MEETING MINUTES
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

Members Present: Todd Meyer, Luke Hanson, Collin Pomplun, Tim Laubach, Thomas Lange, Lynn Thompson, and Mark Zuber.

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

Others Present: Dave Hayden, Andy Neborak, Avery Shanahan, Don Mowry

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) – Julie Westphal, property owner from the Town of Clear Creek, addressed the committee regarding her concerns about a lack of highspeed internet where she lives.

4. Election of the Broadband Committee Chair and Vice Chair – **Discussion/Action**

   Mark Zuber nominated Todd Meyer for chair. No one else was nominated for chair; motion for Todd Meyer to serve as the committee chair carried on a voice vote with all in favor of the motion.

   Lynn Thompson nominated Mark Zuber for vice chair. No one else was nominated for vice chair, motion for Mark Zuber to serve as the committee vice chair carried on a voice vote with all in favor of the motion.

5. Appointment of the Broadband Committee Clerk – **Discussion/Action**

   The committee appointed Rod Eslinger as the committee clerk.

6. Recognition of Don Mowry for his past service as the Broadband Committee Chair – **Discussion**

   The committee recognized Don Mowry for his service and time on the broadband committee. Don spoke briefly about the broadband committee's accomplishments since it formed in 2019. He was proud of bringing highspeed internet to the Drammen and Brunswick, and he credited the collaborations with the ISP's, towns, and county for securing grants.

7. Broadband Committee Term (20-21.080) and Membership – **Discussion/Action**

   The committee asked work with Corporation Counsel's office to draft resolution on the committee term and to work with Committee on Administrative to allow hybrid meeting (where meeting virtually is an option). Mark Zuber motioned to approve drafting a resolution on the committee's term, Tom Lange seconded the motion; motion carried on a voice vote with all in favor of the motion.

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

   a. Spectrum/Charter RDOF update – Clerk Eslinger provided the committee an email from Mike Hill regarding Charter's current progress on their RDOF.
   b. Mosaic Communications – no update

9. Digital Equity/Inclusion "United Way" Resolution/MOU – **Discussion/Action**

   Dave Hayden and Andy Neborak updated the committee regarding the Digital Equity and Inclusive United Way Resolution and MOU. They indicated that the funding would support the hire of a staff who oversee the program. Mr. Neborak mentioned that the program will intersect with schools, PC for People, connecting people to digital resources, provide independent living skills to children in foster care, and provide other community support related to digital equity.

   Luke Hanson motioned to approve the Digital Equity/Inclusion United Way resolution and MOU as presented in the packet, Tim Laubach seconded the motion; motion carried on a voice vote with all in favor of the motion.

10. Strategy to serve the eastern Eau Claire County – **Discussion/Action**

    The committee discussed the need for additional mapping of data (speed test/survey) and looking at all funding sources.

11. WI GEO Software – **Discussion/Action**

    Dave Hayden shared an example of the Momentum West speed test and indicated that he's working with county GIS staff to include our survey questions into the speed test. It's important to obtain additional information (dots on the map) that contain data on the levels of internet service throughout the county for future grant opportunities.

12. Verizon 5G project – **Discussion**

    Staff indicated that Verizon made a PSC application for their expansion of 5G in the county.

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

    Greg Dachel gave the committee an update on the Starlink pilot project and its sunset timeline. All participants will be receiving information from Starlink on how they can continue with their service or how they can end the program. The pilot project will be wrapping up in August.

14. Review/Approval of February 22, 2022, Committee Meeting Minutes – **Discussion/Action**

The committee reviewed the meeting minutes of February 22, 2022. Mark Zuber motioned to approve the minutes; Tom Lange seconded the motion; motion carried on a voice vote with all in favor of the motion.
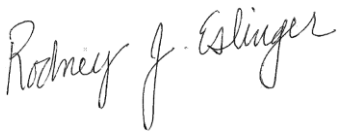
15. Next Steps and future meetings – **Discussion/Action**
    a. Future Meeting: August 18, 2022
    b. Update from Charter's progress on the RDOF build out.

16. Adjourn

Adjourn Action: Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted by,

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