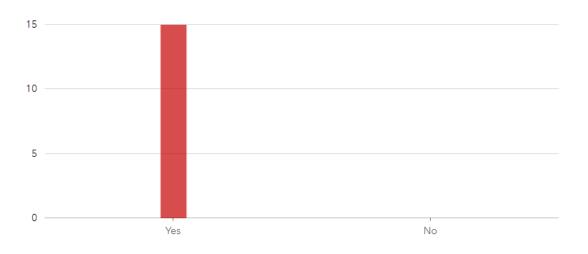


Please describe the connectivity issue encountered. *

Response

- · Weather related
- We were dropped a few times, but due to Starlink outage.
- . There were a couple times that it seemed that Starlink was down. The outage did not last long.
- Rain and clouds interfere with connecting lately... didn't contact Starlink since the router showed full signal.
 Eventually it worked again just used my hotspot until that happened.
- Only during a thunderstorm
- Not sure of the dates, but I did experience two time where there were noticeable service interruptions and there were at least a couple of notices of service interruptions during times I was not actively using the service.
- · More outages than usual
- · Missing signals, power outage
- Loss of connection
- . Intermittent signal loss and had to reset router a few times due to losing wireless internet
- Had notifications of outage, but minimal disruption.
- During the storms on 4/12/22, connection was intermittent. Obviously caused by the heavy rain and wind though.
- · disconnects when snowed on
- Bad weather.

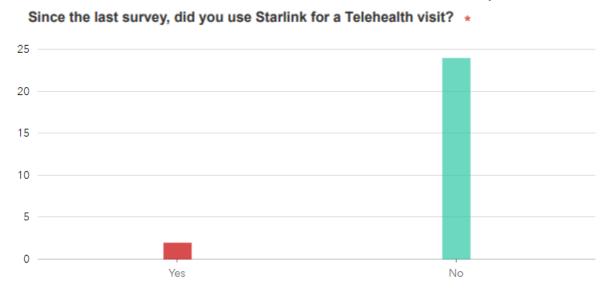
Was Starlink able to successfully resolve the connectivity issue? *



Survey 17: 4-13-22 to 4-26-22

Telehealth provider that was used *

Marshfield Cli...



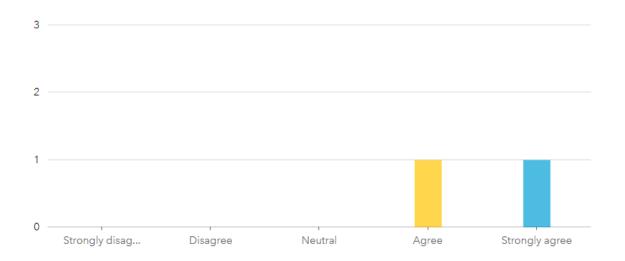


Prevea / HSHS

Other

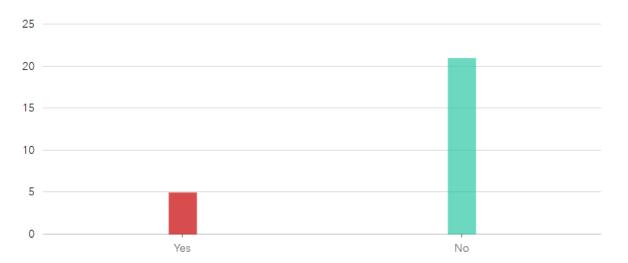
Mayo Clinic

Starlink internet worked well for the Telehealth services *

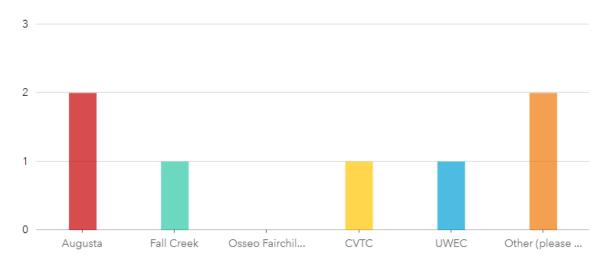


Survey 17: 4-13-22 to 4-26-22

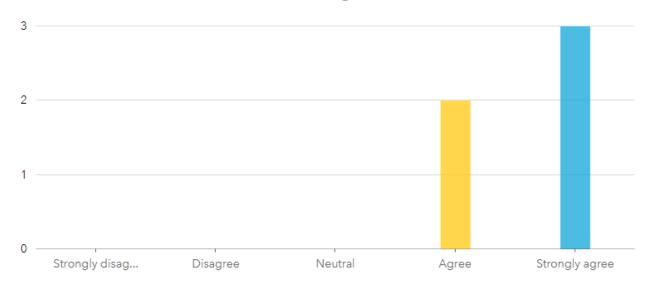
Since the last survey, did you use Starlink to participate in distance learning? *



