



MARATHON COUNTY
BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING
Agenda

Date & Time of Meeting: **Monday, June 26, 2023 at 3:00 P.M.**

Meeting Location: **Assembly Room, Marathon County Courthouse, 500 Forest St, Wausau, WI**

Task Force Members: Chair John Robinson, Jacob Langenhahn, Gary Gisselman, Mike Ritter, Jennifer Aarrestad, Tony Sherfinski, Eric Budleski, Milton Olson, Wade Carroll, Kurt Schoenroch, Jon Euting

Task Force Purpose: *Develop recommendations identifying the potential role of Marathon County in facilitating the expansion of Broadband access in Marathon County. Review the Report: Broadband for Marathon County Broadband Assessment and Plan prepared by Design Nine and develop broad policies and partnership recommendations relating to the expansion of broadband/internet services throughout Marathon County.*

Phone #: 1-415-655-0001

Access Code: 120 112 4516

When you enter the telephone conference, **PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!**

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Public Comments (15 Minute limit)**
3. **Approval of the May 22, 2023 minutes –**
4. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion:**
 - A. Update on Grant Funded Broadband Projects
 1. Frontier (PSC 2022)
 2. Bug Tussel (PSC 2022)
 3. Charter (RDOF)
 - B. BEAD Planning Grant
 - C. Broadband Support
5. **Policy Discussion and Possible Action:**
 - A. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program
 - B. Process for determining priorities for future broadband expansion efforts
 1. Outreach and Stakeholder Involvement
 - a. WISER Survey
 - b. Outreach to Internet Service Providers
 - c. FCC Fabric Map Challenges
6. **Next Steps**
7. **Next Meeting Date – July 24, 2023**
8. **Adjournment**

“Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk’s Office at 715-261-1500 or e-mail countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us one business day before the meeting.

SIGNED /s/ John Robinson
Presiding Officer or Designee

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE

Emailed To: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and
Other Media Groups

Emailed By: T. Ranallo

Date/Time: 6/22/2023 at 11:00 am

BY: T. Ranallo

DATE/TIME: 6/22/2023 at 11:00 am



**MARATHON COUNTY
BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING
Minutes**

**Monday, May 22, 2023 at 3:00 P.M.
Webex/Assembly Room, 500 Forest St, Wausau WI**

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

Also Present: Gerry Klein, Ashley Bolden

VIA Web or Phone: Todd Kruse, Kevin O'Brien, Gaylene Rhoden, Valerie Carrillo, Andy Faust, Celeste Flynn

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 3:00p.m.
2. **Public Comments** (15 Minute limit) – none
3. **AARESTAD MAKE A MOTION; SECOND BY SHERFINSKI TO APPROVE THE MARCH 27, 2023 BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.**
4. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion:**
 - A. Update on Grant Funded Broadband Projects
 1. Frontier (PSC 2022) – Todd Kruse – Currently 17 wire centers involved within their project. Completion for step one at the end of June 2023. Construction to start July 1 for outside plan engineering with a physical start Sept 2023. Scheduled completion for Sept 2024. A map outlining the project was requested.
 2. Bug Tussel (PSC 2022) – Ashley Bolden - Didn't have any updates. She offered to get answers to any questions. The quarterly report is in the packet. Supervisor Robinson added information from his previous meeting.
 3. Charter (RDOF) – Celeste Flynn– Shared a map of projected completions by Aug 2023. An approximately 2000 residents can have access by this time. This work is in Western Marathon County.
 - B. Status Report on Bug Tussel's Project – No report to add.
 - C. FCC Fabric Map Challenges – The language in the agreements is difficult for local governments to follow. Marathon County is working with corporation counsel to get the agreements complete. The county can do bulk challenges, however getting information from vendor has created challenges. It has been very difficult for individuals to complete the challenges.
 - D. Frontier 2023 PSC Applications – The Frontier grant for Marathon County was not addressed at a recent meeting.
5. **Policy Discussion and Possible Action:**
 - A. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program
 1. Planning Grant– There is 42.5 billion available nationwide. Wisconsin will be receiving between \$800 million and 1.1 billion. Marathon County has partnered with Centergy for a planning grant for

\$18,171.15.

a) Concepts

- a. Focus on the areas without quality service. Identify the areas that there is not a current plan for.
- b. Can people afford it?
- c. Do they know how to use it in the most valuable way?

GISSELMAN MOTION OF SUPPORT FOR ADVANCING THE CONCEPTS, AARESTAD SECOND. ALL IN FAVOR.

- B. Process for determining priorities for future broadband expansion efforts
 1. Outreach and Stakeholder Involvement – There is a need to have broadband accessible (in all forms) to all residents within Marathon County. Discussion of who to reach out to, suggestions included schools and working with the CPC.
- C. Develop recommendations for Staff Support for Broadband efforts – Currently no staff dedicated to Broadband project. Discussion of position potentials.

