



MARATHON COUNTY BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING

Amended Agenda

Date & Time of Meeting: **Monday, March 28, 2022, at 3:00 P.M. (Please note the start time)**

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

Task Force Members: Chair John Robinson, Eric Budleski, Sandi Cihlar, Sara Guild, Jacob Langenhahn, Milton Olson, and John Robinson, Wade Carroll, Kurt Schoenroch

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.*

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 Task Force members and the public to attend this meeting remotely. Instead of attendance in person, Task Force members and the public may attend this meeting by **telephone conference**. If Task Force 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.

Phone #: 1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 2480 807 3191

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 February 28, 2022, Broadband Task Force Meeting Minutes**
4. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion:**
 - A. RDOF progress and NTIA Grant Application
 - B. GeoPartners Speed Test Data
 - C. PSC Broadband Access Grant Partnerships
 - D. Digital Equity Efforts
 - E. **Update on other broadband expansion efforts**
5. **Policy Discussion And Possible Action:**
 - A. Process for determining priorities for future broadband expansion efforts
 - B. Potential Legislative changes that could expand access to internet services
6. **Next Steps**
7. **Next Meeting: April 25, 2022**
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

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

Emailed By: T. Ranallo
Date/Time: 3/24/2022 8:30 am

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE

BY: T. Ranallo
DATE/TIME: 3/24/2022 8:30 am



**MARATHON COUNTY
BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING**

Minutes

Monday, February 28, 2022 at 3:00 P.M.

Webex/Assembly Room, 500 Forest St, Wausau WI

Members	Present/Web-Phone	Absent
Chair John Robinson	P	
Sandi Cihlar	P	
Jon Euting	W	
Sara Guild	W	
Jacob Langenhahn		x
Milton Olson	W	
Kurt Schoenrock		x

Also Present: Valerie Carrillo, Noor Ali Hassan

VIA Web or Phone: Kurt Gibbs, Andy Faust, Eric Budleski, Jean Maszk, Steve Schneider, Scott Bohler, Celeste Flynn, Bill Flood, Gerry Klein, Mitch Olson, Adam Raschka, Haley Tollefson, Kimberly Young, Jason Hausler

1. Call Meeting to Order: Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 3:02p.m.
2. Public Comments (15 Minute limit) - none
3. **MADE A MOTION; SECOND BY CIHLAR TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 21, 2022 BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.**

4. Policy Discussion And Possible Action:

The task force has received five applications. There was a brief review of the criteria for grants. Sandy Cihlar asked if it was possible to get an indication or request for finalization from the ISPs. Chair Robinson stated the money is not fronted and will only be paid after the fact. The PSC also has guidelines for completion.

- A. Review and Recommend Partnerships for the Wisconsin PSC’s Broadband Access Grant
 1. Determine Criteria for evaluation of requests

Bug Tussel - Mitch Olson presented: He defined the area between Hwy 29 and east, the towns of Gunther and Knowlton, and the Village of Kronenwetter as the current expansion area. This would cover approximately 770 households, including the 150 already covered by the middle mile. Bug Tussel would be willing to work with a loan from the county but they may ask for more funding if only a loan is available and not grant money.

LTD Broadband - Haley Tollefson presented: She commented that they submitted their proposal one day before the PSC updated their mapping guidelines. She stated they will need to rework the proposal due to the updated mapping. They are willing to help fill gaps in the county not covered by others. They are willing to work with grants and/or loans. Currently, their RDOF long form is submitted but it is a long process. They are hoping to hear back in the next few months. She stated the FCC does not give timelines.

Charter Communications - Celeste Flynn and Adam Raschka presented: Adam stated that their grant route is different from the ARPA route. They are looking for those without access to 25 by 2. The current area is less than the last grant proposal. They are looking for opportunities to partner with the county. They also mentioned that the PSC does require providers to submit reports every 6 months on project progress.

Cirrinity - Scott Nyman presented: Scott stated they have submitted their proposal and with the new mapping, their proposal is still viable. They have acquired \$70,000 of matching ARPA funds with the Town of Reid. They will be building 39 ¾ miles of fiber past 368 homes. This will start in the fall of 2022 with completion fall of 2023.

Frontier - Scott Bohler presented: They will be providing fiber to the home for a little over 4000 locations. They have reviewed the map overlap and would prefer to increase rather than decrease project area due to adverse economic impact. They are not interested in a loan from the county. They are asking for 10% from the county with

a 40% match from the state.

Chair Robinson stated that he reached out to the county CPZ department regarding the maps. Preston analyzed the maps submitted by the ISPs and was able to give a summary of overlaps but he was not able to reproduce the maps themselves with overlay. The excel sheet shows the area of providers for each community but does not necessarily mean household overlap. The question was asked about how the map determination was made. Chair Robinson clarified the maps vs excel sheet do not reflect expansion of current services with grant applications.

