MEETING MINUTES

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

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

*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: <u>https://eauclairecounty.webex.com</u> 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 <u>rod.eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov</u> at least 60 minutes prior to the meeting to the start of the meeting. *Please mute personal devices upon entry.

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, hydrid, 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

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