GISSELMAN MOTION TO ADVANCE A CONTRATOR OR INHOUSE STAFF FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION EFFORTS TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE, BUDLESKI SECOND. Discussion. This position will not use tax levy. All in favor.

6. **Next Steps –**

1. Barriers for internet access
2. Support staff update

7. **Next Meeting:** June 26, 2023

8. **Adjournment**

SHERFINSKI MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING, AARESTAD SECOND. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Kathy Johnson

Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2023 8:22 AM

To: John Robinson <John.Robinson@co.marathon.wi.us>; Gerard Klein <Gerard.Klein@co.marathon.wi.us>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Questions

Hello John and Gerry,

I've received some additional information regarding these questions. Updated info is in red below.

1. What towers have been lit up in Marathon County?

- a. Little Chicago
- b. Bevent
- c. Leather Camp
- d. Hamburg
- e. Big Bass Lake
- f. Sunset
- g. Evergreen Road
- h. Bass Lake (6/19)
- i. Shepard Road (6/19)
- j. Glandon (6/19)

2. Are we on target to get all towers up this year?

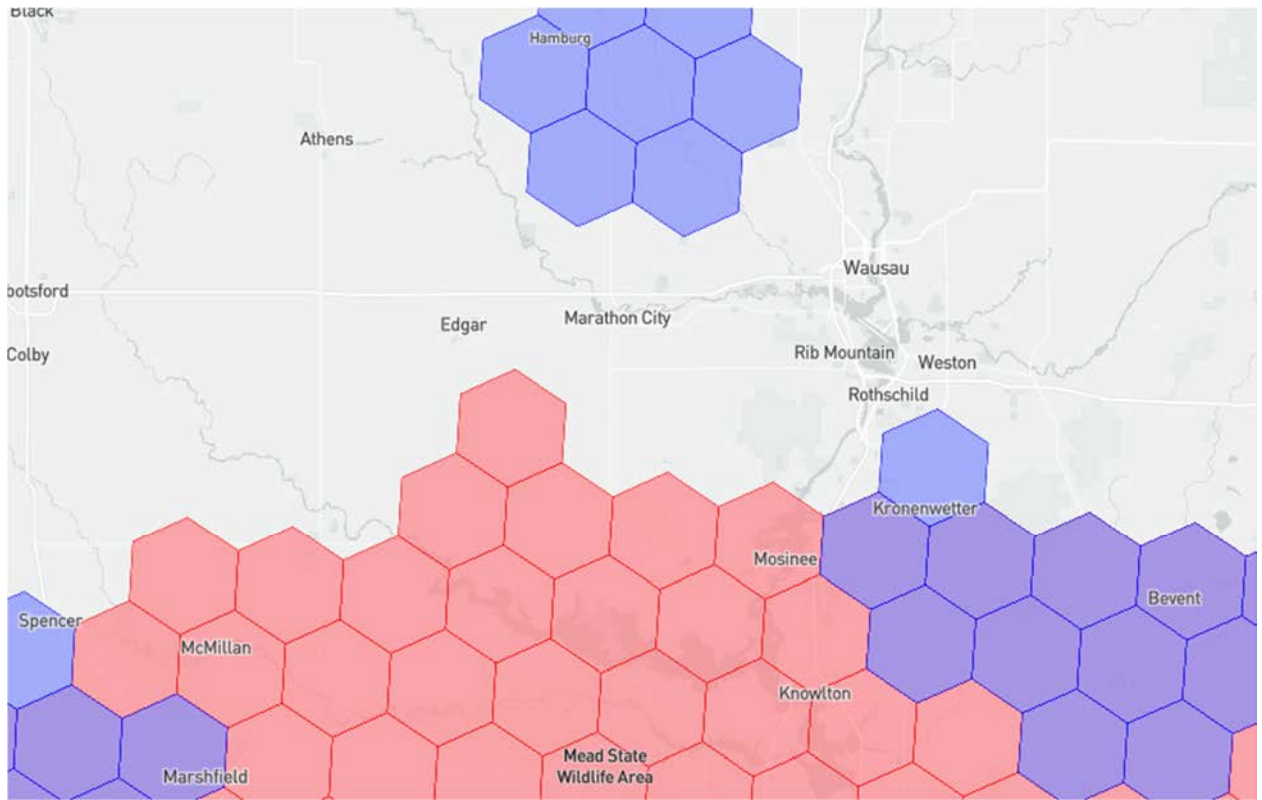
"All" is kind of a moving target. The original proposal was for 18 towers. There are 10 currently online, 6 are standing and awaiting equipment/connections, and 2 that need to be stacked. All 18 of those will assuredly be online before the end of the year.

We also have another 4 that are tracking for the Q4/2023 or Q1/2024, and 2 that we have had difficulty finding a candidate for.