2. Determine role of Marathon County and expectations of other parties including local governments

Chair Robinson said there are options of awarding grants at county level. There was a discussion of loan and grant option combinations. The county could do a loan only and also assist with letters of support. Chair Robinson suggested a concept of lowest unit cost \$190 per unit served (Cirrinity) and make that cost a forgivable loan with unit served as a base level. If the ISP was interested in a loan, there may be long term, low interest rates available. Board Chair Gibbs stated there are multiple ways to approach the financial options. In order to treat everyone fairly, if the ISP is meeting the criteria, we should offer the lowest dollar amount to all ISPs. This gives a fixed dollar amount of a forgivable loan. The ISP could then choose where to go from there for remaining needed funds.

Supervisor Guild felt the idea would help serve the task force goals and asked how would this impact the dollar amount of what providers are asking for? Chair Robinson stated the ISP would need to decide if they are interested in a loan or not.

Valerie Carrillo brought up the definition of affordable and how some projects may cost more than others due to area. Board Chair Gibbs Kurt clarified that he was referring to affordability in the cost of the service to the resident.

Supervisor Guild stated that looking at numbers given to move at \$235 level, using the current dollar amount, there would be \$2.2 million of a forgiven loan. Then the committee would need to look at the cost options above that. Chair Robinson discussed the amount of money for what the loans would be and the concepts of how it could work out with requests. He discussed past practices of proposal approvals. He reminded the task force that decisions are time sensitive as the grant applications are due March 17.

Sandy Cihlar stated she likes the deliberative approach with the ARPA funds. She asked Mitch from Bug Tussel if they have had a conversation with local governments to get local buy in from the communities and residents. Mitch noted that they have not had the conversation yet but will as soon as they get approval from the county. Their requests will depend on town capacity of funds and where Bug Tussel can expand with the funds from township. Chair Robinson hopes that ISPs will work together to minimize overlap and he did not believe this should be a county function.

Motion to forward with a recommendation to both the Infrastructure and HR Finance and Property committee to consider the proposals for the \$235 per unit recommendation. And to view that in combination with a potential loan that would be paid back by the partners to the county; made by Guild, Second by Cihlar.

Jon Euting asked for clarification of the motion. Clarification was made. **All in favor. Motion carried.**

Chair Robinson asked how the task force would like to move forward with the proposals. ISPs are willing to have conversations regarding refinement and continued negotiations of the relative service area. He would encourage ISPs to work with communities as well.

Kimberly Young with LTD asked for clarification of a loan versus a grant usage. Chair Robinson clarified.

Motion to recommend moving forward with all five of the project proposals while continuing to finalize the

details due to newer mapping and potential other partnership opportunities, encouraging the providers to find ways to reduce duplication in order to strengthen the viability of the applications, while still considering the specific funding avenues of the previous motion; made by Guild, second by Olson. All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Identify steps to support the applications

Chair Robinson stated the next focus will be getting letters of support. He will work with the ISP to help connect for more support. He also noted that there will be a resolution going to the Infrastructure committee relative to permit fee structures.

5. Next Meeting Topics

1. Identify Focus Areas

7. Next Meeting: March 28, 2022

8. Adjournment

CIHLAR MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING, OLSON SECOND. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:01pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Kathy Johnson

Geo-partners Survey

[Print this page](#)

Marathon County

Households 57,707
 Population 134,063
 Test locations 1,348
 Total Tests 1,928
 Percent participation 2.34%
 Participation goal (10%) 5,771

Download

* No Service 79 5.9%
 * 0-10 Mbps 385 28.6%
 10-25 Mbps 266 19.7%
 * 25-150 Mbps 414 30.7%
 * 150+ Mbps 204 15.1%

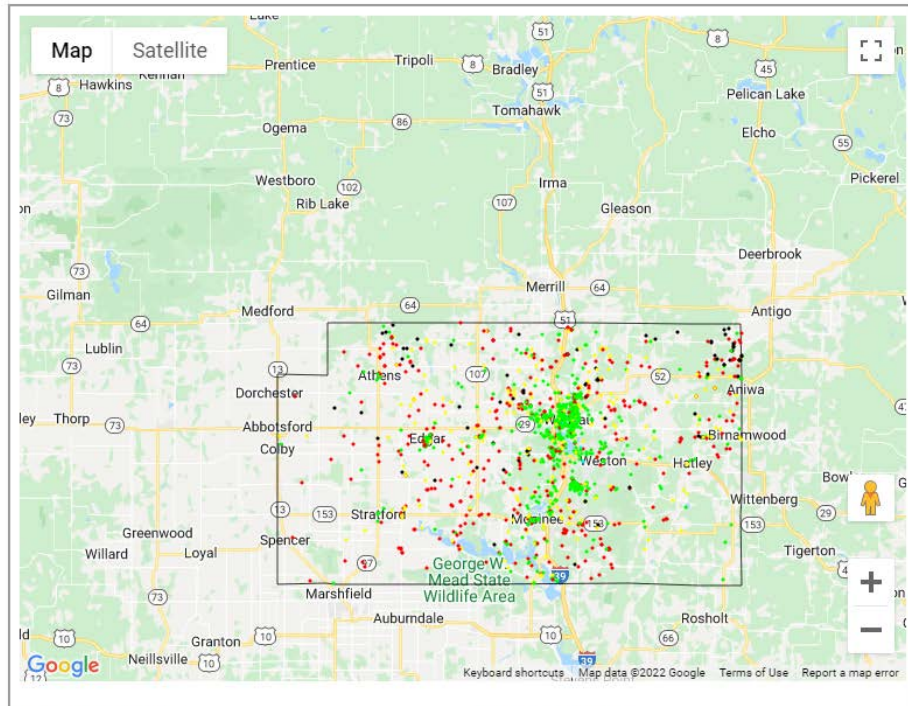
Upload

No Service 79 5.9%
 <3 Mbps 452 33.5%
 3-10 Mbps 352 26.1%
 10-25 Mbps 307 22.8%
 25-150 Mbps 92 6.8%
 > 150 Mbps 66 4.9%

