



MARATHON COUNTY
JOINT EXECUTIVE & HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE & PROPERTY
COMMITTEE AMENDED AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: Thursday, July 15, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: WebEx/Courthouse Assembly Room, B-105, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI

Executive Committee Members: Kurt Gibbs Chair; Craig McEwen, Vice-Chair; Matt Bootz; Tim Buttke; Randy Fifrick; Sara Guild, Jacob Langenhahn, Alyson Leahy, John Robinson, Vacant

HR Finance Committee Members: John Robinson, Chair; Alyson Leahy, Vice-Chair; Craig McEwen, Kurt Gibbs, Yee Leng Xiong, Jonathan Fisher

Marathon County Mission Statement: Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business. (Last updated: 12-20-05)

Executive Committee Mission Statement: The Executive Committee of the Marathon County Board exists for the purpose of implementing the County's Strategic Plan by coordinating policy formation among the Committees, and providing leadership for all County Board policies through supervision of Administrative staff.

HR Finance Committee Mission Statement: Provide leadership for the implementation of the County Strategic Plan, monitor outcomes, review and recommend to the County Board policies related to human resources initiatives, finance and property of the County

The meeting site identified above will be open to the public. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health directives, Marathon County encourages Executive Committee members and the public to attend this meeting remotely. Instead of attendance in person, Committee members and the public may attend this meeting by telephone conference. If Committee members or members of the public cannot attend remotely, Marathon County requests that appropriate safety measures, including adequate social distancing, be utilized by all in-person attendees. Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the telephone conference beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number:

Phone #: 1-408-418-9388 Access Code: 146 159 7938

The meeting will also be broadcast on Public Access or at https://tinyurl.com/MarathonCountyBoard

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

- 1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Public Comment (15 Minutes)
3. Approval of the June 10, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Possible Action
5. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion
6. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution
7. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location, Announcements and Future Agenda Items:
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 261-1500 or e-mail countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us one business day before the meeting.

SIGNED Chair Kurt Gibbs Presiding Officer or Designee

FAXED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, CityPages, and Other Media Groups
FAXED BY: T. Ranallo
FAXED DATE & Time: 7/14/2021

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE
BY: T. Ranallo
DATE & Time: 7/14/2021



## MARATHON COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, June 10, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

WebEx/Courthouse Assembly Room, B-105, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI

Members	Present/Web-Phone	Absent
Chair Kurt Gibbs	X	
Vice Chair Craig McEwen	X	
Matt Bootz	Phone	
Tim Buttke	X	
Sara Guild	W	
Jacob Langenhahn	X	
Alyson Leahy	X	
John Robinson	W	
Vacant		
Randy Fifrick	W	

Also present: Lance Leonhard, Donna Krause, Jennifer Bizzotto, Valerie Carrillo, and Toshia Ranallo.

WebEx/Phone: Jean Maszk, Sandy Cihlar, Chris Dickenson, William Harris, Gerald Klein, Kim Trueblood, Jamie Polley, Tanya Riehle, Tina Jensen, Rachel Butalla, and one unidentified caller.

### 1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kurt Gibbs at 4:30 p.m.

### 2. Public Comment

Tina Jensen, 178808 Pine View Dr. Birnamwood, 54414 – Gave praise and appreciation to all the farmers for their hard work and the food they have produced to help feed Marathon County. She also commended the Dairy Breakfast.

Rachel Butalla, 227931 Crane Dr. Wausau, 54401 – Recited the Bill of Rights First Amendment and segments of the Declaration of Independence. Butalla thanked the board for having the presentation given by Kevin McGary. She stated it brought her clarity and strengthened her understanding of roots established in 1776.

Supervisor Jean Maszk, 277 Old H WY 51, Mosinee, WI 54455 – As a county representative on the Partnership for Progressive Agriculture, she applauded the June Dairy Breakfast held on Sunday, June 6, 2021 at Swiderski Equipment in Mosinee. They served approximately 2000 people. A representative from the Health Department attended and was pleased that all health codes were followed.

### 3. MOTION BY LANGENHAHN; SECOND BY MCEWEN TO APPROVE THE MAY 13, 2021, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES WITH A CORRECTION TO INCLUDE THE ADDRESS OF A RESIDENT WHO SPOKE DURING PUBLIC COMMENT. MOTION CARRIED.

### 4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Possible Action

#### A. County Board Meetings to be Held in Person

#### **Discussion:**

Chair Gibbs stated he placed this item on the agenda at the request of supervisors. The current CDC recommendation approves 50% capacity for gatherings which would allow 50 people in the assembly room. This would give enough space for every supervisor to attend in person meetings.