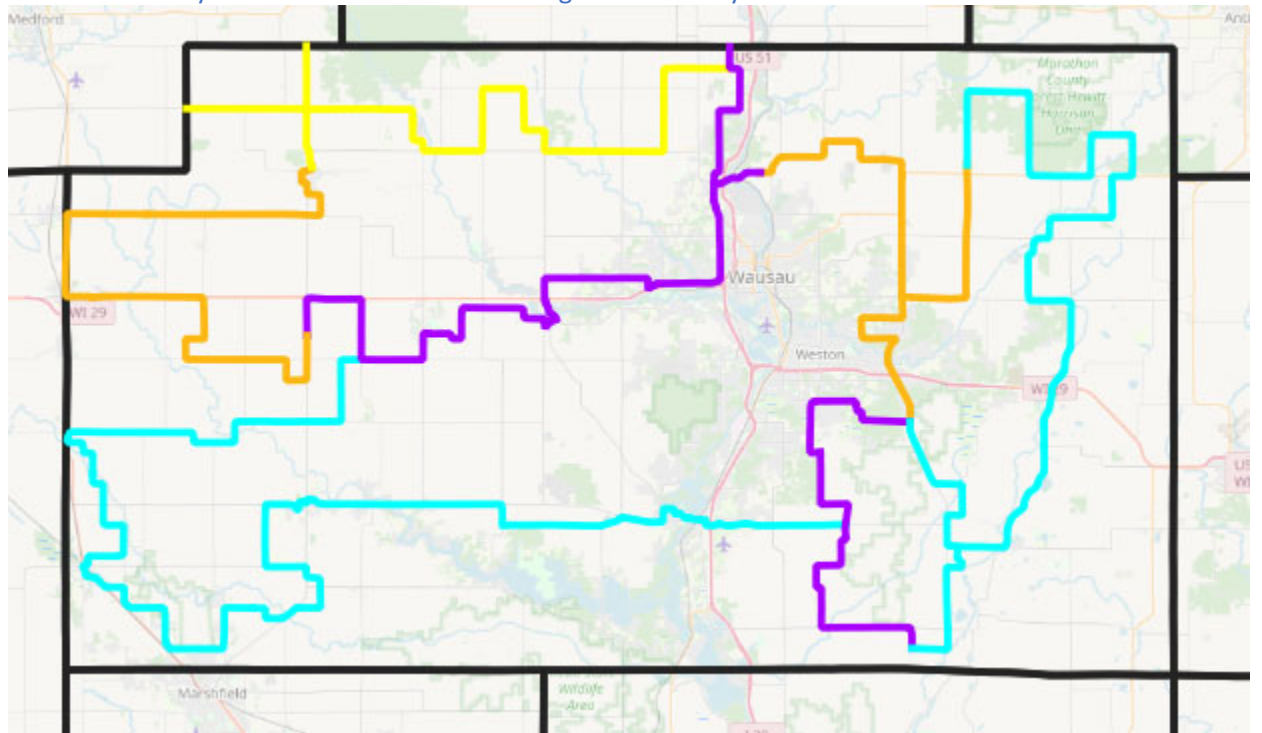
Our expectation is that we will have 22 active sites by Q2/2024.

3. It appears that the FCC fabric broadband map indicates that we provide 100% coverage in the county; is this claim accurate?

John and Mitch discussed this. From what Mitch has been able to see, the FCC data does not show that we cover all of Marathon County. If we can identify the issue, we would be happy to address it.



4. Where is conduit, fiber, and where is fiber live?
- a. Conduit is installed in all areas marked in orange and yellow (see below)
 - b. Fiber is installed in the yellow area
 - c. Fiber is not live yet. Final connections are being made in the yellow area.



d.