Min Max Med Mbps

Download 0.01 607.24 23.48
Upload 0.01 918.52 5.73

No service reasons: may total > 100%
 Not Available 98.57%
 Too Expensive 10.00%
 Physical Issues 1.43%
 No Computer 1.43%
 Don't Know How Computer 1.43%




Fixed 1,188 locations

Download		Upload	
No Service	79 6.6%	No Service	79 6.6%
0-10 Mbps	304 25.6%	<3 Mbps	382 32.2%
10-25 Mbps	233 19.6%	3-10 Mbps	281 23.7%
25-150 Mbps	370 31.1%	10-25 Mbps	292 24.6%
150+ Mbps	202 17.0%	25-150 Mbps	88 7.4%
		> 150 Mbps	66 5.6%

Cellular 160 locations

Download		Upload	
0-10 Mbps	81 50.6%	<3 Mbps	70 43.8%
10-25 Mbps	33 20.6%	3-10 Mbps	71 44.4%
25-150 Mbps	44 27.5%	10-25 Mbps	15 9.4%
150+ Mbps	2 1.3%	25-150 Mbps	4 2.5%
		> 150 Mbps	0 0.0%

BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT APPLICATION For Fiscal Year 2022

<p>Primary Applicant (Name and Address):</p> <p>Bug Tussel Wireless, LLC 417 Pine Street Green Bay, WI 54301 (920) 940-0138</p>	<p>Applications MUST be UPLOADED to ERF via the Commission's website, http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx. Refer to section 2.3 for detailed instructions.</p> <p>Applications are due and MUST be uploaded to ERF no later than: March 17, 2022 at 4:00pm (16:00) Central Time. Late applications will not be accepted.</p>	
<p>Contact for further information: PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov</p>		
<p>Date: March 17, 2022</p>		
<p>The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is seeking applications for Broadband Expansion Grants. The Commission may award one or more grants during Fiscal Year 2022 to public and private entities that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504. This grant round will be funded with bond proceeds authorized by the Wisconsin Building Commission pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). As such, successful applicants are subject to the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). Successful applicants will demonstrate a clear and achievable plan to improve broadband communications services in one or more underserved areas in the State.</p>		
<p>Applicant Certification: In signing this application, the undersigned verifies under penalty of perjury that the Applicant and its employees and agents have not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition with respect to this application; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit an application; that this application has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other proposer, competitor or potential competitor; that this application has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of applications to any other applicant or competitor; that all of the responses and representations of Applicant in this application are true and correct to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information, and belief; and that Applicant agrees to, accepts, and will comply with all of the terms and conditions respecting this application and any award of a broadband expansion grant as may be established in a grant award Agreement.</p>		
<p>Name of Authorized Representative (Type or Print)</p> <p>Mitchel Olson</p>	<p>Title</p> <p>Chief Development Officer General Counsel</p>	<p>Phone ()</p> <p>920.940.0138</p>
<p>Signature of Authorized Representative</p> 	<p>Date</p> <p>March 17, 2022</p>	

SUMMARY OF GRANT APPLICATION

Primary Applicant Name Bug Tussel Wireless, LLC	Amount of Broadband Grant Request (round to nearest dollar) \$3,000,000
Federal Employer Identification No. 20-0284635	Amount of Matching Funds Pledged (round to nearest dollar) \$3,000,000
Contact Name and Title Mitchel Olson – Chief Development Officer General Counsel	Total Cost of Proposed Project (round to nearest dollar) \$6,000,000
Telephone Number 920.940.0138	Project Name B.E.S.T. Program - Leathercamp
E-mail Address(es) mitchel.olson@bugtusselwireless.com	Type of Proposed Broadband Service (FTTH, Cable, DSL, etc.) FTTH
Grant Manager, if different than Primary Applicant N/A	Type of Proposed Project (Last-mile, Middle-Mile, backbone, other) Last-mile
Grant Manager Contact Name N/A	Grant Manager Email Address and Telephone Number N/A
If the application proposes a public-private partnership, list the names, addresses, and FEINs of the partner companies or organizations Marathon County 500 Forest Street Wausau, WI 54403	
Brief Project Description (2 sentences) The B.E.S.T. Program - Leathercamp Project is the deployment of 90.7 miles of fiberoptic last-mile, providing complete coverage in the project area. This project is “Open Access” allows for future expansion and encourages faster deployment of countywide fiber to the premise, which supports immediate economic opportunity for residents and businesses.	
Maximum Proposed Download Transmission Speed 1 Gbps`	Maximum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed 1 Gbps
Minimum Proposed Download Speed to Customer Location 200 mbps	Minimum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed to Customer Location 200 mbps

