

AGENDA
Eau Claire County
Broadband Committee
Thursday, December 15, 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 October 20, 2022, Committee Meeting Minutes – **Discussion/Action**
5. Resolution allowing the Broadband Committee to conduct their meetings by virtual, hybrid, or in person means. Update from Rod Eslinger - **Discussion**
6. Internet Service Provider (ISP) Updates – **Discussion - Action**
7. Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Presentation – Rory Tikalsky from the PCS – **Discussion - Action**
8. Internet for All: Connecting Wisconsin Kick-Off Conference Update - Dave Hayden, Don Mowry, Amber Scharenbroch - **Discussion**
9. United Way Update – Amber Scharenbroch – **Discussion**
10. Next Steps and future meetings – **Discussion/Action**
 - a. Future Meeting date: January 19, 2023 or February 16, 2023.
11. Adjourn

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

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

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Members Present: Todd Meyer, Mark Zuber, Tim Laubach, Don Mowry, Monica Obrycki, Luke Hansen, Erica Poole.

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

Others Present: Amber Scharenbroch, Preston Pearson, Travis McFarland, Doug Carlson

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. A quorum was present.
3. Public Comment (limit to 3 minutes per person) – Doug Carlson, Town of Brunswick citizen, addressed the board. Doug provided information on how Starlink is providing service he discovered from studying Starlink’s service charts.
4. Review/Approval of June 16, 2022, Committee Meeting Minutes – **Discussion/Action**

The committee reviewed the meeting minutes of August 25, 2022. Mark Zuber motioned to approve the minutes: Don Mowry seconded the motion; motion carried on a voice vote with all in favor of the motion.

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

Preston Person from Mosaic Technologies presented a quarterly report to the committee. He also updated the committee on their upcoming projects.

Travis McFarland, Bloomer Telephone Company, updated the committee on the Hallie/Seymour fiber project. He noted that they are accepting sign ups at this time and the engineers will be completing the field work in the coming months. The company will begin installations in 2023.

No other ISP were present.

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**

Rod Eslinger explained the resolution that would allow the committee membership to conduct its meetings either in person, hybrid, or virtually.

The committee briefly discussed the resolution. Mark Zuber motioned to approve the proposed resolution file no. 22-23-066: Luke Hansen seconded the motion; motion carried on a voice vote with all in favor of the motion.

7. Digital Equity Quarterly Report – **Discussion**

Amber Scharenbroch presented the quarterly report to the committee.

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 whenever possible. Other names were suggested for consideration.

8. Broadband Mapping – Grant and RDOF County Coverage – **Discussion**

Rod Eslinger updated the committee the PSC grant mapping site, installation of the observed RDOF installation by Charter, and presented a RDOF summary map.

9. Broadband ARPA Fund Allocation – **Discussion/Action**

Mr. Eslinger provided an update to the committee regarding the current ARPA fund match allocation. Since the last meeting, he reached out to town chairs from the eastern side of the county and asked them how they have been committing their ARPA funds. Rod noted that most of the towns have committed most of their funds to other projects, such as road paving, paving of parking lots, improvements at their town halls, playground equipment, and other qualifying projects. He concluded by noting that the remaining uncommitted Town ARPA fund match is approximately \$327,000. Those towns include Bridge Creek, Fairchild, Lincoln, Otter Creek, and Wilson.

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

- a. Future Meeting: December 15, 2022
- b. Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Update
- c. Internet for All conference Update

11. Adjourn

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

Respectively submitted by,

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

THE BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) PROGRAM OVERVIEW

FUNDED BY THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

Where we are today...

Many Americans lack access to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet

America runs on high-speed internet. A strong internet connection powers our economy and supports education. It fosters better public health. And, it connects loved ones and strengthens social ties. But not everyone is connected. Too many Americans are cut off from the opportunities that high-speed internet makes possible. That's why we're working to bring high-speed internet to all Americans.



... and where we're going

The BEAD Program includes \$42B for high-speed Internet access

Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, BEAD is a federal grant program that aims to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure where we need it to and increase adoption of high-speed internet. BEAD prioritizes unserved locations that have no internet access or that only have access under 25/3 Mbps and underserved locations only have access under 100/20 Mbps.

Select BEAD program details

Eligible entities

- 1 All 50 States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
- 2 Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Example eligible uses of funds

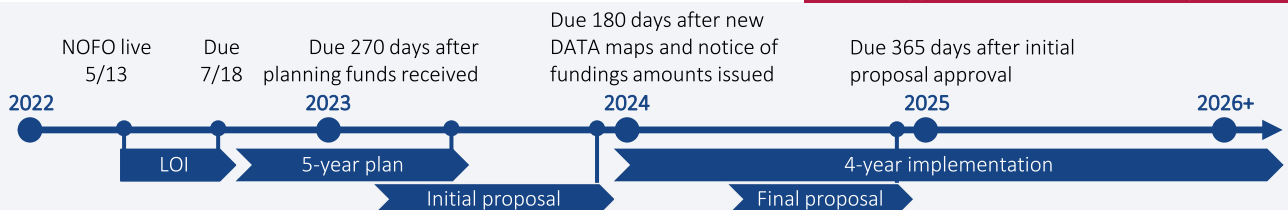
- 1 Planning for the deployment of high-speed Internet, including conducting research, collecting data, outreach, and training
- 2 Deploying or upgrading Internet in unserved or underserved areas or improving service to community anchor organizations
- 3 Installing Internet and Wi-Fi in multi-unit residential buildings
- 4 Adoption and digital equity programs
- 5 Workforce development programs and vocational training

Ways to get involved

Eligible entities must conduct coordination with local governments, Tribes, community orgs, and individuals within their jurisdiction. Members of the public are encouraged to contact U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and territories to learn about more ways to get involved.

Timeline

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified



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 through 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: NEWLY ELECTED, CHAIR

BY: KYLE DARLEY, CHAIR
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Date _____

Date _____