Educational provider that was used *

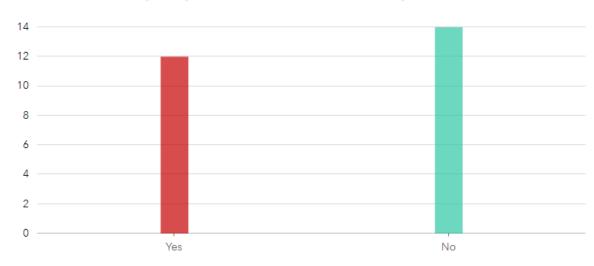


Starlink internet worked well for distance learning. *

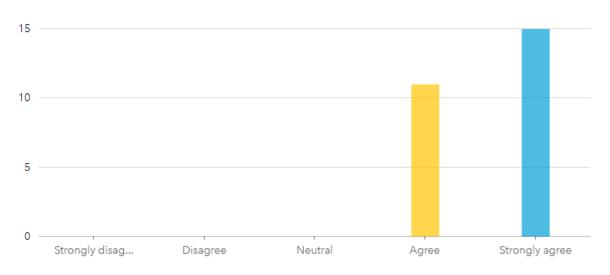


Survey 17: 4-13-22 to 4-26-22

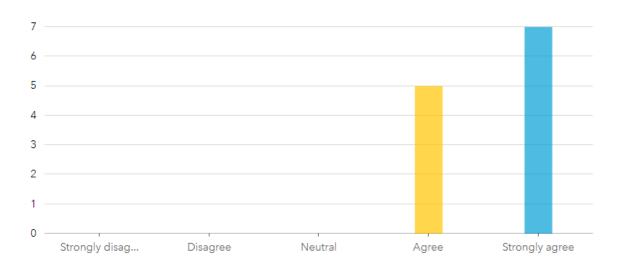
Since the last survey, did you use Starlink to work remotely? *



So far I am very satisfied with Starlink internet service. *



Starlink internet worked well for working remotely. *



Response (remote work)

- Worked very well. Didn't have any connections issues or slow downs
- One of the ties I had services issue I was needing to work remotely. I was able after several attempts to resolve the connectivity issues.
- I am a farmer, so I use the internet to get test results from our milk buyer.