Supervisor comments/recommendations:

- Encourage in person meetings but continue to offer online or call-in options for those who need it
- Technology and broadband challenges
- Decreased interaction due to virtual meetings
- Convenient and beneficial to be able to attend virtual meetings while on vacation or out of town
- Ability to utilize overflow room for the public during in person meetings
- Compromise/balance for offering both options
- Challenges with voting during virtual meetings. Suggested voting meetings be in person and virtual options for all other meetings

- Open meetings law violations – potential incorrect call-in information posted on agendas
- Great value to allow board members and the public to attend virtually
- Rules of Review Committee should review making changes to current rule
- IT Director Gerald Klein suggests using a WebEx phone app
- Public access link should be posted on agendas and minutes

**Action:**

**MOTION BY FIFRICK; SECOND BY LEAHY TO RECOMMEND AMENDING THE RULES TO REQUIRE IN PERSON MEETING ATTENDANCE FOR THE COUNTY BOARD VOTING MEETING, AND IN PERSON AND WEBEX OPTIONS FOR ALL OTHER MEETINGS OF THE EDUCATIONAL, STANDING COMMITTEES AND PROGRAM BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, TASK FORCE, ETC. COMMENCING ON JULY 1, 2021. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow Up:**

Forward to County Board for consideration.

**B. Broadband Update**

**Discussion:**

Supervisor John Robinson reported Wittenberg Telephone Company received a Public Service Commission (PSC) Grant to expand fiber in the Ringle area which would serve 80 plus homes and businesses. The federal Communication Commission is in the process of awarding contracts to Charter Communication and LTD (a wireless broadband firm out of Minnesota) to provide gigabyte service for significant portions of the northern tier and western parts of the county. The WI PSC announced another cycle of grants using 100 million dollars of federal funding requiring 100 megabytes. \$177,000 remains in our capital improvement plan. A public engagement process will begin visiting the Towns Association Joint Meetings as well as informational meetings in Hatley, Edgar, and Wausau to receive public input on how to spend American Rescue funds. The Broadband Task Force will be developing criteria to request proposals from internet providers on how they would best serve the underserved portions of the county.

**Follow Up:**

No follow up needed at this time.

**C. Educational Presentations Speaker Policy**

**Discussion:**

The committee discussed and gave the following suggestions to create an educational presentation speaker policy.

- This task should be given to the Rules of Review Committee
- Ability to ask questions and receive answers relative to the presentation
- Speaker's presentation needs to be consistent with our stated policies, missions, and core values
- Respectful and courteous language following our core values
- Background includes educational training and experience with the topic they are discussing
- Is the person qualified? Implement a vetting process
- Disclaimer; "speakers comments or their beliefs are their own and do not represent Marathon County"
- Speakers defaming a person, county could be liable for defamation
- Public should be able to trust information coming from the county platform
- Can't please everyone, either side may become offended. Better to not allow speakers
- Do not want the boardroom to become a classroom
- Do not want agendas to be dominated by educational presentations
- Presentation materials be provided ahead of time to be reviewed

**Action:**

**MOTION BY LANGENHAHN; SECOND BY BUTTKE TO MOVE THE CREATION OF AN EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION SPEAKER POLICY TO THE RULES OF REVIEW COMMITTEE AND TO INCLUDE ALL SUPERVISORS COMMENTS PRESENTED TODAY IN THEIR PACKET FOR CONSIDERATION. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow Up:**

Forward to Rules Review Committee

D. Forestry Dept. Requesting Letter of Support to Reopen the Verso Paper Mill in WI Rapids

**Discussion:**

Director Jamie Polley explained her department was made aware on June 1, 2021, of a Public Hearing to be held on June 2, 2021 to discuss Assembly Bill 367 to give a cooperative entity a \$50 million dollar loan to purchase the Verso Mill to continue timber production. 25% of Marathon County's timber volume went to the Verso Mill. The committee had a lengthy discussion and considered both challenges and benefits to sending the support letter.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY GUILD; SECOND BY FIFRICK TO SEND A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO REOPEN THE VERSO MILL IN WISCONSIN RAPIDS. MOTION CARRIED.**

A roll call vote was performed: Chair Kurt Gibbs no; Vice-Chair Craig McEwen yes; Matt Bootz yes; Tim Buttke yes; Randy Fifrick yes; Sara Guild yes; Jacob Langenhahn no, Alyson Leahy no, John Robinson no.

**Follow Up:**

Chair Gibbs to sign the letter of support.