County or Counties served by this project Marathon County	Community or Communities served by this project Town of Knowlton, Village of Kronenwetter, Town of Guenther
List of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve Frontier Communications, TDS, AirRunner Networks, Cirrinity, Country Wireless, NetworkProfessionalsInc, NSight, USCellular	
Does proposed project serve an <i>unserved</i> area of the State, as defined in Section 1.4 of the application instruction? (yes/no) Yes	Is the Applicant certified as a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community, or does the grant project propose to serve a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community? (yes/no) Yes
For last mile projects or components the expected number of Business Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total business locations passed or with new service access). 16	For last mile projects or components the expected number of Residential Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total residential locations passed or with new service access). 636
Of the improved business locations, how many locations are <i>unserved</i> ? 15	Of the improved residential locations, how many are <i>unserved</i> ? 637
For providers that are eligible telecommunications carriers will the proposed broadband service be available to Lifeline customers? (yes/no) Yes	Are there any programs available for low-income households to access low-cost service or discounts? (yes/no) Yes
Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program? (yes/no) Yes	Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Department of Public Instruction and CESA purchasing's Digital Learning Bridge? (yes/no) Yes
Did the internet service provider participate in the Public Service Commission's voluntary Broadband Coverage Data Collection in 2021? (yes/no) Yes	

FY22 Broadband Expansion Grant Application

Budget & Income Summary



Please complete this form using Microsoft Excel. A PDF copy must be attached to your application as page four. In addition, this form must also be uploaded to ERF in Excel format.

Grant Summary

Grant Applicant:	Project:
Bug Tussel Wireless, LLC	B.E.S.T. Program - Leathercamp

Budget

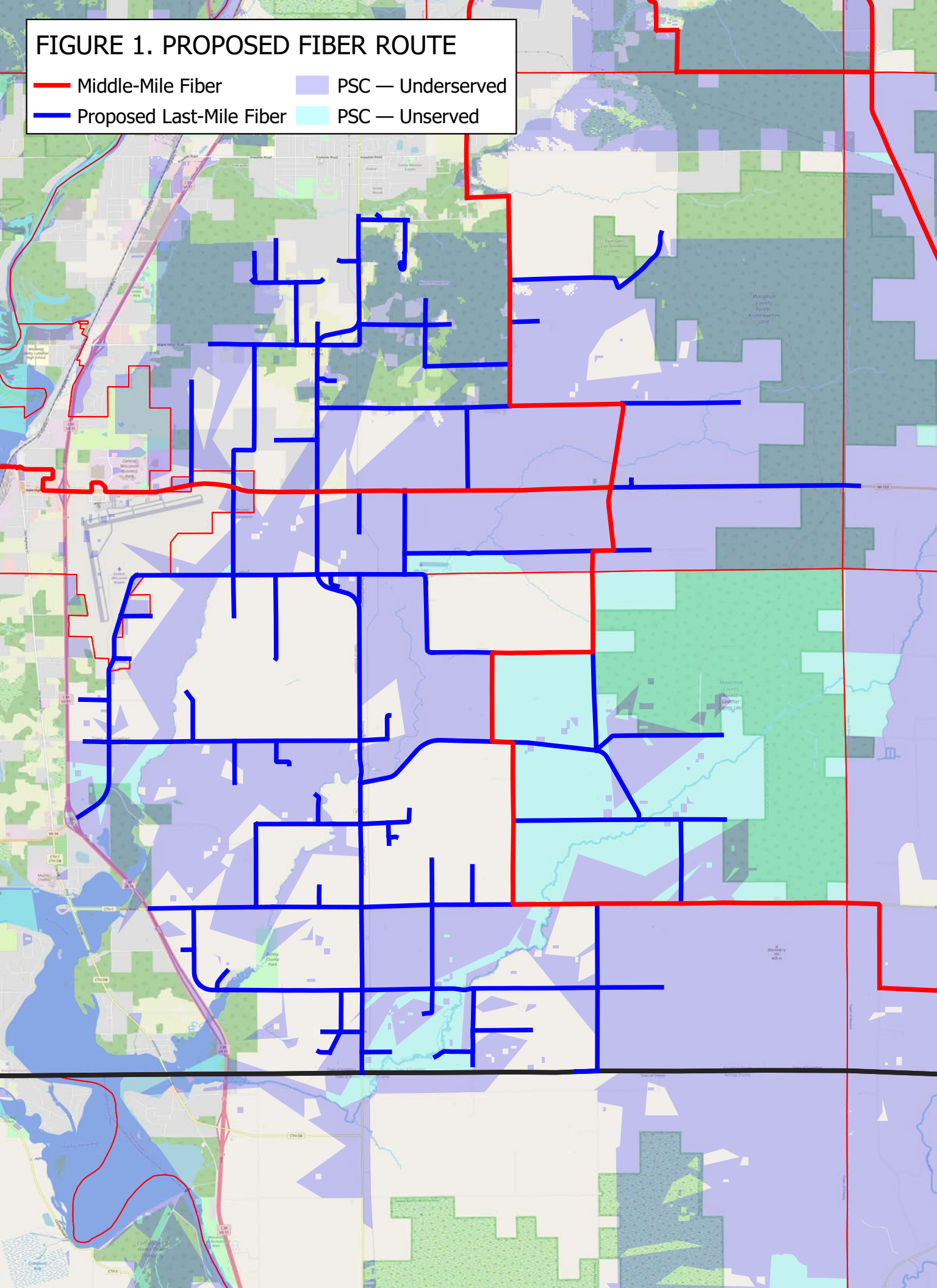
Line:	Description / Category:	Grant Funds:	Match:	Total:
1	Contractual, Consultant Fees	\$ 2,098,997.00	\$ 2,098,997.00	\$ 4,197,994.00
2	Equipment	\$ 130,400.00	\$ 130,400.00	\$ 260,800.00
3	Supplies	\$ 594,191.50	\$ 594,191.50	\$ 1,188,383.00
4	Labor (Salary, Fringe)	\$ 119,724.00	\$ 119,724.00	\$ 239,448.00
5	Permitting, Licensing Fees	\$ 56,687.50	\$ 56,687.50	\$ 113,375.00
6	Travel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7	Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total:		\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 6,000,000.00
50.0% match requested				