Overall Comments

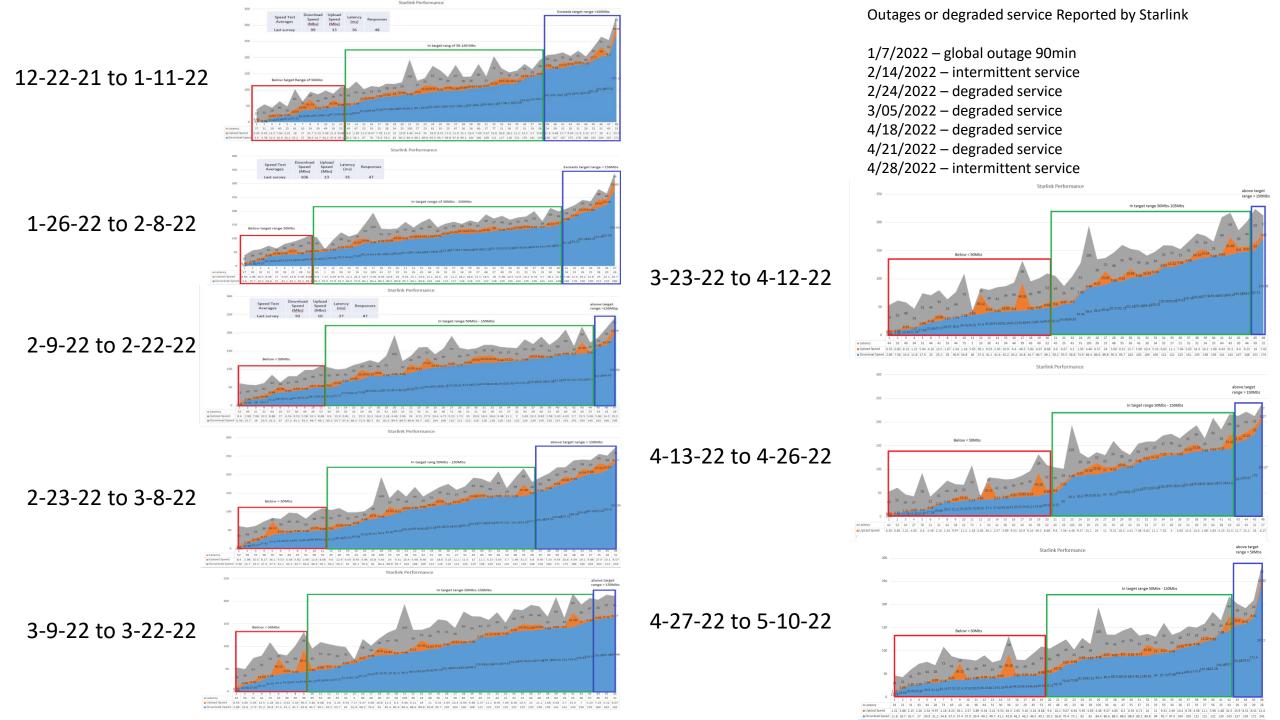
- When working as it should it is great! Seems to work better than satellite TV such as DISH during stormy
 weather. Just a day or two ago we had storms. DISH was out with no signal for quite a bit of time, and I was able
 to stream a show easily from Starlink. That's a win! However, there are still what seems to be random issues.
 Not clear if it's a signal issue or almost seems more likely it's an equipment issue that needs to be re-woken or
 rebooted.
- Overall, we're very pleased with the service. However, it does freeze occasionally on zoom calls.
- I continue to be VERY pleased with my StarLink service. No major unexplained outages, super reliable.

Starlink Pilot – survey results

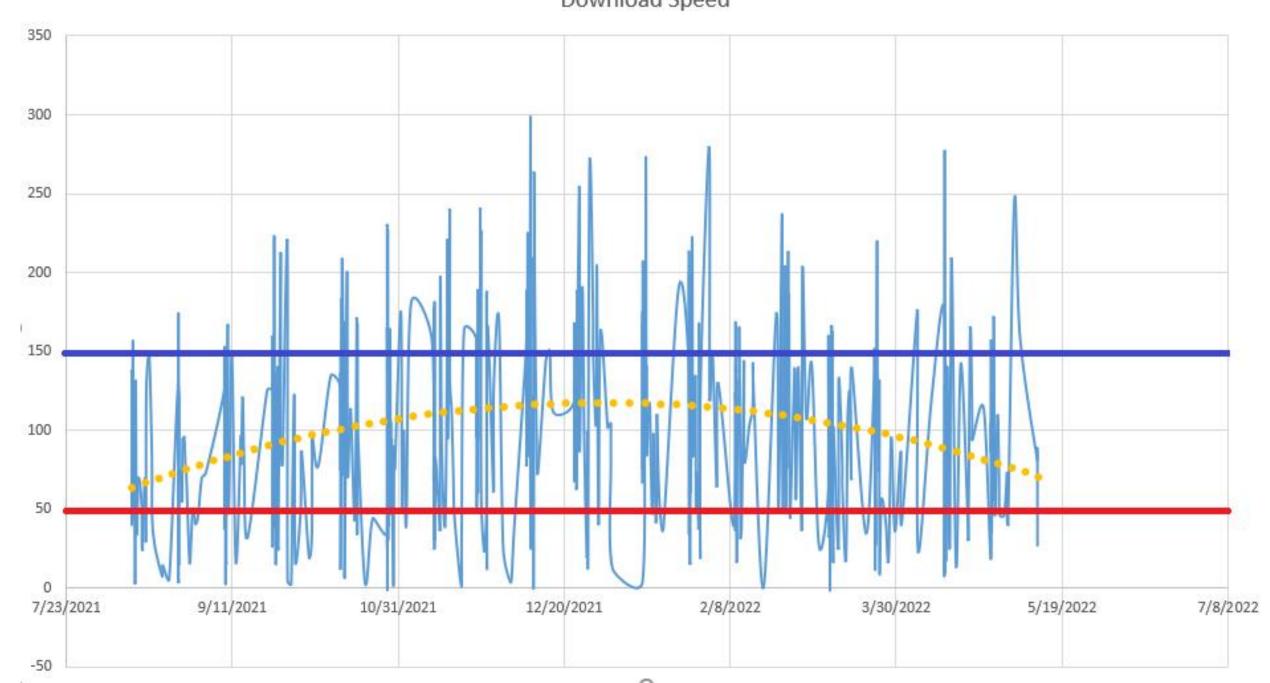
Speed Test Averages all surveys	Download Speed (Mbs)	Upload Speed (Mbs)	Latency (ms)	Responses
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Survey 10	124	13	37	30
Survey 11	122	13	32	26
Survey 12	113	13	34	33
Survey 13	98	9	38	30
Survey 14	122	10	35	26
Survey 15	89	8	41	29
Survey 16	85	6	36	28
Survey 17	93	8	35	25
Overall	101	11	38	

