



MARATHON COUNTY

BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 2:00 P.M.

Employee Resource Conference 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, Kurt Gibbs

VIA Web or Phone: Adam Raschka, Todd Kruse, Preston Vande Voort, Chris Crawford, Michael Puerner, Scott Nyman

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 2:01pm.
2. **Public Comments** (15 Minute limit) – none
3. **LANGENHAHN MAKE A MOTION; SECOND BY BUDLESKI TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 25, 2023 BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.**
4. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion:**
 - A. Update on Grant Funded/Assisted Broadband Projects
 1. Charter – Adam Raschka reviewed the map in the packet. They are on schedule to complete the current project by year end.
 2. Frontier – Todd Kruse stated they are on schedule under the 2-year plan, total crossings about 10,680 locations. They experienced some delays in trenching to due rain.
 3. Bug Tussel – Chair Robinson gave an update. They have scheduled meetings to discuss their projects and delays. They are working on a path forward to complete the project.
 - B. Broadband Support Position Update – The position had been reposted and closed on October 31.
 - C. Update on Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) – The state of Wisconsin submitted an initial application for public comment for year 1 of the federal dollars. There continues to be concerns about the mapping and quality of maps. There was a discussion of our current maps and areas served.
5. **Policy Discussion and Possible Action:**
 - A. PSC Capital Projects Fund \$42 million
 1. Potential projects and role of county – Frontier, Todd Kruse, discussed their bid plan that will include passing 846 homes, broken down into three project areas. Charter, Adam Raschka, has identified the central area, west of Wausau, for their proposal project. It would include 2088 homes. They are redesigning a project to not overlap with Frontier as well.
 - B. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program
 1. Public comment on draft plan – no public comment.
 - C. Process for determining priorities for future broadband expansion efforts – Discussion of maps and needs. Potential to offer town hall meetings in the evening.
 - D. Resolution Supporting Applications to PSC for Broadband Expansion
MOTION TO ALLOCATE UP TO \$100 PER CROSSING, UTILIZING ARPA FUNDS, IN SUPPORT OF THE GRANT APPLICATIONS. LANGENHAHN MOTION; GISSELMAN SECOND. MOTION CARRIED.
6. **Next Steps**
 - A. Updating maps with new information
 - B. Prepare for BEAD
7. **Next Meeting:** November 27, 2023
8. **Adjournment**
BUDLESKI MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING, RITTER SECOND. MOTION CARRIED. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:16pm.