Pledged Contributions

#:	Entity:	Entity Type:	Pledge Type:	Pledge:
1	Marathon County Loan to Bug Tussel Wireless, LLC	Applicant	Cash	\$ 2,857,825.00
2	Marathon County	Partner	Cash	\$ 142,175.00
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
Total:				\$ 3,000,000.00

FIGURE 1. PROPOSED FIBER ROUTE

- Middle-Mile Fiber
- Proposed Last-Mile Fiber
- PSC — Underserved
- PSC — Unserved



3.2 Mandatory application requirements

3.2.1 Applicant identification and contact information

a. The name and address of the entity applying for the grant, and the mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address of one or more contact persons representing the applicant.

Name of Entity: Bug Tussel Wireless, LLC (“Bug Tussel”)
Mailing Address: 417 Pine Street
Green Bay, WI 54701

Contact: Mitchel Olson
Title: Chief Development Officer | General Counsel
Phone: 920.940.0138
Email: mitchel.olson@bugtusselwireless.com

b. If the application proposes a public-private partnership, the identity and contact information for all application partners.

Name of Entity: Marathon County
Mailing Address: 500 Forest Street
Wausau, WI 54403

Contact: Mr. John Robinson
Title: County Supervisor / Broadband Task Force Chair
Phone: 715.212.2227
Email: john.robinson@co.marathon.wi.us

c. The application must show that the applicant is an organization, a telecommunications utility, or a city, village, town, or county that has established a legal partnership or joint venture arrangement with an otherwise qualified organization or telecommunications utility, and as such meets the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504(1).

Hilbert Communications, LLC, and its subsidiary, Bug Tussel Wireless, LLC, are Wisconsin Limited Liability Companies, with their headquarters located at 417 Pine Street, Green Bay, WI 54701, and are Eligible applicants, as defined by §196.504(1)(ac)(1).

3.2.2 Description of the project

a. A static map and description of the area of the State that will be affected by the proposed project.

Please see the enclosed project maps, located on pages 5 and 6. The enclosed maps show complete coverage throughout the project area

b. If the project area lies within a census block designated as served on the PSC Broadband Map, provide additional documentation to demonstrate the actual broadband service that is available in the proposed project area.

As shown in **Figures 1 and 2** above, there is a significant need for expanded broadband access in the Town of Knowlton, Village of Kronenwetter, and Town of Guenther. Despite its proximity to Wausau, the project area remains largely underserved and unserved, as identified in the PSC maps.

c. An explanation of how the proposed project will increase broadband access. Include information about the:

This project will increase broadband access by making last-mile fiber to the premises connections.

This project will have the capacity to service the 636 households located along the fiber route, in addition to the 16 business. All of the possible connections lack a sufficient level of broadband options, specifically lacking a FTTP option.

The fiber to the premises packages available will include a symmetrical 200 mbps download / 200 mbps upload option for \$64.99, in addition to a 1 Gbps download / 1 Gbps upload option for \$99.99.

d. A statement whether the proposed project is targeting the “last mile,” “middle mile,” or backbone portion of the broadband infrastructure.

The proposed project will consist of last-mile assets.

e. A description of the broadband service to be provided, including estimated download and upload speeds, whether the speed is based on dedicated or shared bandwidth, and the technology that will be used. This description may be illustrated by a map or schematic diagram, as appropriate.

The network will consist of fiber optic cable connected to GPON/ONT electronics that will provide capacity for over 1 Gbps to each residence and business along the fiber route along with Dense Wave Division Multiplexing (DWDM) equipment for traffic aggregation, capable of supporting 200 to 800 Gbps.

f. A schedule by which the applicant intends to complete the components of the proposed project. The project period is up to 24 months.

Final route design, in conjunction with Bug Tussel’s partners, and engineering will commence immediately following the announcement of the grant award. This process will last through the end of 2022, with construction beginning in early 2023. Construction of the main-line fiber is anticipated to be completed in June, 2023, with last-mile drops and installations beginning shortly thereafter. It is Bug Tussel’s expectation that the project will be completed by June, 2024.