Starlink Pilot – last reported speed test by participant





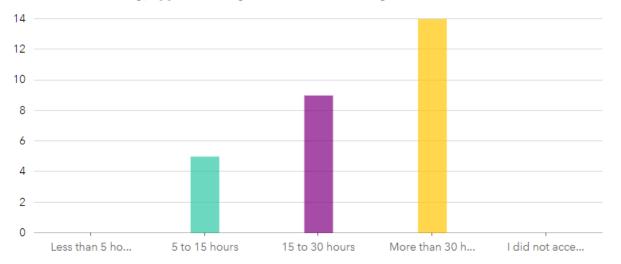
Download Speed



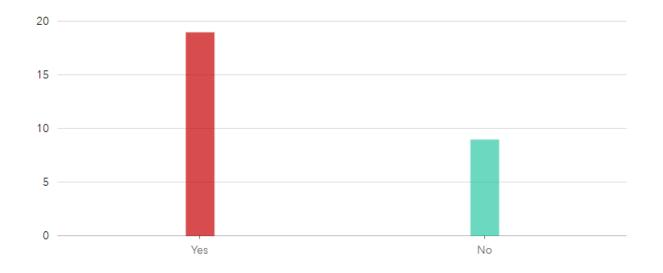
Survey 18: 4-27-22 to 5-10-22

What is your Starlink participant ID? * Answered: 28

Since the last survey, approximately how much time did you use Starlink to access the internet? *



Since the last survey, did you experience any connectivity issues with your Starlink internet access? *

