



**Broadband Committee
AGENDA**

Thursday, July 18, 2024

4:00 P.M.

Courthouse – Room 3312
721 Oxford Ave, Eau Claire, WI

Join by Phone:

Dial in Number: 1-415-655-0001

Access Code: 25312180626##

Join by Meeting Number:

Meeting Number: 2531 218 0626

Meeting Password: XFbWpjmb448

Join from Meeting Link:

<https://eauclairecounty.webex.com/eauclairecounty/j.php?MTID=m047346578955a9bf6f116e9d9eccc22f>

A majority of the county board may be in attendance at this meeting, however, only members of the committee may take action on an agenda item.

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.

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 May 1, 2024, Committee Meeting Minutes – **Discussion - Action**
5. Bloomer Broadband request for ARPA Funds – Discussion - Action
6. Internet Service Provider (ISP) Updates – **Discussion**
7. BEAD Local Plan Outline (Dave Hayden) – **Discussion**
8. Village of Fall Creek - Jackson Ave. Project Update – **Discussion - Action**
9. Charter/Spectrum Clear Creek Project Update – **Discussion - Action**
10. Broadband Committee ARPA Fund Close Out – **Discussion - Action**
11. United Way Digital Equity & Inclusion Update – Ryan Ludy – **Discussion**
12. Next Steps and future meetings – **Discussion - Action**
 - a. Future Meeting date: TBD

13. Adjourn

PLEASE NOTE: Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities through sign language, interpreters, remote access, or other auxiliary aids. Contact the clerk of the committee or Administration for assistance (715-839-5106). For additional information on ADA requests, contact the County ADA Coordinator at 839-7335, (FAX) 839-1669 or 839-4735, TTY: use Relay (711) or by writing to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703.

MEETING MINUTES

Eau Claire County
Broadband Committee
Thursday, May 16, 2024
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: <https://eauclairecounty.webex.com> Meeting ID: 2538 641 3130

Password: VSgpp2Fd5M6

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

Audio conference: 1-415-655-0001 Access Code: 2538 641 3130##

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.

Members Present: Don Mowry (attended remotely), Brett Geboy, Brian Berres, Lynn Thompson, Tom Lange, Luke Hanson, Collin Pomplun

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

Others Present: Travis McFarlane, Todd Meyer, Amber Scharenbroch, Todd Meyer, Jeff Emery, Adam Raschka, Chris Crawford

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) – None
4. Review/Approval of April 25, 2024, Committee Meeting Minutes – **Discussion/Action**

The committee reviewed the meeting minutes of April 25, 2024.

Collin Pomplun motioned to approve the minutes as presented, motion carried on a voice vote with all in favor of approving the April 25, 2024, committee minutes (6-0) subject to the change on agenda item 8 (change access to accept).

5. Town of Seymour request for ARPA Match Funds – Discussion - Action

Clerk Eslinger provided a brief explanation of the Town of Seymour's request for ARPA Match Funds.

Lynn Thompson moved to approve the Town of Seymour's request to release \$162,500 for the Bloomer Broadband project. A roll call vote was taken of the attending members, motion passed 6-0.

6. Bloomer Broadband and Village of Fall Creek Jackson Ave. Potential Project – Discussion - Action

Travis McFarlane of Bloomer Broadband updated the committee on the Jackson Ave area in the Village of Fall Creek and the funding needed from the county and village to move forward with the project.

He clarified for the committee that this area is not BEAD eligible as it's already considered served by the PSC. The total cost to serve the area was estimated at \$440,000. The committee discussed its options.

Tom Lange motioned to table this matter until the next meeting to allow time to obtain highspeed data from the Fall Creek Community area, motion carried on a voice vote (7-0). Don was able to connect at this time.

Lynn Thompson requested clarification on the ARPA rules for spending these funds on areas already considered served.

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

Chris Crawford, from Charter/Spectrum gave a RDOF update and shared a map of the RDOF areas in Eau Claire County. Adam Raschka updated the committee on the Clear Creek project and mentioned that Spectrum's headquarters is pushing back on the project as it's too expensive to serve. Adam inquired to see if the committee would be interested in providing additional funds. The committee's position was to stand with their original allocated.

