



**MARATHON COUNTY  
BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING**

**Minutes**

**Monday, December 18, 2023 at 3:00 P.M.**

**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, Kurt Gibbs, Erin Andrews, Chris Crawford

**VIA Web or Phone:** Preston Vande Voort, Valerie Carrillo, Randy Wolfgram, Todd Kruse, Kimm Webber, Bill Flood, Brady Mesenberg, Kim Dye

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.
2. **Public Comments** (15 Minute limit) – Kim Dye presented they were able to get Frontier about 1 ½ yrs ago. They are in the town of Reid. It’s not always reliable.
3. **RITTER MAKE A MOTION; SECOND BY AARRESTAD TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 1, 2023 BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.**
4. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion:**
  - A. Update on Grant Funded/Assisted Broadband Projects
    1. Frontier – Todd Kruse – They have equipment staged in the Wausau area to start in the first of the year for fiber deployment, weather dependent. 846 customer locations are focused with their three grant applications. They are doing additional planned construction work in the county, not related to any PSC or grant work.
    2. Bug Tussel – Chairman Robinson gave an overview of recent discussions. They are attempting to create a realistic completion schedule. Many factors have delayed the project’s completion.
    3. Charter – Randy Wolfgram – He presented the current map of their work. They have completed 3639 connections to homes and small businesses to date. They have been working ahead of schedule. most is with RDOF. Chris Crawford gave updates on the two newer grant areas they applied for as well as additional buildouts.
  - B. Update on PSC Capital Projects Fund Projects Requests (Frontier and Charter) – Supervisor Robinson reviewed fund requests to date.
  - C. Broadband Support Position Update – Erin Andrews introduced herself and her background. She is the broadband support coordinator.
5. **Policy Discussion and Possible Action:**
  - A. Review Coverage Maps – Erin is working with Preston in CPZ to verify the accuracy of the coverage map areas and then will be issuing challenges to the PSC maps for the inaccuracies.
  - B. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program
    1. Process and timelines for determining priorities for future broadband expansion efforts - Erin reviewed the information in the packet.

- a. Unserved Areas under 20/3
    - b. Underserved Areas under 120
    - c. Community Anchor Institutions – These are town halls, schools, libraries, and multiple unit dwellings.
  2. Identify County Role in Process
    - a. Process and timelines for maximizing ISP participation – Timeline was discussed.
    - b. Task Force Role – The role within the county was discussed.
  - C. Review Wisconsin Digital Equity Plan to Identify Opportunities for Marathon County – Erin reviewed what digital equity is, who is targeted, and current funding for it.
6. **Next Steps**
- A. Map Updates
  - B. Speed Tests - WISER test
  - C. ISP Meeting
7. **Next Meeting:** January 22, 2024
8. **Adjournment**
- SHERFINSKI MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING, AARRESTAD SECOND. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:22pm.**

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Kathy Johnson