

AGENDA
Eau Claire County
Broadband Committee
Thursday, October 20, 2022
4:00 P.M.

Location: Eau Claire County Courthouse 721 Oxford Ave., Room #3312, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703

*Event link below can be used to connect to meeting and interact (by the chair) from computer or through the WebEx Meeting smartphone app.

Join WebEx Meeting: <https://eauclairecounty.webex.com> Meeting ID: 2590 425 0037
Password: UWsi8wmax96

*Meeting audio can be listened to using this Audio conference dial in information.

Audio conference: 1-415-655-0001 Access Code: 25904250037##

For those wishing to make public comments, you must email Rod Eslinger at rod.eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov at least 60 minutes prior to the meeting to the start of the meeting.

*Please mute personal devices 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 August 25, 2022, Committee Meeting Minutes – **Discussion/Action**
5. Internet Service Provider (ISP) Updates – **Discussion**
6. **Proposed Resolution: File No. 22-23/066** Resolution allowing the Broadband Committee to conduct their meetings by virtual, hybrid, or in person means. / **Discussion – Action**
7. Digital Equity Quarterly Report – **Discussion - Action**
8. Broadband Mapping – Grant and RDOF County Coverage – **Discussion**
9. Broadband ARPA Fund Allocation – **Discussion/Action**
10. Next Steps and future meetings – **Discussion/Action**
 - a. Future Meeting: November 17, 2022.
11. Adjourn

8. Internet Service Provider (ISP) Updates – **Discussion**

- a. Jim Kusilek gave an update on 24x7 projects. Working with three townships. Town of Drammen is close to being finalizing. Town of Brunswick project was completed in February. Remaining project is to finish out the Town of Brunswick in unserved areas. The final project is the Town of Union and awarded a BGP grant.
- b. Buck Web from Tri-County submitted and email regarding their progress which was read to the committee. The email was included in the packet.
- c. Spectrum/Charter – no update

9. Digital Equity Advisory Group – **Discussion**

Dave Hayden introduced Amber Scharenbroch as the new Community Impact Director - Digital Equity through the United Way. The goal of the program is to get devices and digital literacy training out. We are right at the beginning of the program and working on how to handle the devices. Looking at what is out there and what the gaps are. There is a large demand for these services and want to make sure that we get the appropriate processes.

Discuss reconvene the Digital Equity Advisory council in September. Looking to fill out the membership. Tom Lange is interested and has a parallel initiative at CVTC. The goal is not to overlap efforts and to collaborate. Other names were suggested for consideration.

10. SpaceX Starlink Pilot Project Update – **Discussion/Action**

Greg Dachel gave the committee a presentation of the final overview of the Starlink pilot project. The pilot project is now considered complete.

11. Press release promoting the Speed test and survey – **Discussion**

Discussed the West Central Wisconsin Broadband alliance and Speed Test and survey communication in the packet. The committee reviewed the Speed Test press release and made comments. The committee was very much in favor of sending out the release. The committee also suggested looking at the school districts and library's, especially in the eastern part of the county, as a good way to reach out to the community.

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

- a. Future Meeting: September 15, 2022
- b. Update from Charter's progress on the RDOF build out.
- c. Possibly discuss middle mile broadband program.

13. Adjourn

Adjourn Action: Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:18 p.m.

Respectively submitted by,

Greg Dachel

I.S. Director Eau Claire County

FACT SHEET

TO FILE NO. 22-23/066

This resolution allows for the special committee on rural broadband, who was charged with the function of identifying under-served rural areas and gaps in broadband service and identifying potential strategies to improve rural broadband coverage, to hold their meetings in a hybrid, virtual, or in person format in compliance with Wisconsin Open Meetings Laws.

The committee was originally formed as the result of resolution 19-20/020. This resolution identified the membership of the special committee should consist of varied stakeholders who represent educational, technical, Extension, and rural partners. Only one member of the broadband committee is a member of the Eau Claire County Board. The other members of the committee consist of community business members with educational and IT experience. Since in person meetings were reinstated, it has been incredibly difficult for the committee to meet due to a lack of a quorum of the members attending. Four of the eleven members recently resigned from participating with the broadband committee due to being unable to attend virtually and one of the committee positions remains vacant.

This resolution allows for the special broadband committee, which by resolution was just extended for a period not to exceed 24 months, to conduct their meetings by virtual means, hybrid means, or in person. All meetings will be conducted in compliance with the open meetings law allowing the public access to the meeting by electronic means with the access information posted in the agenda.

Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Supervisor Todd Meyer, District 1
Chair, Rural Broadband Committee

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3 RESOLUTION ALLOWING FOR THE EAU CLAIRE COUNTY SPECIAL COMMITTEE
4 ON RURAL BROADBAND TO CONDUCT THEIR MEETINGS BY VIRTUAL, HYBRID,
5 OR IN PERSON MEANS
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7 WHEREAS, the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors, pursuant to Resolution No.19-
8 20/020, Enrolled No. R163-013 created a Special Committee on Rural Broadband; and
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10 WHEREAS, the Eau Claire County Board adopted Resolution 22-23/047 on September
11 20, 2022, extending the existence of the Special Committee on Rural Broadband for a period not
12 to exceed twenty-four (24) months; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Rural Broadband Special committee was charged with the function of
15 identifying under-served rural areas and gaps in broadband service, to identify potential
16 strategies to improve access, and recommend cooperative ventures to improve rural broadband
17 coverage; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Rural Broadband Committee is composed of eleven members with
20 varied stakeholders who represent educational, technical, IT, Extension, and rural partners; and
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22 WHEREAS, the Rural Broadband Committee has only one member of the Eau Claire
23 County Board who is a member of the Committee; and
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25 WHEREAS, due to the requirement the meetings be held in person since March 2022,
26 four of the eleven members recently resigned their membership on the Rural Broadband
27 Committee and one position on the committee remains vacant; and
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29 WHEREAS, the Rural Broadband Committee was unable to hold their regularly
30 scheduled meetings in the months of March 2022, April 2022, and May 2022, due to lack of a
31 quorum.
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33 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors
34 hereby authorizes the Rural Broadband Committee to conduct their meetings by virtual, hybrid,
35 or in person means at the discretion of the Rural Broadband Committee Chair.
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors requires,
38 pursuant to the Eau Claire County Code, that each meeting notice shall contain information
39 regarding the format of the meeting, whether virtual, hybrid, or in person, and access information
40 for any committee member, staff, or a member of the public to view the open sessions of the
41 meeting remotely.
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Rural Broadband Committee Chair shall have the
2 authority to allow an individual to speak remotely during public comments or on an agenda item.
3 The meeting notice shall include information to allow participation of members by
4 videoconference, teleconference, or other virtual means.

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6 ADOPTED:

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30 Rural Broadband Committee

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32 Vote: _____ Aye _____ Nay

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35 Dated this ____ day of _____, 2022

Committee on Administration

36
Vote: _____ Aye _____ Nay

Dated this ___ day of _____, 2022