Jeff Emery of 24/7 Communications updated the committee on the Town of Union project and planned to close out the grant shortly.

Travis McFarlane of Bloomer Broadband said the Seymour project is done. Engineering is progressing for the Ludington and Lincoln project.

No other internet service providers (ISPs) were present.

8. BEAD Plan Process (Dave Hayden) – **Discussion**

Dave Hayden updated the committee on BEAD related items.

9. Broadband Committee ARPA Fund Close Out – Discussion - Action

This matter was postponed until the next meeting.

10. United Way Digital Equity & Inclusion Update – Amber Scharenbroch – **Discussion**

Amber Scharenbroch reviewed the Eau Claire County Digital Equity and Inclusion Initiative Fact Sheet with the committee. At the conclusion of the fact sheet discussion, Amber announced that she will be leaving her position with United Way to take a position with CVTC as a grant specialist. In her absence, the digital navigator will be covering some of her duties while Ryan Ludy, Executive Director, works to fill her position. The committee thanked her for everything that she did while serving as the Community Impact Director for United Way.

11. Next Steps and future meetings

- a. TBD

12. Adjourn

Adjourn Action: Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:17 p.m.

Respectively submitted by,



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



Towns of Lincoln, Ludington and Village of Fall Creek updated Fiber to the Home Proposal

Purpose Statement:

The purpose of this project is to expand broadband access in the Towns of Lincoln, Ludington, and Village of Fall Creek industrial park and business district, addressing the largest concentration of unserved locations remaining in Eau Claire County. While our grant application for PSC Capital Funds was unsuccessful, we are grateful for the broadband committee's allocation of \$420,000 in matching funds towards this project. We are now seeking Eau Claire County's continued support, along with Bloomer Broadband, to make up the difference. With this combined support and potential additional resources, we aim to complete construction by the end of this year and begin installations in early 2025. This project will enable Eau Claire County to achieve close to 99% broadband coverage, significantly enhancing connectivity for residents and businesses.

Project Area:

The project area remains largely consistent with the CPF grant application, utilizing the State of WI county list of eligible BEAD locations to identify locations needing service. Based on this data, we have expanded the project area to include four more locations on Railroad Dr. and three locations in Ludington township that were initially missed. The list of the 205 unserved BSLs located in this project is provided in Appendix A. A map of the project area is included in Appendix B, highlighting unserved locations with blue pins and indicating service areas with white polygons and address points with white dots. In addition to the unserved BSLs, any address point within the service area will receive the option to receive a free drop as well.

CINC Fiber Swap

To optimize the project's cost and efficiency, we propose a fiber swap with the CINC network. CINC has spare fiber capacity with an established bridge attachment over the Eau Claire River on Highway K. If approved, CINC will swap four fibers to Bloomer Broadband through this 2.4-mile section. In return, Bloomer Broadband will provide four fibers from Chippewa Crossing Blvd and Stilson Rd. to Beaver Creek Reserve. This fiber swap will reduce the project cost by \$165,419 and provide much-needed redundancy for the County. A potential future swap could connect Beaver Creek Reserve to an area near Hwy 27 and County NL, further enhancing redundancy to reduce outages.

Internet Service Provided:

The project will be served by a 100Gb backbone and 10Gb XGSPON subscriber network. Similar to that in the Town of Seymour. Speeds offered to customers will range from 100Mbps/100Mbps to 2.5Gbps/2.5Gbps. Our pricing, available at <https://bloomer.net/internet/>, offers the same rates in all areas without contracts or data caps. Higher speeds tailored to businesses can also be provided upon request.

Financial Considerations and Funding:

The overall cost of the project is \$2,358,963. An increase in the project cost has come from adding the 4 locations on Railroad Dr. Reducing the cost of the original CPF grant application has come from the CINC fiber swap, securing reduced pricing on materials, and securing a bid from our construction team for 2024.