3.2.3 Itemized Budget (all amounts should be rounded to the nearest dollar)

- a. In addition to the Summary of Project Budget that is included as page 3, applicants should include a price list or quote for any equipment the applicant intends to purchase, including capital expenditures. The application should also indicate whether any facilities involved would be owned, rented, or leased.

At this time, Bug Tussel does not intend to purchase any equipment to facilitate construction pursuant to this grant application. All assets installed incident to this project will be owned and operated by Bug Tussel, or a related entity.

- b. The application must show that the grant, if awarded, will not subsidize the expenses of a telecommunications provider or the monthly bills of telecommunications customers. For purposes of this grant program, subsidize means a contribution to the operating costs, including profit, of the telecommunications provider.

The sole purpose of the grant contemplated herein is to facilitate the construction of fiber assets. The grant, if awarded, will not subsidize the expenses of Bug Tussel, nor will it be used to subsidize the costs paid by customers.

- c. The application must show that the grant funds requested will be used for the sole purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure in the underserved areas covered by the application. Construction of broadband infrastructure may include any of the following:

Other than the work done in formulation of this grant application, no planning, engineering, permitting, or construction has taken place. All of the costs of this project, as identified on the enclosed budget, will be incurred during the performance period.

3.2.4 Priority factors supporting the application

- a. **Matching funds.** A description of the matching funds the applicant will invest in the proposed project, if any. For each element, indicate the type of match (cash, salary expense, or in-kind contribution). If the application is submitted by a partnership, identify the partner responsible for providing each element of the proposed matching funds. *Note: The requirement for this information is satisfied via inclusion of the completed Funding Statement as page 4 of the application.*

As discussed in Section b below, through the Broadband Expansions Serving Townships (B.E.S.T.) Program, and additional funding sources, Bug Tussel and its partner are pledging a total of \$3,000,000, or 50% of the total project cost.

- b. **Public-private partnerships.** If the public-private partnership is memorialized in a joint venture agreement or other writing, provide a copy of that agreement. If the partnership has not been reduced to a written agreement, provide a short description of the management role, financial commitment, or other contribution to the project for each participating partner.

As part of the B.E.S.T. Program, Bug Tussel is partnering with Marathon County to bring broadband access to the project area. Bug Tussel will own and operate all assets.

The creation of the public private partnership between Bug Tussel and Marthon County is memorialized by Resolution #R-21-22 (attached as **Exhibit A**).

c. Existing broadband service. A list of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve. In scoring this element, the following factors will be taken into account:

The design of the project contemplated herein has given significant priority to areas avoided by existing internet service providers.

As shown on Table 1 below, several providers have some level of coverage in the project area. This coverage, however, is rarely, if ever, capable of reliably providing broadband service at speeds of 25 mbps download / 3 mbps upload. The services currently offered in the project area do not meet the needs of the residences and businesses in the project area, which is our sole motivator in undertaking this project.

Table 1. Internet Service Providers.

Service Provider	Technology Platform	Price Range	Advertised Download Speeds	Advertised Upload Speeds
Frontier Communications	DSL	Unknown without service address	18 mbps	1.0 mbps
TDS	DSL	Unknown without service address	15 mbps	2.0 mbps
AirRunner Networks	Fixed Wireless	Unknown without service address	30 mbps	6 mbps
Country Wireless	Fixed Wireless	\$74.99/month	25 mbps	5 mbps
Nsight	Fixed Wireless	Unknown without service address	0.7 mpbs	0.4 mbps
US Cellular	Fixed Wireless	Unknown without service address	2.0 mbps	.064 mbps

d. Project impact. A description of the geographic area and the population, both in terms of absolute numbers and likely users, which will be served by the proposed project. Indicate the number of anticipated residential and business customers in the project area, if known. Explain the speed and quality of internet service that will be available. Include information about the range of packages available for purchase. Provide details on any low-income access programs and steps the project will take to support adoption.

This project will have a profound impact on broadband access in the Town of Knowlton, Village of Kronenwetter, and Town of Guenther. Of the 652 homes and businesses that will be able to immediately take service, all are in areas where broadband access is severely lacking, both in terms of access and affordability.

This expanded access will enable improvements in the lives of the residents of Town of Knowlton, Village of Kronenwetter, and Town of Guenther by enabling remote work opportunities, improving access to educational opportunities, and enhancing access to medical services and information.

e. Scalability. A description of how the proposed project could expand or improve the broadband service it delivers, while maintaining the quality of its broadband service. This description should include specific projected increases in the following parameters that are known at the time of the application:

Bug Tussel is undertaking a significant fiber-optic build out across Wisconsin, with proposed projects in more than 45 of the 72 counties. When completed, this will create a statewide, rural focused fiber optic network with as many as 60 redundancies between the end user and the destination of their data traffic.

For too long, networks have been designed on an ad hoc basis, connecting only those areas with significant enough population to allow for a quick return on investment. This has resulted in unreliable networks that travers through entire communities without making connections to the residents. Bug Tussel has designed networks that focus first on reliability and need, and has found that profitably follows closely when you put the community, and its residents, first.