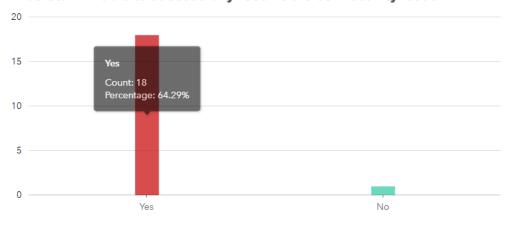


Please describe the connectivity issue encountered. *

Response

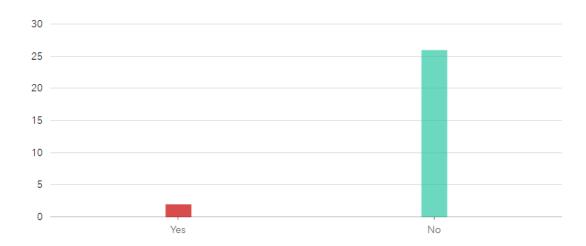
- · weather related, network related outage
- weather related
- There were a couple of brief periods where there were connectivity issues. They were very short periods of time.
- · Starlink had a few outages.
- slow
- shut off my connection
- Outages
- Our signal has been intermittent just about every day for the last week. It is very difficult to stream movies and TV shows. We have not been able to contact starlink, we don't know how.
- My app told me there was an obstruction, which is possible as the trees are beginning to leaf out for the season --but I had no issues in the late fall and through the winter when installed in the new location. However, I was also told that there was a <u>Starlink</u> related issue. It remained most of the evening, but I did finally get enough connection to be streaming as normal. There have been a few brief outages since then, and my app does show a minor obstruction, possibly causing issues "every 3 minutes", but I don't notice anything awry in general.
- · Lots of outages recently
- Late night...possibly weather???
- Just the ones that we were notified by Starlink that there was something going on in our area
- Just a few outages.
- · issues seemed to be resolved
- Is was completely down for an hour in the morning on the 27th
- dropped when talking on FaceTime and skype for a short period of time
- continues with dropping on FaceTime and Skype a couple of times during use
- Connected, no internet

Was Starlink able to successfully resolve the connectivity issue? *

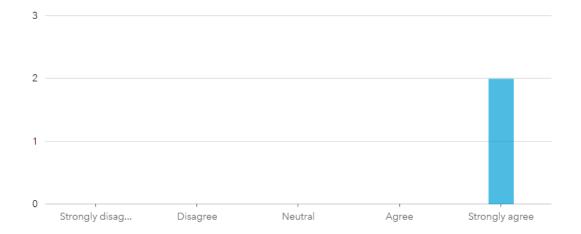


Survey 18: 4-27-22 to 5-10-22

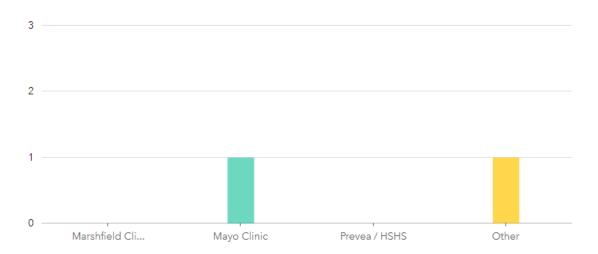
Since the last survey, did you use Starlink for a Telehealth visit? *



Starlink internet worked well for the Telehealth services *

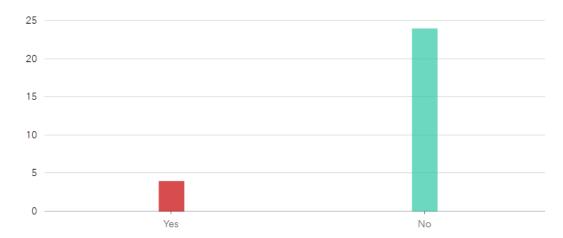


Telehealth provider that was used *

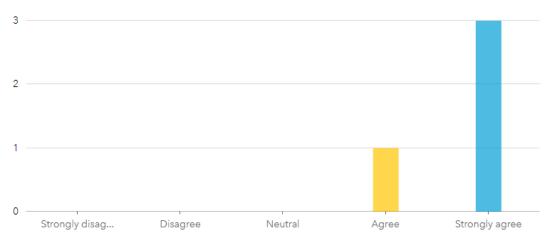


Survey 18: 4-27-22 to 5-10-22

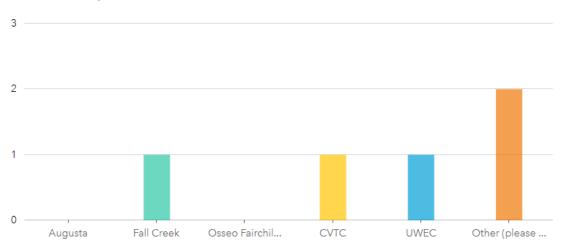
Since the last survey, did you use Starlink to participate in distance learning? *