**5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution**

A. Redistricting Committee Appointment Resolution

**Discussion:**

Due to the pandemic, Chair Gibbs explained there will be a delay in redistricting the county supervisory districts.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY LANGEHAHN; SECOND BY LEAHY TO APPOINT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AS THE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow Up:**

Forward to County Board for consideration.

B. Rules of Review Committee Appointments

**Discussion:**

Chair Gibbs indicated the following Supervisors have expressed interest and he will make a recommendation to appoint them at the next county board meeting:

- 1) Chair Craig McEwen
- 2) Sandi Cihlar
- 3) Brent Jacobson
- 4) Jacob Langenhahn
- 5) John Robinson
- 6) Rick Seefeldt
- 7) Arnold Schlei

**Follow Up:**

Forward to County Board.

C. Discuss Options for Filling District 17 Vacancy

**Discussion:**

Chair Gibbs explained two options to fill the vacancy for District 17.

- 1) Hold a special election (vacancy would remain vacant until the April 2022 Election)
- 2) Follow Ordinance 2.01(6) (l) –The Chair and Vice Chair solicit letters of interest, conduct interviews, and bring their recommendation to the full board.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY LANGENHAHN; SECOND BY MCEWEN TO FOLLOW THE PROCESS OUTLINED IN THE RULES TO APPOINT AN INDIVIDUAL TO FILL THE VACANCY OF DISTRICT 17. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow Up:**

Chair Gibbs and Vice Chair McEwen to initiate the appointment process.

**D.** Recommendation of the HR, Finance & Property Committee to suspend Rule 2.05(2) for the remainder of 2021

**Discussion:**

Supervisor Robinson explained the HR Finance & Property committee have evaluated the inefficiencies of the Capital Improvement Project process and proposes to suspend rule 2.05(2). The HR Finance & Property Committee would assume the responsibility for developing a Capital Improvement Plan as part of the budget for a longer term basis.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY LANGEHAHN; SECOND BY BUTTKE TO MOVE TO SUSPEND RULE 2.05(2) FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2021. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow Up:**

Forward to county board for consideration.

**6. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**

**A.** Administrator's Work Plan and Understanding Capacity

**Discussion:**

Chair Gibbs explained due to the vacancy of the Deputy Administrator, there is a diminished capacity to be able to address some of the Administrator's work plan. However, Chair Gibbs commended Administrator Leonhard on his progress to major projects.

**Follow Up:**

No follow up needed.

**7. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location, Announcements and Future Agenda Items:**

**A.** Next Meeting: **Thursday, July 8, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.**

**8. Adjournment**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, MOTION BY LANGENHAHN; SECOND BY MCEWEN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:38 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Toshia Ranallo