The proposed funding of the project would be as follows:

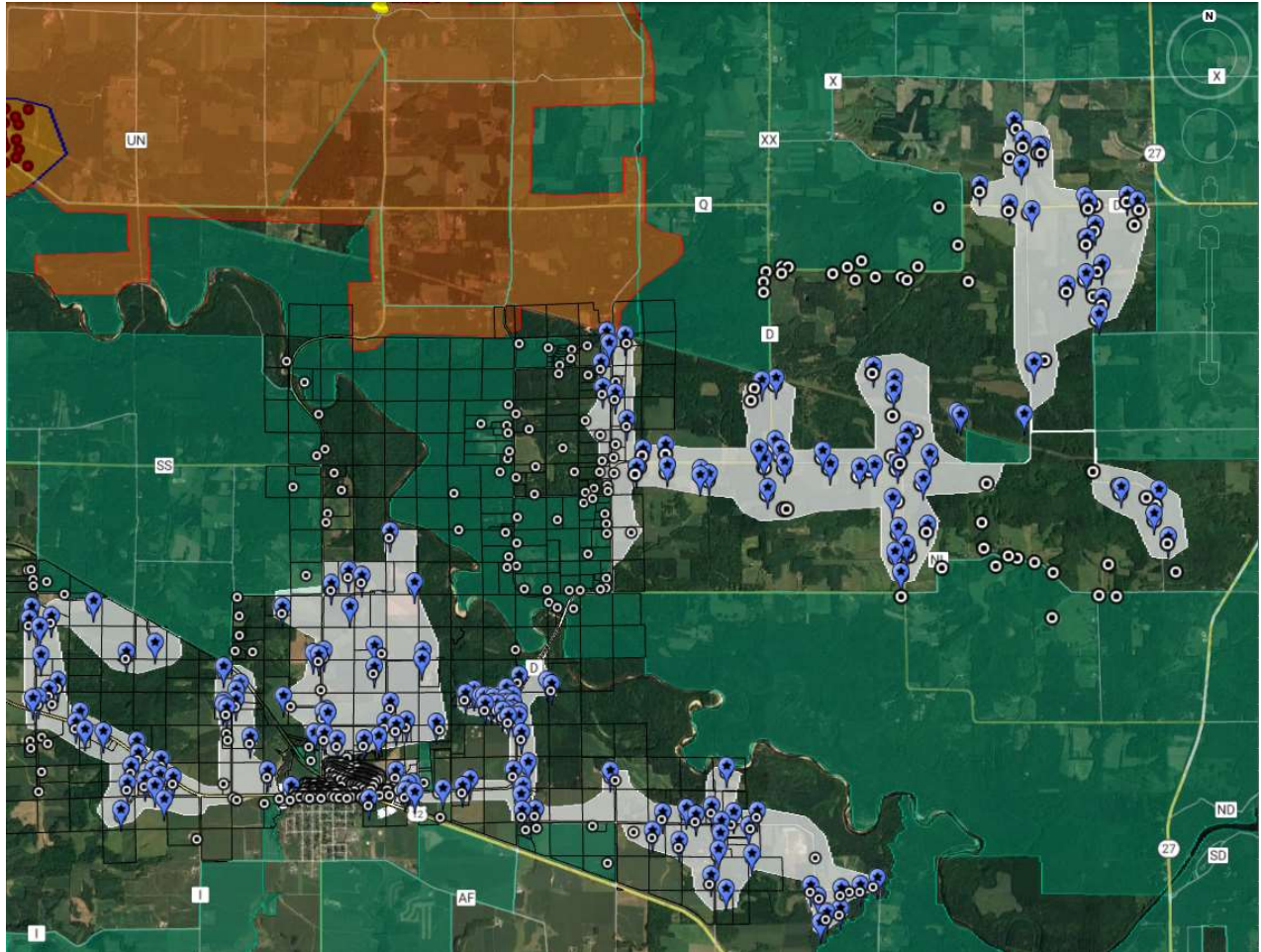
Bloomer Broadband:	\$972,802
Town of Lincoln:	\$10,000
Town of Ludington:	\$10,000
Village of Fall Creek:	\$20,000
Eau Claire County:	\$1,346,161