The project contemplated herein, as part of the statewide network design, will have the capacity to serve the totality of the project area, with the ability to have its boundaries expanded in subsequent phases. This project is a last-mile expansions of a middle-mile that is being installed over the course of 2022. As a complete solution for the project area, this project will accomplish the broadband goals of Marathon County for the project area, allowing future expansion efforts to focus on other areas.

f. Economic development. A description of how the proposed project will promote job growth or retention, expand the property tax base or improve the overall economic vitality of the municipality or region. This description may be supplemented with a letter from one or more persons discussing the potential economic impact the project could have for that individual or business. In scoring this element, the following factors will be taken into account:

County governments, municipalities, commercial organizations, and economic development advocates have all identified the need for expanded broadband to meet current needs, to anticipate future needs, and to promote economic development. The presence of these facilities does not guarantee economic success but the lack of broadband and fiberoptic backbone transport guarantees the likelihood of economic stagnation and a potentially substandard economic development atmosphere.

A 2019 study by the UW-Extension noted that that a 10% increase in Internet speeds at the county level leads to average increased housing values from \$230 to \$661. The study also quantified that as more households reach these increased speed, quantifiable results will be seen in higher township tax revenues.

When considering the effect of “internet coverage” one typically thinks of email and browsing the internet. The economic reality of a robust communications network is critical for the following applications:

- Law enforcement and public safety from local agencies to the FBI/CIA and FEMA.
- Educational purposes in schools and to reduce costs for school districts through online textbooks and lifelong learning processes.

- Agricultural purposes such as irrigation controls, mapping of soil conditions, amount of fertilizer needed per square meter or yard, yield mapping, monitoring cows for milk fever or bloat, asset management, logistics for fuel and commodity delivery.
- Transportation purposes such as trucking logistics and safety, railroad switching and monitoring of bearings to prevent derailments, package tracking, management of delivery routes and many others.
- Home security and automation including childcare oversight, geriatric monitoring, ambient intelligence where personal preferences are automatically implemented in a home or business, security alarms and monitoring, monitoring critical appliances such as freezers and refrigerators, sump pumps, and HVAC controls.
- Medical and health purposes such as blood clot monitoring, oversight of insulin and pain pumps, in home cancer treatments, exercise and diet monitoring, heart monitoring and automatic adjustment of pacemakers and other heart monitors, attention and communication tools for those suffering from autism, cerebral palsy or other communication limiting diseases.
- Remote delivery and transportation systems such as drones and self-driven vehicles.

Improved broadband coverage throughout Town of Knowlton, Village of Kronenwetter, and Town of Guenther will also enhance the many recreational opportunities available to both individuals that live in the project areas and to visitors to Marathon County.

g. Effect upon broadband service to adjacent areas. A description of whether the proposed project will or will not impair the ability of a broadband service provider or competing broadband service provider to extend broadband service to areas adjacent to the proposed project area.

This project provides complete coverage for the project area, but will not impair further development of the adjacent areas. The project area was designed using information provided by neighboring providers, and provides coverage beyond their existing boundaries in underserved and unserved areas.

Bug Tussel's last-mile fiber will allow immediate access to those along the route, and it was designed not with dense population areas as the prime motivator. This will facilitate further development, by Bug Tussel and other competing broadband service providers, by completing the area and reserving capital for future development in adjacent areas.

3.2.5 Other information supporting the application

a. A description of applicant's history or experience constructing broadband communications facilities in the State and elsewhere.

As a growth oriented company with a statewide footprint, Bug Tussel has a long history of undertaking projects of this magnitude.

Through the PSC, Hilbert Communications, and its subsidiaries, have been awarded a number of grants, as shown on Table 2 below. All projects have been completed, or are in the process of being completed, within the parameters outlined in each respective grant application:

Table 2. Grant Awards.

Grant	Year	Technology	Status	Customers
Oneida County - I	2015	Fixed Wireless	Completed	199
Oneida County – II	2017	Fixed Wireless	Completed	256
Florence County	2018	Fixed Wireless	Completed	42
Oneida County – III	2018	Fixed Wireless	Completed	179
Juneau County	2018	Fixed Wireless	Completed	25
Green County	2018	Fixed Wireless	Completed	93
Oneida County – IV	2018	Fixed Wireless	Completed	169
LaFayette County	2019	Fixed Wireless	Completed	24
Green Lake County	2019	Fixed Wireless	Completed	31
Town of Deerfield	2019	Fixed Wireless	Completed	7
Oneida County – V	2019	Fixed Wireless	Pending	Pending
Kewaunee County	2020	Fixed Wireless	Pending	Pending
Menominee County	2020	Fixed Wireless	Pending	Pending
Forest County	2020	Fixed Wireless / Fiber	Pending	Pending
Green County	2020	Fiber	Pending	Pending
Iowa County	2020	Fiber	Pending	Pending
Florence County	2021	Fixed Wireless	Pending	Pending
Fond du Lac County	2021	Fixed Wireless	Pending	Pending
Iron County	2021	Fixed Wireless	Pending	Pending
Wood County – SW	2021	Fixed Wireless	Pending	Pending
Wood County	2021	Fixed Wireless	Pending	Pending
Kewaunee County	2021	Fiber	Pending	Pending
Forest County	2022	Fiber	Pending	Pending

Bug Tussel completed a number of American Rescue Plan Act Broadband Access Grant applications that were not awarded, and four of those projects will commence irrespective of the grant award. Construction on fiber-optic networks in Marathon, Waushara, Calumet, and Fond du Lac Counties will begin this spring.

b. A description of how the proposed project will or will not duplicate existing broadband infrastructure.