Starlink internet worked well for distance learning. *

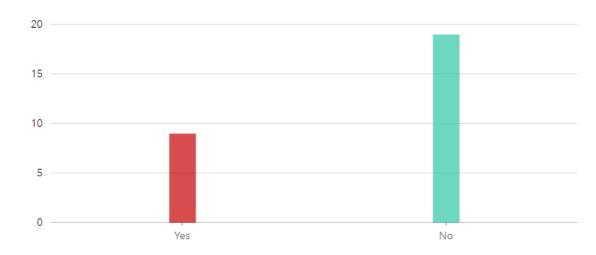


Educational provider that was used *

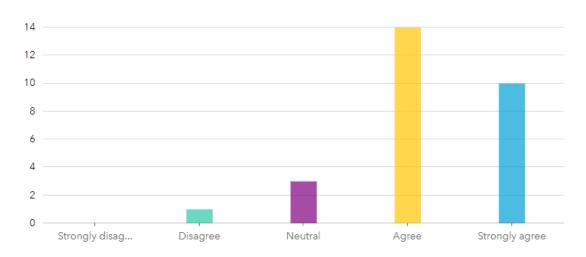


Survey 18: 4-27-22 to 5-10-22

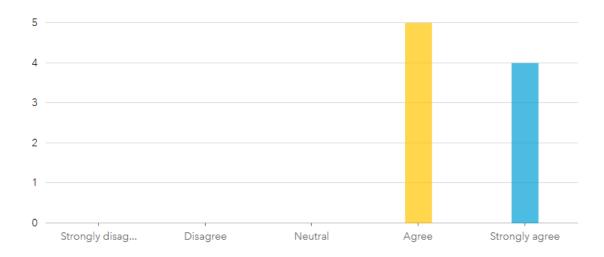
Since the last survey, did you use Starlink to work remotely? *



So far I am very satisfied with Starlink internet service. *



Starlink internet worked well for working remotely. *



Response (dissatisfied with Starlink service)

 The service and reliability aren't getting better. I still use my DSL over starlink because it just isn't that fast

Comments

- The windy somewhat cloudy weather lately has been causing issues. We did not have these problems last winter
- Our streaming for movies is fine. But it is difficult to get online sometime, especially to watch
 granddaughter play sports. Mostly on YouTube. FaceTime it will occasionally freeze or drop
 completely. I am able to get back on but they are somewhat disturbing.
- Even with the occasional odd-ball connection issue, Starlink has been great and on the ball
 about correcting whatever is going wrong (on their end of things; I might need to do some tree
 trimming or move Dishy a bit!). Speed hasn't been an issue, although I have noticed that it is
 testing slower than when I first installed it. Overall, I'm still very happy with this service and
 appreciate it's availability.

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MEETING MINUTES

Eau Claire County Broadband Committee Thursday, February 17, 2022 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.

Join WebEx Meeting: https://eauclairecounty.webex.com Meeting ID: 167 775 1184, Password: qMPYqiCn574 *Meeting audio can be listened to using this Audio conference dial in information.

Public Access: Dial in Number: 1-415-655-0001 Access Code: 167 775 1184 ##

*Mute your device upon entry

Members Present: Donald Mowry, Luke Hanson, Collin Pomplun, Ann Nielsen, Tim Laubach, Thomas Lange, Lynn Thompson, Scott Hoffman, and Mark Zuber.

Staff Present: Rodney J. Eslinger, Director of Planning and Development, Greg Dachel, Director of Information Systems

Others Present: Dave Hayden, John LeBrun, Travis McFarland, Kent Klima, Jessica Jansen, Jen Meyer, Aleta Kaufmann, Jim Jermain

1. Call to order and confirmation of meeting notice.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. and the meeting notice was confirmed.

- 2. Roll Call Members present are noted above.
- 3. Public Comment (limit to 3 minutes per person) Jim Jermain of AT&T spoke about plans to expand their services on the west side of the City of Eau Claire.

Kent Klima and Travis McFarland from the Bloomer Telephone Company addressed the committee about its operations and services. They discussed past and current community service projects that the company has contributed to with donations and their services in the Bloomer area. Bloomer Telephone Company will be applying for a PSC Broadband Expansion Grant that would serve Town of Seymour.

4. Update of the Release of County ARPA Match Funds – **Discussion/Action**

Rod Eslinger provided an update to the committee regarding the release of the ARPA fund match to the Town of Drammen of \$89,700. Mr. Eslinger is keeping a spreadsheet of requested, pending and future ARPA fund matches. This will assist with the ARPA fund tracking and reporting. Norb Kirk, Finance Director indicated that the ARPA request application is a sufficient checklist.

