



MARATHON COUNTY

BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 25, 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 Aarrestad	x	
Tony Sherfinski	x	
Eric Budleski	x	
Milton Olson		x
Wade Carroll		x
Jon Euting	x	

Also Present: Gerry Klein, Valerie Carrillo

VIA Web or Phone: Kevin O'Brien, Todd Kruse, Andy Faust, Randy Wolfgram, Teri Hatchell, Gaylene Rhoden, Preston Vande Voort, Scott Feldt

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 3:01pm.
2. **Public Comments** (15 Minute limit) – none
3. **GISSELMAN MAKE A MOTION; SECOND BY SHERFINSKI TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 28, 2023 BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.**
4. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion:**
 - A. Update on Grant Funded/Assisted Broadband Projects
 1. Charter – Randy – Shared a map of their current status of completion and upcoming buildouts.
 2. Frontier – Todd – Completing two projects outside the county that has been priority for staff. They will have revised schedule in the 4th quarter. They will still be in the two year completion guidelines.
 3. Bug Tussel – Scott – They are working best they can to get the towers up and fiber in the ground. Inflation costs have been prohibitive. 16 towers have been lit with 4 more to go. No fiber is live yet but there is some in the ground. There is a request for a status update for the reasons they are behind in the project completion by the end of the week.
 - B. Broadband Support Position Update – There were two applications for the position. There will be phone screen interviews this week.
 - C. Update on Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) State Funding, Planning, and Timelines – Chairman Robinson reviewed the BEAD information provided in the packet.
5. **Policy Discussion and Possible Action:**
 - A. PSC Capital Projects Fund \$42 million – This is due November 7. There will be meeting in the future with the ISPs to determine who will be interested in the grant application.
 1. [PSC Opens Broadband Infrastructure Program Grant Round – WWIS Radio](#)
 2. Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure Program (in packet)
 - B. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program – We are still waiting for the initial plan. Preston provided a map of housing points for the county to be used for data overlays to determine where the largest underserved and unserved areas are. Discussion of how to use the maps without violating privacy agreements. There will also be work with the area school districts.
 - C. Process for determining priorities for future broadband expansion efforts - the task force will look to use confidential information and the maps from CPZ to better determine unserved and underserved areas and anchor institutions.

6. **Next Steps**

- A. ISP Meeting
- B. Map Overlay
- C. Identify Anchor Institutions

7. **Next Meeting:** October 23, 2023

8. **Adjournment**

**RITTER MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING, SHERFINSKI SECOND. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. MEETING
ADJOURNED AT 4:05pm.**

Respectfully Submitted by,
Kathy Johnson