Appendix A: Listing of un/underserved BSL's in project

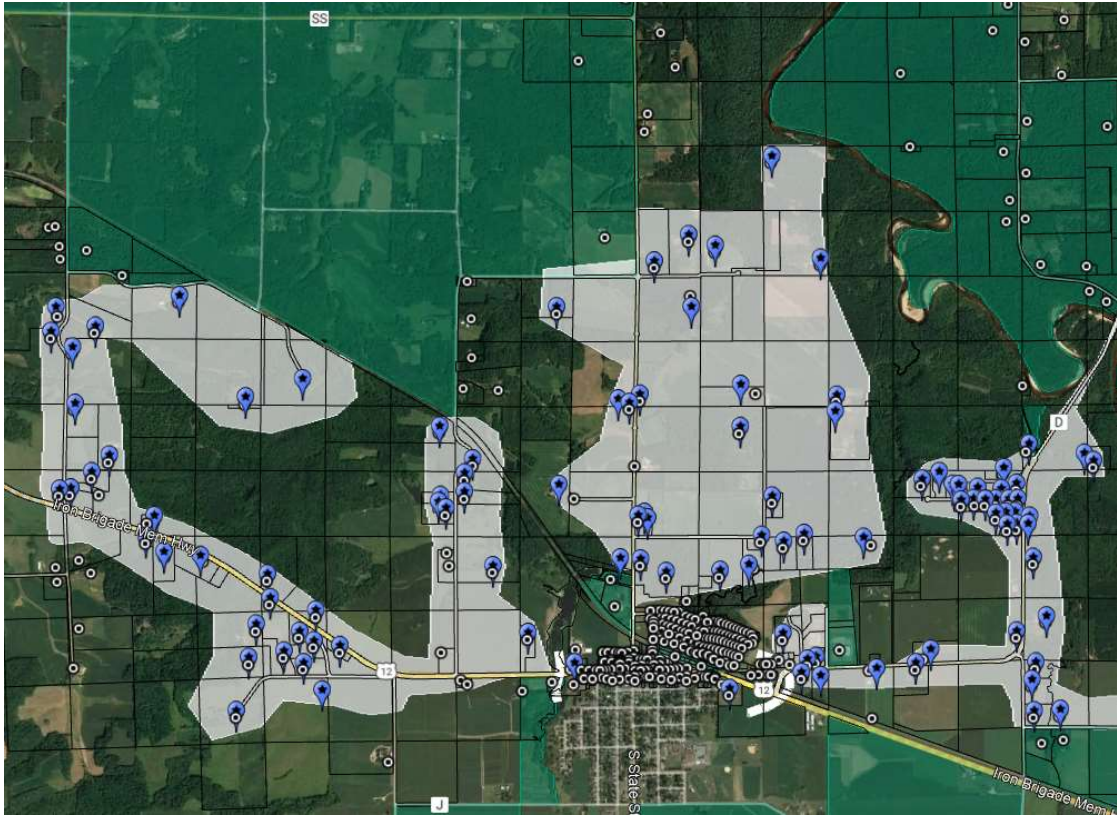
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1078475685	1078481925	1078483229	1078483945	1078484329
1078480808	1078481926	1078483230	1078483946	1078484333
1078480809	1078481927	1078483231	1078483947	1078484334
1078480810	1078481928	1078483232	1078483948	1078484335
1078480811	1078481931	1078483233	1078483949	1078484336
1078480815	1078481932	1078483234	1078483950	1078484337
1078480817	1078481933	1078483235	1078483951	1078484343
1078480947	1078482079	1078483236	1078483952	1078484344
1078480948	1078482086	1078483248	1078483953	1078484345
1078481031	1078482087	1078483551	1078483954	1078484346
1078481032	1078482088	1078483553	1078483955	1078484348
1078481033	1078482719	1078483554	1078483987	1078484349
1078481037	1078482723	1078483555	1078484050	1078484507
1078481038	1078482724	1078483556	1078484056	1078484508
1078481040	1078482725	1078483557	1078484057	1078484509
1078481041	1078482789	1078483562	1078484058	1078484510
1078481048	1078482822	1078483563	1078484059	1078484512
1078481105	1078482823	1078483708	1078484060	1078484513
1078481106	1078482825	1078483860	1078484061	1078484514
1078481107	1078483011	1078483864	1078484062	1078484515
1078481109	1078483014	1078483878	1078484063	1078484516
1078481110	1078483015	1078483879	1078484064	1078484518
1078481111	1078483016	1078483880	1078484065	1078484520
1078481112	1078483020	1078483881	1078484066	1078484521
1078481113	1078483024	1078483928	1078484067	1078484522
1078481303	1078483036	1078483929	1078484068	1078484524
1078481360	1078483037	1078483930	1078484070	1078484629
1078481362	1078483039	1078483931	1078484130	1078484633
1078481449	1078483207	1078483932	1078484131	1078484635
1078481909	1078483208	1078483933	1078484135	1078484636
1078481910	1078483209	1078483934	1078484137	1411789111
1078481911	1078483210	1078483935	1078484318	1412409705
1078481913	1078483211	1078483936	1078484319	1412409708
1078481914	1078483214	1078483937	1078484320	1414889949
1078481915	1078483216	1078483938	1078484321	1414889974
1078481916	1078483217	1078483939	1078484323	1414889975
1078481919	1078483219	1078483940	1078484324	1414890344
1078481920	1078483225	1078483941	1078484325	1414890227
1078481921	1078483226	1078483942	1078484326	1414889963
1078481922	1078483227	1078483943	1078484327	

