



**MARATHON COUNTY  
BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING**

**Minutes**

**Monday, July 24, 2023 at 3:00 P.M.**

**Webex/Assembly Room, 500 Forest St, Wausau WI**

| <b>Members</b>      | <b>Present/Web-Phone</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Chair John Robinson | x                        |               |
| Jacob Langenhahn    | x                        |               |
| Gary Gisselman      | x                        |               |
| Mike Ritter         |                          | x             |
| Jennifer Aarrestad  | x                        |               |
| Tony Sherfinski     | x                        |               |
| Eric Budleski       | x                        |               |
| Milton Olson        | x                        |               |
| Wade Carroll        |                          | x             |
| Kurt Schoenrock     | x                        |               |
| Jon Euting          | x                        |               |

**Also Present:** Valerie Carrillo

**VIA Web or Phone:** Todd Kruse, Andy Faust, Celeste Flynn, Gaylene Rhoden, Christian Boulanger

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 3:01pm.
2. **Public Comments** (15 Minute limit) – none
3. **LANGENHAHN MAKE A MOTION; SECOND BY AARRESTAD TO APPROVE THE JUNE 26, 2023 BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.**
4. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion:**
  - A. Update on Grant Funded/Assisted Broadband Projects - There was a request to update the task force when various places go live.
    1. Charter – Celeste Flynn – shared a map of what they have completed at this time, upcoming dates, and passings. The map will be forwarded to the task force.
    2. Frontier – Todd Kruse – gave an overview of updates coming for release. They will be starting construction on September 1, 2023 and have two years to complete it.
    3. Bug Tussel – Information update was provided in the packet.
  - B. Broadband Support Position Update – Gerry has worked with HR and hope to have it posted soon.
  - C. Fabric Map Challenges – Corp Counsel sent concerns regarding open records law. We continue to wait for a response.
  - D. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) State Funding and Planning – The state will be receiving funds for broadband expansion. The press release was sent out regarding the WISER survey with 158 responses from Marathon County.
5. **Policy Discussion and Possible Action:**
  - A. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program
    1. Identification of Unserved and Underserved Areas – Discussion of map, what the codes mean, and how can we partner with ISPs to target the areas.
    2. Identification of Barriers – Discussion included meaningful participation, financial means, complacency, frustration of speed of results, poor customer service, topography, geography, terrain, and accuracy of current data. Additionally, notifications of the type of service coming and who the service providers are for each township.
    3. Identification of Opportunities – Discussion included use of the BEAD funds, press release with

positive movement information, presenting realistic timeframes, and a formal presentation to the board with comprehensive overview that can be placed on the website.

- B. Process for determining priorities for future broadband expansion efforts – pull the information and maps together as well as capturing the plans of the ISPs moving forward.

6. **Next Steps**

- 1. Mapping efforts
- 2. ISP future plans

7. **Next Meeting:** August 28, 2023

8. **Adjournment**

**LANGENHAHN MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING, AARRESTAD SECOND. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:31pm.**

Respectfully Submitted by,

Kathy Johnson