# Bug Tusse Wireless LLC

Presentation to Marathon County Board

# Bug Tussel Wireless LLC

## Marathon County Broadband Project

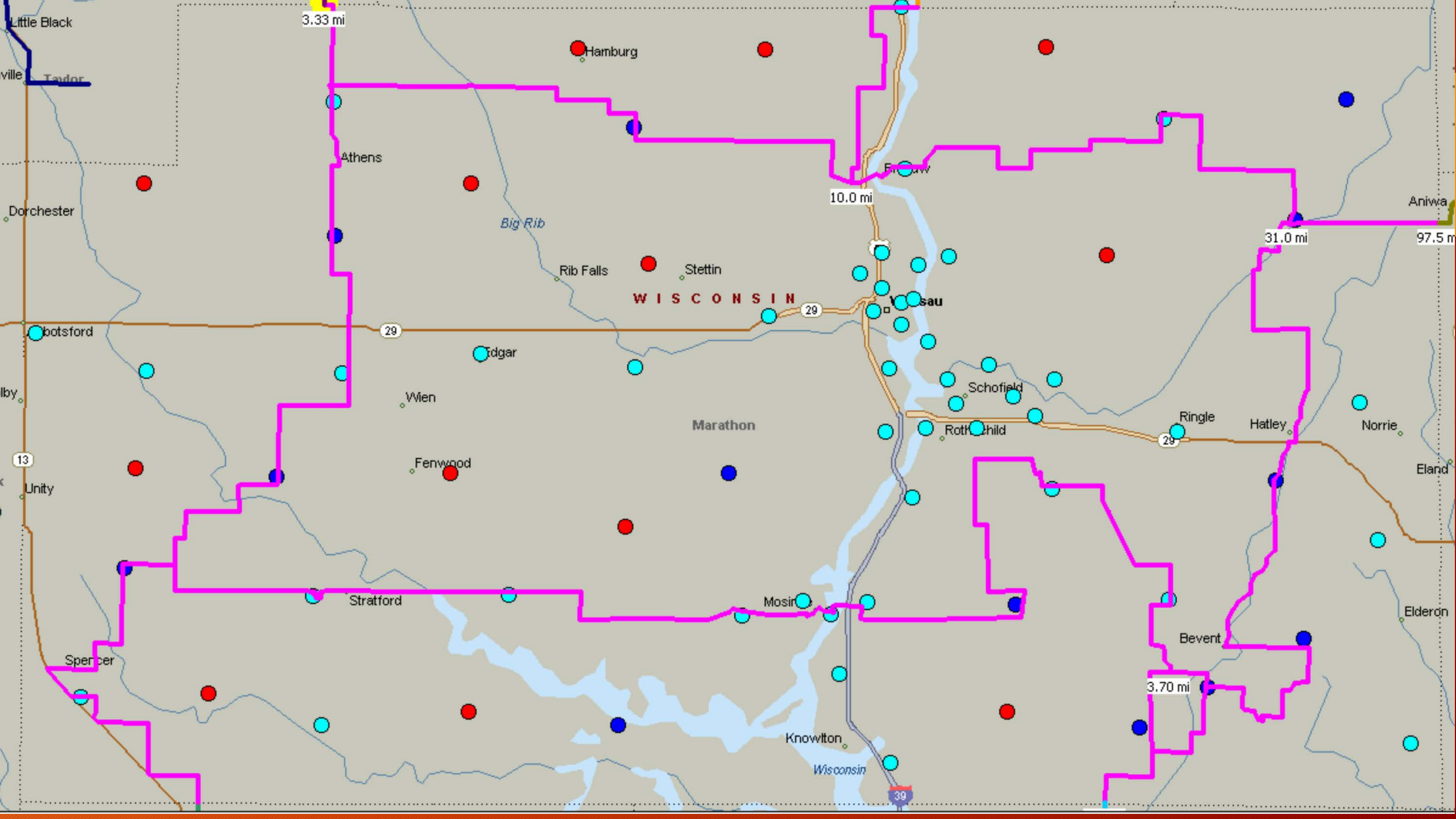
- Who is Bug Tussel Wireless LLC
  - Wholly owned by Hilbert Communications LLC
  - Hilbert owned 80% by Paul Gehl & related; Steve Schneider & related; Bob Eddy & related (other 20% approximately 12 phone companies/individuals)
  - Started in 2003 (18 years in business) by Steve Schneider
  - 2020 Revenue of \$64 million and Net Income of \$19 million
  - Sister companies include:
    - Red Tail Tower LLC (construction)
    - Midwest Data Core LLC (switching and routing)
    - Michigan Wireless LLC (spectrum holdings)
    - Cloud 1 Services LLC (site acquisition)
  - Key Employees include:
    - Steve Schneider - Founder, President, CEO
    - Erin Wichmann - Chief Technical Officer
    - Jason Wied JD - Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel
    - Joe Vandenhouten CPA - Chief Financial Officer
    - Cynthia Porter PhD - Director of the Bug Tussel Experience