Appendix B: Map of Project Area

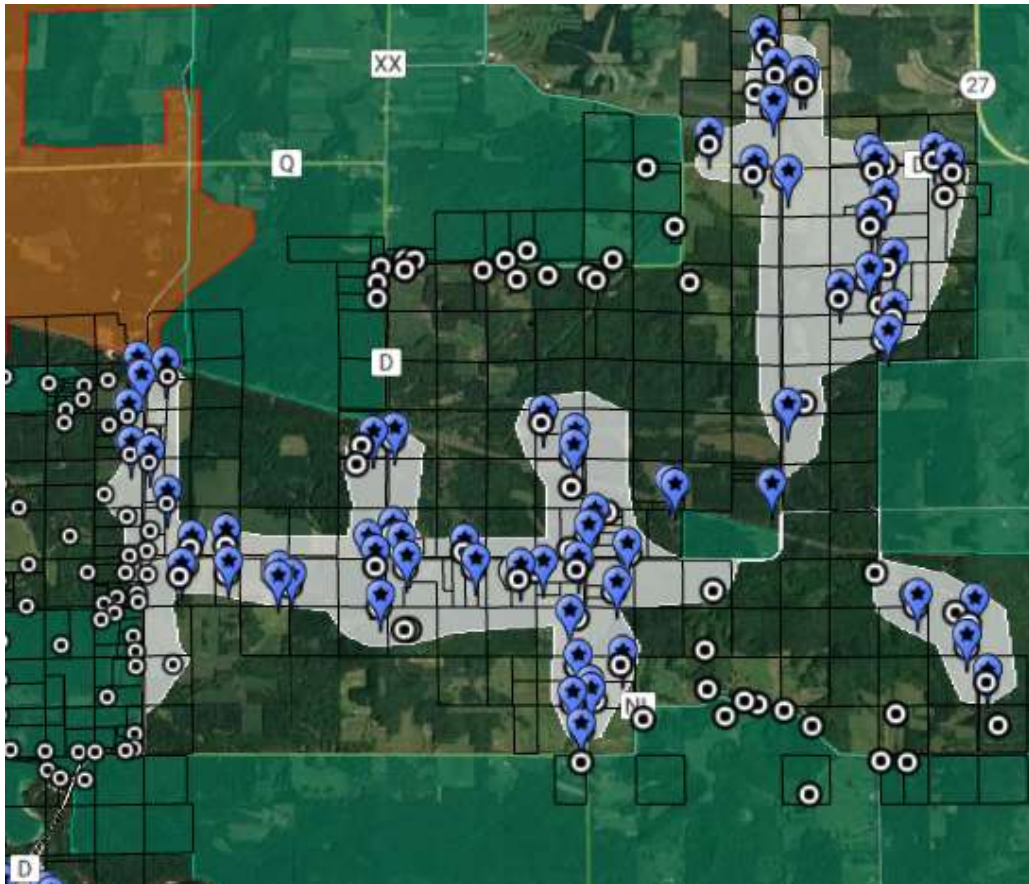
- Orange – Bloomer Current Serving area
- White- Polygon of proposed project
- Blue Pins – Un/Underserved BSL's from State of WI
- White Circles – Address Points
- Green Polygon – Areas served by RDOF funding



Project Detail – West



Project Detail East



Application to request County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for Broadband Infrastructure.