Melody Schuetz
 Director of Community Engagement

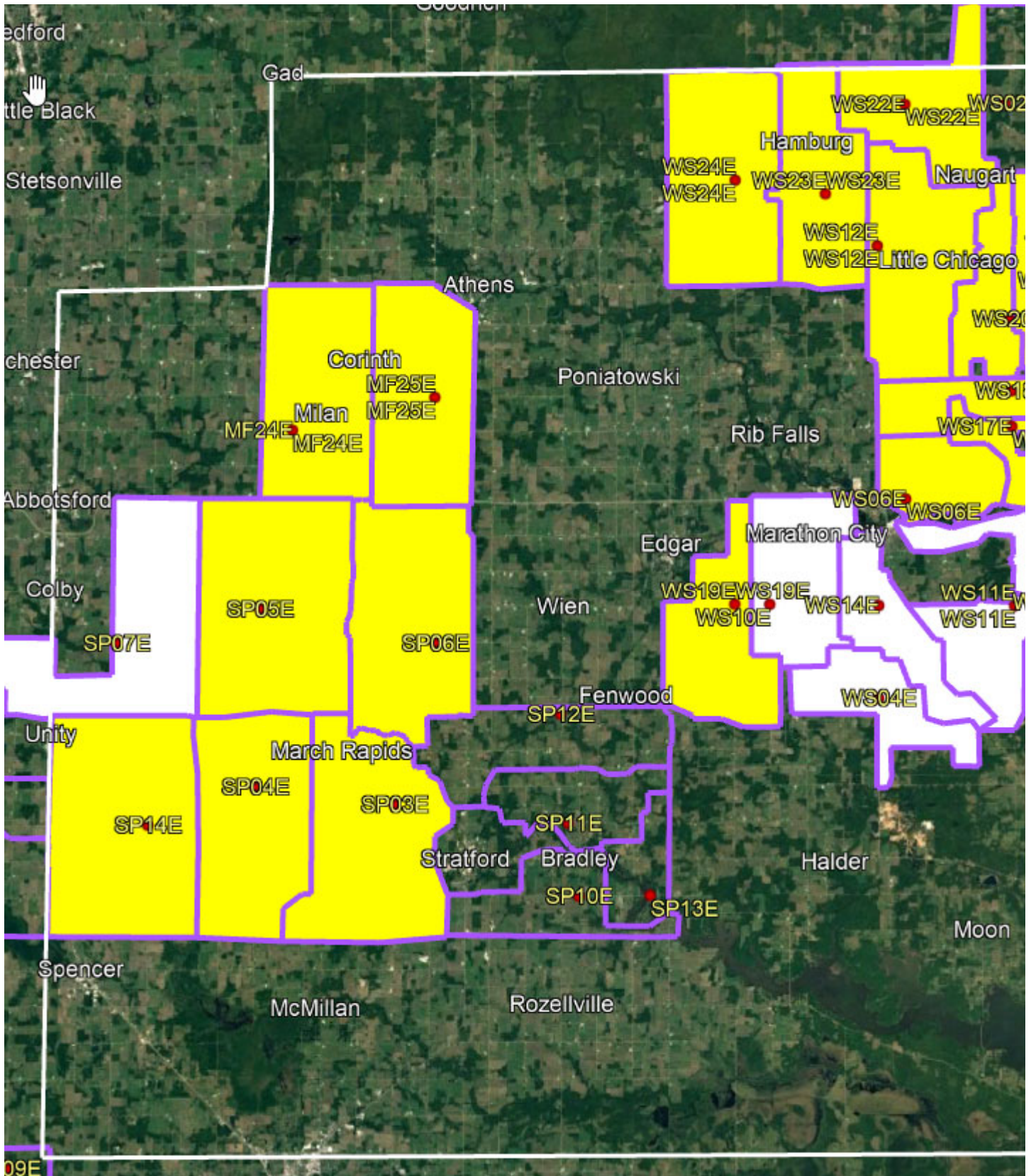
Subject: FW: BFT Meeting June 26

From: Wolfgram, Randy L <Randy.Wolfgram@charter.com>
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2023 8:36 AM
To: Kathy Johnson <kathy.johnson@wisc.edu>
Cc: celeste.flynn@charter.com <celeste.flynn@charter.com>
Subject: RE: BFT Meeting June 26

Good morning Kathy,
Celeste and I will not be able to attend this meeting next week. Below are our updates as to what we have completed and our next scheduled activations for the next three months. Please reach out if you have additional questions. White area is completed and yellow is pending the next three months.

Marathon County	OLD	PID	Activation Date	Passings
	WS16E	3073867	8/12/2022	170
	WS11E	3013983	10/31/2022	189
	WS04E	2975972	1/30/2023	133
	WS14E	3081892	2/17/2023	117
	SP07E	3125499	5/25/2023	203
	WS10E	3355708	6/22/2023	128
	WS18E	3072368	6/23/2023	132
	MF25E	3205854	6/27/2023	172
	WS19E	3355719	6/27/2023	128
	MF24E	3205703	6/29/2023	197
	SP05E	3224834	6/29/2023	183
	SP14E	3256715	7/14/2023	199
	WS06E	3072355	7/14/2023	192
	SP04E	3192729	7/18/2023	173
	WS17E	3072285	7/19/2023	150
	SP03E	3157982	7/26/2023	206
	WS23E	3623591	8/3/2023	155
	WS12E	3623551	8/8/2023	196
	WS20E	3358353	8/15/2023	148
	SP06E	3246229	8/23/2023	191
	WS24E	3623603	8/23/2023	170
	WS05E	3358339	9/12/2023	150
	WS22E	3588536	9/29/2023	135

Partial release



Randy Wolfgram | Sr. Director, Construction-Rural Build-WI | 920.378.0378
 3545 E Plank Rd. | Appleton, WI 54915