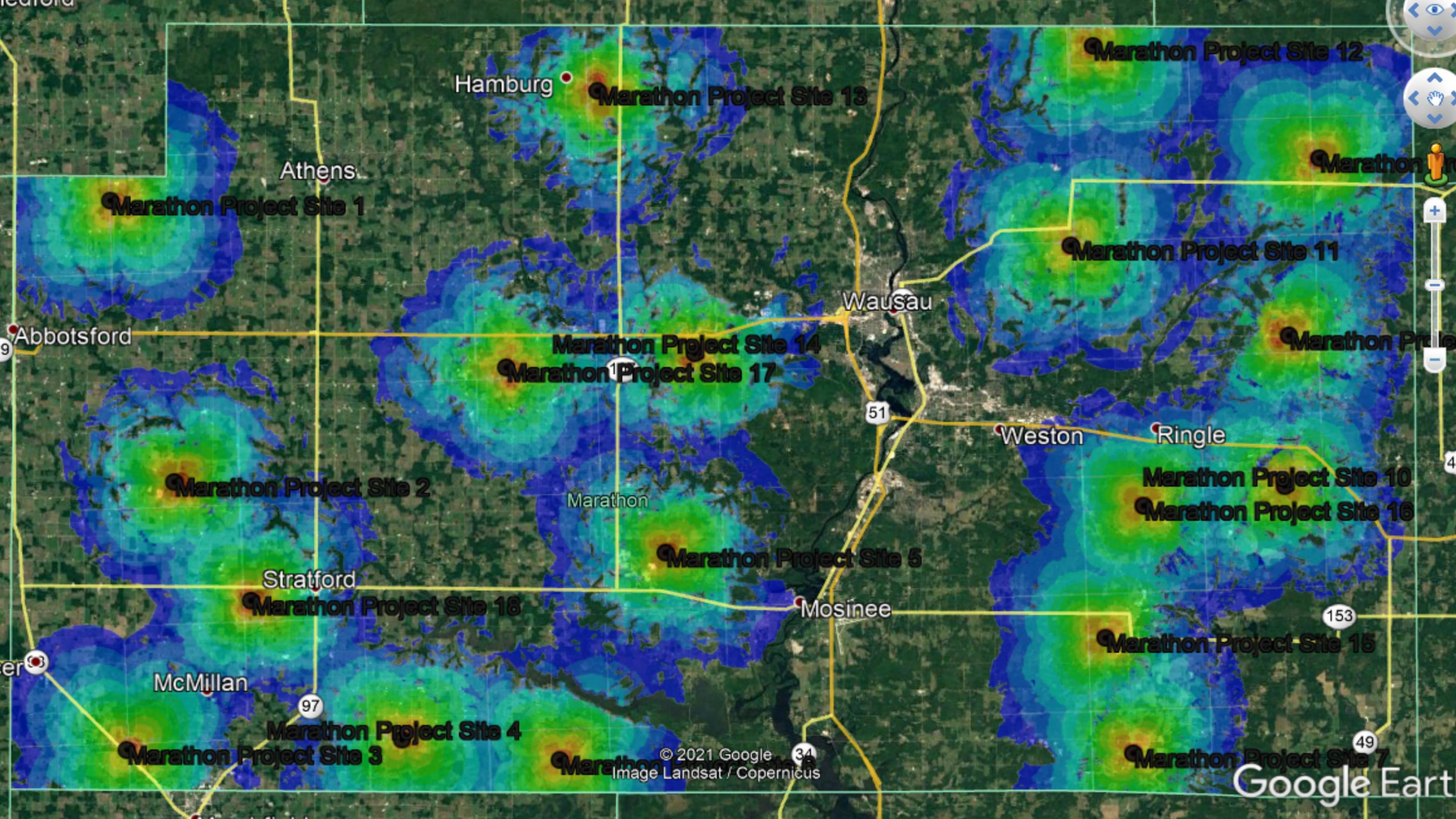
# Bug Tussel Wireless LLC

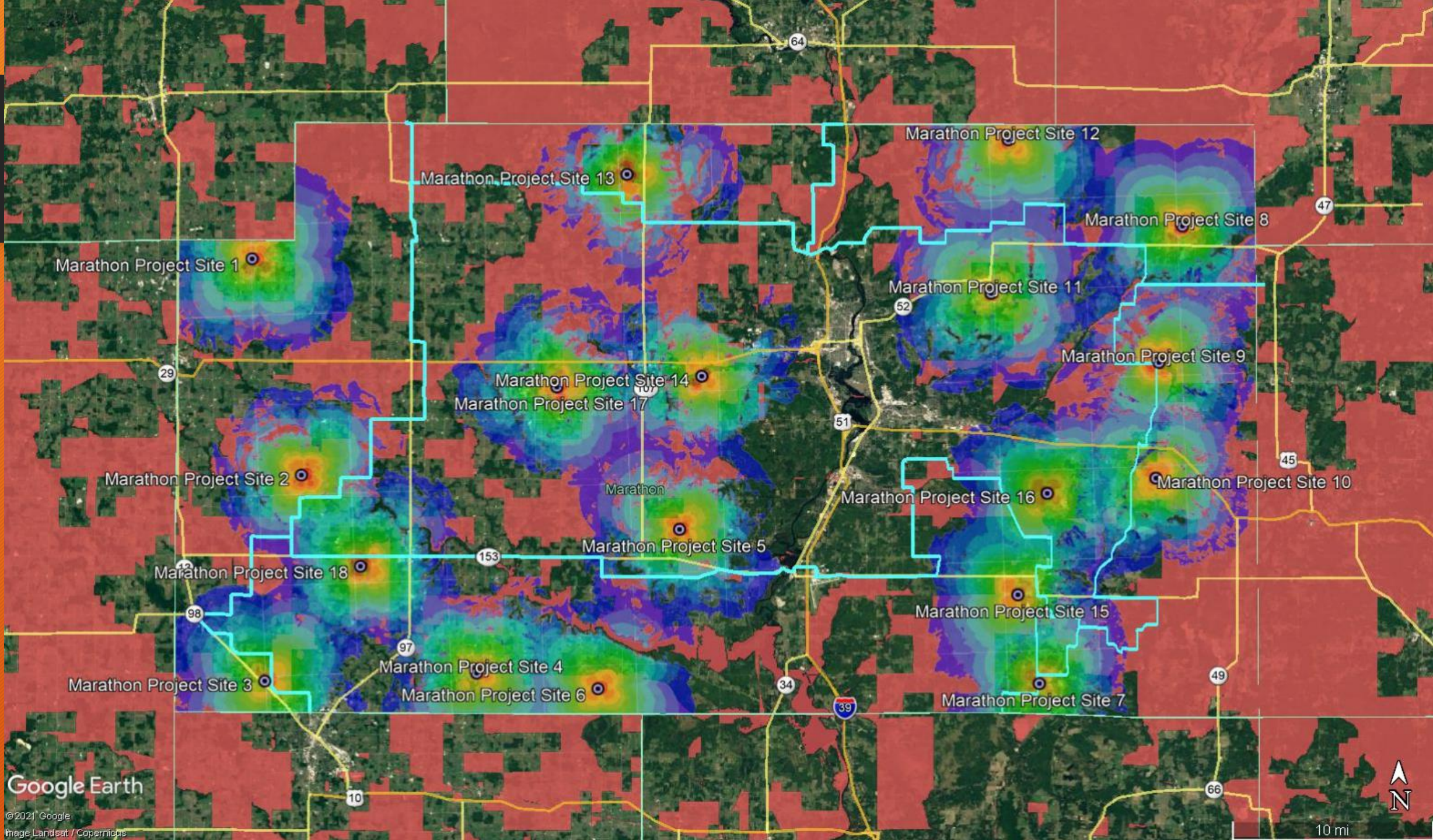
## Marathon County Broadband Project

- Objectives:
  - 25 Mbps service for virtually everyone NOW
  - 100 Mbps service for anyone needing it NOW
  - 1+ Gbps service in the mid-term
  - Open Network for all providers wanting to use core fiber and towers
  - Using broadband for higher standards of living and economic development
  - No cost to local government with significant returns to the public
  - Nominal risk to local government









	36,019	Potential	<b>53.5% of land area</b>	
<b>Site #</b>	<b>POPs</b>	<b>Per Household</b>	<b>Households</b>	
<b>1</b>	1,166	2.41	484	
<b>2</b>	863	2.41	358	
<b>3</b>	4,958	2.41	2,057	
<b>4</b>	1,340	2.41	556	
<b>5</b>	4,490	2.41	1,863	
<b>6</b>	399	2.41	166	
<b>7</b>	70	2.41	29	
<b>8</b>	721	2.41	299	
<b>9</b>	959	2.41	398	
<b>10</b>	1,991	2.41	826	
<b>11</b>	3,678	2.41	1,526	
<b>12</b>	665	2.41	276	
<b>13</b>	1,149	2.41	477	
<b>14</b>	4,684	2.41	1,944	
<b>15</b>	731	2.41	303	
<b>16</b>	1,466	2.41	608	
<b>17</b>	3,362	2.41	1,395	
<b>18</b>	2,622	2.41	1,088	
<b>TOTAL Estimated</b>	<b>35,314</b>	<b>Pops</b>	<b>14,653</b>	<b>Calculated residences</b>
Fiber				
Rural (198.33 miles)	2,865	Calculated Pops	1,189	residences