5. PSC Broadband Survey – **Discussion/Action**

Rod Eslinger indicated that the PSC is developing a statewide broadband survey. Dave Hayden and Greg Dachel mentioned the Momentum West offers a speed test option and the WI GEO Software offers great analytics.

6. Internet Service Provider (ISP) Updates – Discussion/Action

Jim Germain of AT&T provided more details regarding his company's plan to serve 2,500 customers on the western side of Eau Claire with multi-level gigabyte service. This area is mostly underserved or unserved by highspeed internet. He indicated that the AT&T customers would qualify for the Affordable Connectivity Program, provided all the criteria is met. The build out time frame is unknown currently.

Kent Klima and Travis McFarland addressed the committee again. They shared that the Bloomer Telephone Company is a privately held company with shareholders. In 2007 the company rebuilt its entire exchange platform. In 2018, the company provided highspeed internet service to all addresses within the Bloomer School District. It's been successful with past PSC applications and is currently building out projects in Dunn and Chippewa Counties. Take rates in these services areas are around 72% to 75%. They are asking for support for its current proposal that would serve the Town of Hallie in Chippewa County and the Town of Seymour in Eau Claire County with fiber to premises. Travis mentioned that the Town of Seymour committed \$325,000 of its ARPA funds to the project. Overall project is a 5.3-million-dollar fiber install, serving 470 homes. He estimated that the project would cost about \$10,000 per passing, but the entire Town of Seymour would be covered with a four tier high-speed internet service model.

7. Update on PSC grant applications – **Discussion/Action**

Town of Union – Jennifer Meyer

Working with 24/7 Telecom to cover the rest of the town that is underserved or unserved by highspeed internet

<u>Town of Pleasant Valley</u> – Jen Meyer

Working with Charter and TCC to cover the entire township. Companies are working together so there is no duplication or overlap in their services.

TCC lower third of town – Board committed \$54K, may be increased

Total cost is \$330K, 6 miles, 27 locations?

Charter will cover the northern two thirds of the town – currently covered by CenturyLink

Charter will cover every household, and part of Town of Washington

Pleasant Valley cost is \$2.7 million

Town committed \$100K, requesting \$100K from county

Covering white-space areas, outside RDOF areas – only a small amount of RDOF in Pleasant Valley 428 locations?

<u>Town of Clear Creek</u> – Tri County Communications

Asking for a letter of support

Town of Washington – Charter portion of the above project

Cost \$709K for 445 locations

Town considering \$91.2K, requesting \$91.2K from County

\$583K for 89 locations -

What is timeline for County match?

Coverage split down the middle – good coverage down Hwy 93 but coverage lacking outside the Hwy 93 corridor.

8. Letters of Support for PSC applications – Discussion/Action

A motion was made by Mark Zuber, seconded by Tim Laubach to approve letters of support for the Towns of Union, Seymour, Washington, and Pleasant Valley and to approve matching funds, as long as the requests don't exceed the Towns' ARPA funds, contingent on each Town's successful PSC Broadband Expansion grant award. The motion passed.

- The County Broadband Committee application will be submitted by each Township if their PSC grant application is awarded.
- 9. SpaceX Starlink Pilot Project Update (Greg Dachel) Discussion/Action

This update was postponed to a future meeting.

10. Digital Equity/Inclusion Workgroup Update – Discussion/Action

Advisory Group met and decided to pursue a PSC Nonprofit Access grant application for the Digital Equity and Inclusion project. The team has been working on the grant application and hope to have a draft to send out to the Advisory Group by Friday. The Advisory Group is scheduled to meet next Tuesday, February 22 to review the application in detail. That will give 4 or 5 days to edit the application and submit it by the March 1 deadline

11. Review/Approval of January 20, 2022, Committee Meeting Minutes – Discussion/Action

The committee reviewed the meeting minutes of January 20, 2022, Lynn Thompson, motioned to approve the minutes as submitted, Mark Zuber seconded the motion; motion carried on a voice vote with all in favor of the motion.

- 12. Next Steps and future meetings **Discussion/Action**
 - a. Future Meeting: March 17, 2022
- 13. Adjourn

Adjourn Action: Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:29 p.m.

Respectively submitted by,

Rodney J. Eslinger, Clerk for the Broadband Committee Director of Planning and Development

David Hayden