Description

By resolution file no. 21-22/034, the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors designated 2.8 million dollars of its funding received through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to be used as matching funds in combination with ARPA funds from local units of governments (towns) or internet service providers (ISPs) for the expansion of broadband infrastructure/services within Eau Claire County. Resolution file no. 22-23/087 allowed the Broadband Committee to identify other projects where remaining funding can be used for infrastructure purposes including the expansion of broadband throughout Eau Claire County.

Applications from the ISP providers requesting funds shall be for broadband infrastructure/services within townships in Eau Claire County.

Application and materials

To qualify for broadband infrastructure or services matching funds:

- Application must be filed by a town municipal government from Eau Claire County or by an ISP where their project has been approved by the Broadband Committee.
- The town/ISP must provide a scope of work plan (provided by the internet service provider) for the project.
- Detail drawings must be attached to the application that identifies the areas in the town to be covered by the project. The drawings shall be on media no larger than 11" by 17".
- Application shall indicate the amount of the town's ARPA funds, if applicable, are allocated to the broadband infrastructure project (proof from town board meeting).
- The Town Chair or its designee, or the ISP representative, must sign the application.
- Broadband expansion projects that cross over municipal boundaries require separate applications from each town to be considered for County ARPA fund match.

Eligible Use of Funds

The Eau Claire County Broadband Committee shall review and approve the application requests for broadband funds. Funds can only be used for broadband expansion/infrastructure projects within the town or project previous approved by the committee. Any requests for funds **other** than for expenses directly related to broadband expansion will not be approved by the committee. The broadband project must support a 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload speeds. Project areas are underserved or unserved with highspeed internet according to the Public Service Commission (PSC) definition.

Application Timeline & Procedures

Completed application shall be submitted to Rodney Eslinger, Clerk for the Broadband Committee at rod.eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov. Please note the maximum attachment size is 10MB. If an email and attachments exceed the allowable size, please send multiple emails.

Application shall be reviewed by the Broadband Committee at their next regularly scheduled meeting (the Broadband Committee currently meets the third Thursday of the month at 4 pm). The Broadband shall act on the request to allocate the funds requested.

Successful applicants will also be required to sign an intergovernmental agreement that further defines the expectations for the ARPA fund match.

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY
 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS TO MATCH LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL
 UNITS/or ISP REQUESTS FOR BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE**

SECTION I-TOWN ARPA FUND MATCH REQUEST	
Please indicated the requested amount of County ARPA Fund Match for the broadband infrastructure project in your township.	
Project Name	Amount
1. Towns of Lincoln, Ludington and Village of Fall Creek	\$673,080.50
2.	\$
3.	\$

SECTION II-TOWN/ISP CONTACT INFORMATION			
Town of: Lincoln, Ludington and Village of Fall Creek			
Mailing Address:			
City, State, Zip:		Website URL: bloomer.net	
Town Chair:		Town Clerk:	
Office Phone: The UEI below is of Bloomer Te		Email:	
UEI (unique Entity ID) # JWB9MJFEMR71		SAM Registration: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
FEIN ((Federal Employee Identification Number –Tax ID): 39-1904044 This is for our subsidiary BTC that will own this			

Provide a description of the scope of work for the broadband project, and attached a detailed drawing of the area to be served by the project (attach supporting documentation):
 See attached Project Doc.

Please submit the following project-level information for the broadband project:

Technology to be deployed (highspeed internet)	FTTH - XGS PON
Pricing tiers to be offered (affordability)	https://bloomer.net/internet/ (Standard pricing)
Miles of fiber	39
Cost per mile	\$60,223
Speeds to be offered	https://bloomer.net/internet/ 100/100 upto 2500/2500
System download speed	10Gig to subs; 100G to core network
System upload speed	Same as Download
Number of households to be served	See Project Doc
Number of institutions and businesses to be served	See Project Doc
Anticipated start date	6/26/2024
Anticipated completion date	Plowing done in 2024; Splicing & installs