Adjacencies	8,382	Calculated Pops	3,478	estimated residences
<b>TOTAL Estimated</b>	<b>11,247</b>	<b>Pops</b>	<b>4,667</b>	<b>residences</b>

# COVERAGE STATISTICS

- Middle Mile Fiber 198.33 miles
- Gbps Fiber Residences Passed 1,189 residences
- Estimated Additional Residences 3,478 ( in communities passed)
  
- Coverage with 100 Mbps Wireless 36,019 population
- Estimated Residences (2.41 pops) 14,946 residences
- Percent of Land Area of County 53.5%

# Bug Tussel Wireless LLC

## Marathon County Broadband Project

- Strategy:
  - Deploy fixed wireless broadband immediately
    - Using Cambium 450M Medusa with 400 Mbps per sector
  - **Deploy a “middle mile” fiberoptic route** that connects towers, aggregation points, key locations and “fiber to the premise” along the route.
    - DWDM equipment initially operating at 200 GBps (Dense wavelength division multiplexing)
    - DWDM equipment can scale up to 800 GBps
    - GPON to the home (Gigabit Passive Optical Network) at 1 GBps
    - Can scale up to 25 Gbps GPON
  - **Provide “Open Access” to encourage other “last mile” fiber** to the premise providers.
    - RDOF providers (Rural Digital Opportunity Fund)
    - Local providers
    - Independent providers

