

MEETING MINUTES
Eau Claire County
Broadband Committee
Thursday, January 20, 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, Joe Alf, 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, Deb Grinde, Jim Kusilek

1. Call to order and confirmation of meeting notice.

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 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) – None
4. County ARPA Fund Support: Dave Hayden – Discussion

Dave Hayden updated the committee regarding the Digital Equity and Inclusive project he's working on with United Way. He discussed the need for better broadband maps that he can show the town officials where the broadband gaps still exist within the county. He also indicated that there are several ISPs working on potential PSC applications to serve a large area in the county.

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

Jim Kusilek of 24/7 Telecom Inc. was available to answer questions on the Town of Brunswick's ARPA Fund Match application. Jim also noted he's been in contact with the Town of Union regarding applying for a PSC Broadband Grant to build out the broadband infrastructure in areas that currently don't have it.

6. Town ARPA Fund Update (Mark Zuber) – **Discussion**

Mark Zuber indicated that he still needed to reach out to the town regarding where they are at committing their ARPA funds. He'll report back at a later meeting.

7. Update on PSC grant applications - **Discussion**

Rod Eslinger updated the committee and indicated that the towns of Washington, Pleasant Valley, Seymour, and Union are working with ISP's currently to make PSC applications by the March 17th deadline.

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

Greg Dachel gave the committee an update on the Starlink pilot project.

9. Town of Brunswick's application for County ARPA fund match - Discussion/Action

Deb Grinde, Town of Brunswick Town Clerk, gave some background on the towns request for County's ARPA funds. The committee reviewed and discussed the Town of Brunswick's County ARPA Fund match application. Lynn Thompson motioned to approve the Town of Brunswick's application for County ARPA fund match as presented, Tim Laubach seconded the motion; motion carried on a voice vote with all in favor of the motion.

10. Release of County ARPA Match Funds Checklist – Discussion/Action

Mr. Eslinger indicated he was still working with the Finance Director to create a checklist and he'll present it at a future meeting.

11. Review/Approval of December 16, 2021, Committee Meeting Minutes – Discussion/Action

The committee reviewed the meeting minutes of December 16, 2021. Scott Hoffman, motioned to approve the minutes with one correction to section 8, Tom Lange seconded the motion; motion carried on a voice vote with all in favor of the motion.

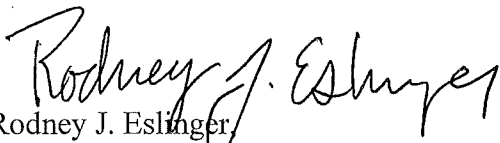
12. Next Steps and future meetings – **Discussion/Action**

- a. Future Meeting: February 17, 2022
- b. Update on Grant Applications
- c. Letters of Support for grant applications
- d. Follow up on survey comments
- e. PSC Broadband Survey
- f. Checklist for dispersal of ARPA funds
- g. Visualization Map of the County where service is

13. Adjourn

Adjourn Action: Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:06 p.m.

Respectively submitted by,



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