# Bug Tusssel Wireless LLC

## Marathon County Broadband Project

- VALUE ADDED FROM BUG TUSSEL
  - Speed of Deployment
    - Own tower and fiber crews
    - Already working on tower sites and engineering
  - Bug Tusssel University
    - Community education on topics such as artificial intelligence, telehealth, agritech, IOT
    - Courses to assist in economic development and employee workforce development
  - AT&T Relationship
    - Expansion of Cellular Network
    - FirstNet
    - AT&T Agency
    - Roaming or tower access for other providers
  - Repayment of Financed Amounts with Margin
    - 40 Basis Points on Guaranteed Bonds
    - **Direct arrangement at county's discretion from unutilized funds at 3.35% Interest**

# Bug Tussel Wireless LLC

## Marathon County Broadband Project

- PROJECT COST (\$22,459,800)
  - Broadband towers (18 towers) \$ 6,250,000
  - Fiberoptic network (198.33 mi) \$12,889,000
  - Broadband and backhaul electronics \$ 2,560,000
  - Consumer premise connectivity (1,920) \$ 460,800



# Bug Tussel Wireless LLC

## Marathon County Broadband Project

- PROJECT FINANCING

- WPSC Grant (\$1,800,000)
- Bug Tussel Wireless LLC or P/E partners (\$1,000,000)
- Conduit Bond (\$19,659,800)
- County ARPA Funds Unknown

# Bug Tussel Wireless LLC

## Marathon County Broadband Project

- Conduit Bonds
  - Fond du Lac County is issuer and is paid 10 basis points
  - Bug Tussel Wireless LLC/Hilbert Communications LLC is target of conduit
  - Marathon County provides guaranty of Debt Service Fund replenishment via InterGovernmental Agreement (IGA)
  - Bonds include:
    - 3 Years of capitalized interest during construction and draw down
    - 1 Year of Debt Service Fund
    - Issuance Fees

# Bug Tussel Wireless LLC

## Marathon County Broadband Project

- Marathon County receives
  - 40 basis points on outstanding balance (Approx \$1.2 million)
    - Marathon County provides guaranty of Debt Service Fund replenishment
    - Bonds include:
      - 3 Years of capitalized interest during construction and draw down
      - 1 Year of Debt Service Fund
      - Issuance Fees
  - 24 dark fibers for county use (non-compete included)
  - First lien on all financed assets in county
  - Guaranty of Hilbert Communications LLC
  - Access to tower space at no cost (limited to one loading location)
  - Additional sales and property tax revenue

# Bug Tussel Wireless LLC

## Marathon County Broadband Project

- Contact

Steve Schneider

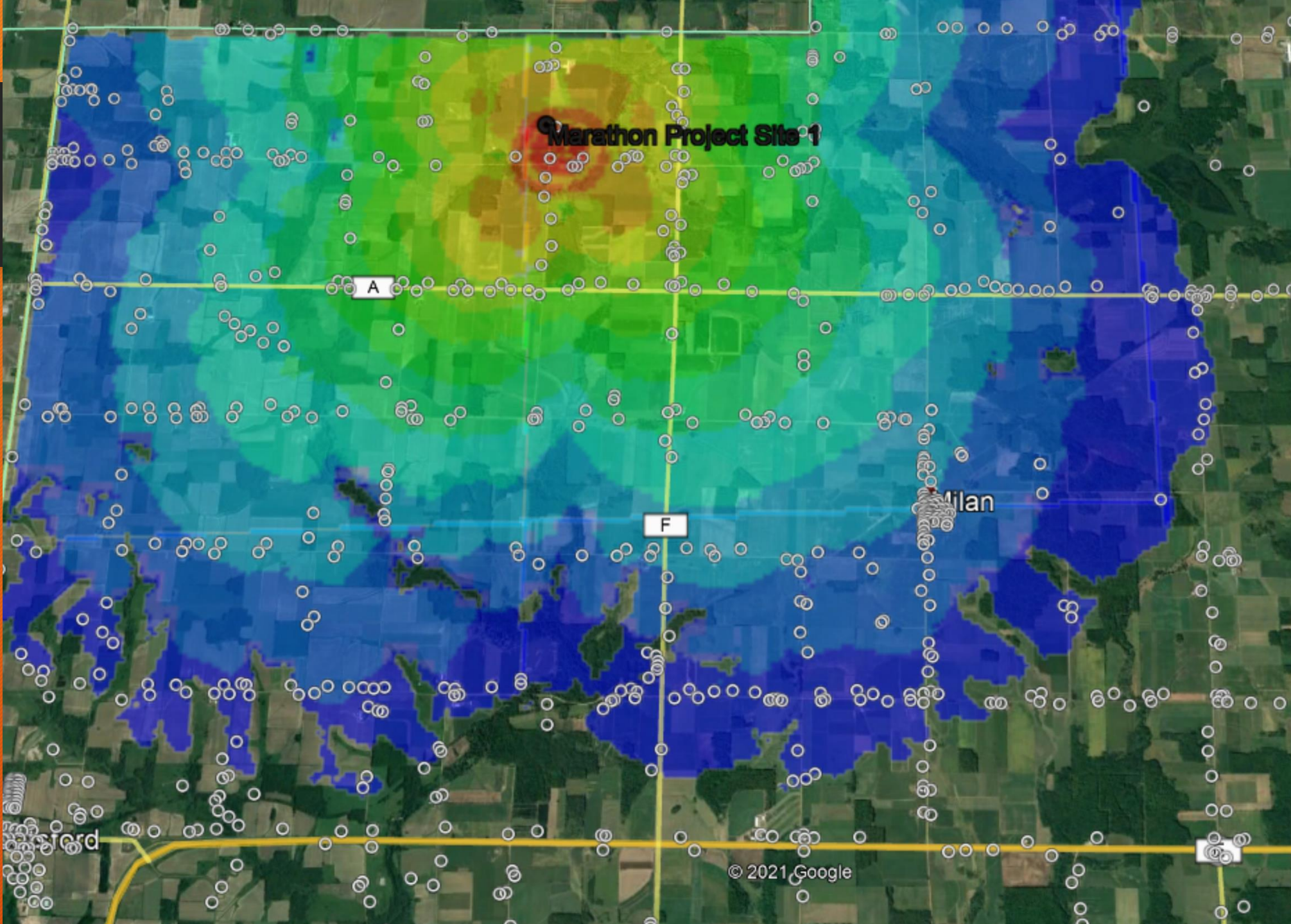
[Steve.Schneider@BugTusselWireless.com](mailto:Steve.Schneider@BugTusselWireless.com)

920-662-3063

Mitchel Olson

[Mitchel.Olson@BugTusselWireless.com](mailto:Mitchel.Olson@BugTusselWireless.com)

715-820-2504



Marathon Project Site 1

A

F

Milan

Stord

© 2021 Google

©

AUTHORIZATION TO SUPPORT BROADBAND GRANT APPLICATION(S) TO PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (PSC)

WHEREAS, access to broadband access is essential for economic development, virtual and lifetime learning, rural prosperity, and telehealth health services in Marathon County;

WHEREAS, Marathon County has recognized the importance of broadband access in ensuring the health, safety and economic prosperity for all residents;

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the county is currently “unserved’ and “underserved” in terms of access to reliable and adequate broadband services;

WHEREAS, the County has recognized the need to play a role in enhancing broadband access to its residents based on the findings and work done in association with the 2009 Broadband Gap Analysis, the 2015 Broadband Connectivity Task Force Report, and the 2019 Broadband Assessment and Plan prepared by Design Nine;

WHEREAS, based on meetings and discussions with Internet Service Providers and evaluating the recommendations of Design Nine the County Board created a Broadband Task Force and charged it with identifying strategies, partners and potential funding sources that will support the expansion of broadband services to underserved areas;

WHEREAS, the Broadband Task has reviewed opportunities to expand broadband services through the \$100 million Broadband Expansion Grant Program administered by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC);

WHEREAS, the Task Force and county administration have developed criteria that will be used to evaluate whether Marathon County will partner with Internet Service Providers is seeking funding,

WHEREAS, applications for the grant are due by July 27, 2021 and the Task Force is working with a number of providers to develop proposals that will serve the greatest number of residents and businesses in unserved or underserved areas in the County,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors supports efforts to expand broadband access by entering into partnerships with Internet Service Providers and/or other partners in submitting grant application(s) to the Public Service Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appropriate county officials are empowered to act under this resolution to convey County support for and commit County resources to broadband service expansion applications that satisfy the criteria established by the Marathon County Broadband Task Force and are within the budgeted amount authorized by the Marathon County Board of Supervisors through adoption of its 2021 Capital Improvement Plan. County officials are also authorized to work with and support Internet Service Providers and/or other partners in obtaining financing thru the use of conduit bonds, revolving loan programs or other suitable means they have determined to be most advantageous to the interests of Marathon County within the constraints of the Budget approved by the County Board.