The project area is one where legacy providers have not continued to make the investments necessary to support modern technological advancement. As discussed above, existing access exists only in areas where profitability facilitated the investment, which leaves large geographic tracts throughout project area with little to no broadband access. This project seeks to serve the underserved and unserved, and does so in areas with insufficient levels of reliable broadband.

c. A description of an applicant's financial ability to undertake the proposed broadband construction project. This may include information such as the number of years the company has been in operation, documentation of successful completion of similar infrastructure projects, evidence that sufficient funds are available to cover project expenditure and match, customer turn-over rates, and credit rating.

Bug Tussel Wireless was founded in 2003, and in 2008 joined forces with McKinley Reserve and Paul Gehl to form Hilbert Communications through a merger of seven companies. With the goal to remedy the dire need for broadband and cellular access of those living in rural communities, Bug Tussel has grown substantially in its nearly 20 year history.

The core investment group has made investments in rural wireless and broadband in excess of \$30 million and is currently completing a series of financing agreements to fund over \$500,000,000 of new capital projects through a number of joint ventures with private equity firms and public bond issuances. Consolidated revenues per Hilbert's most recent audited financial statements is nearly \$65,000,000, a doubling year on year increase.

Bug Tussel has a proven track record of operating, maintaining, and continually investing in its network to provide its thousands of rural customers with the best technologies on the market. Collaborating with partners like AT&T, Bug Tussel currently operates approximately 600 broadband and cellular sites throughout rural Wisconsin, Michigan and Iowa. Further, Bug Tussel has a rapidly expanding fiber footprint with existing fiber assets in Forest and Oconto Counties, as well as ongoing projects in Iowa, Green, Kewaunee, Marathon, Forest, Fond du Lac, Calumet, and Waushara Counties all set to be completed in 2022.

Bug Tussel and its subsidiaries can provide turnkey solutions for nearly any rural community. From site acquisition, tower construction, network operations, and sales and service, Bug Tussel can connect rural communities and keep residents competitive with larger urban centers.

Bug Tussel has been very deliberate in its network design creating significant redundancies through the use of "ring design" and a combination of over the air and fiberoptic connectivity resulting in industry high performance standards. This design and reputation resulted in the award of construction and operational contracts with AT&T for a portion of the FirstNet® National Emergency Communications Network. Bug Tussel brings the same reliability and redundancy design to an individual customer in rural Wisconsin as it does to a national emergency communications network.

Bug Tussel also believes that networks need to be sustainable and as such cannot be reliant on future grants or funding but must seek creative ways in rural markets to leverage assets. This application and our entire network leverages assets and relationships to create a superior network. Bug Tussel is in the final stages of a national build agreement with AT&T, with nearly 350 sites completed across Wisconsin and southwestern Iowa that also provides a basis for our broadband network and makes broadband possible on AT&T's network. Since 2018, Bug Tussel has ramped its site acquisition and construction teams from 2 to 4 sites per month to up to 20 sites per month and has completed nearly 200 sites in a single year. These sites met the stringent quality standards of FirstNet and of AT&T. They also met our own stringent quality standards for each rural customer.

d. A description of how the proposed project will affect the ability of individuals to access health care service from home, including any impact upon the costs of those services.

In a letter of support on behalf of Aspiris, Inc., Wade Carroll, VP Information Technology, highlights the following:

“Adequate broadband coverage is also a necessity for those seeking to better utilize telehealth. Telemedicine is changing the way patients in Marathon County, and throughout the state manage their healthcare needs. The benefits of telehealth can only be utilized with reliable high-speed internet access – yet, many in Marathon County do not have adequate, reliable, or affordable service.”

National studies provide evidence of cost savings with the use of telehealth services. In a pre-COVID-19 study of 40,000 Cigna beneficiaries, the 20,000 beneficiaries who used the MDLive telehealth platform had 17% lower costs when compared with non-virtual care. Virtual care users also experienced a 36% net reduction in ED use per 1,000 people compared to non-virtual care users (Healthcare IT News). The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Report of the Taskforce on Telehealth Policy discusses a variety of evidence that the use of telehealth services lowers the overall cost of care. We are confident that this national data can be extrapolated to this project area. Considering that in-person health care services are 20 or more miles away for many residents of the project area, use of telehealth also results in savings related to travel and time away from work or school.

e. A description of how the proposed project will affect the ability of students to access educational opportunities from home.

In her letter of support, D.C. Everest Superintendent Kristine A. Gilmore, Ed. D., stated:

“All levels of our educational system stand to gain from this project as broadband can overcome geographical and financial barriers to provide a wide range of educational and cultural opportunities. For residential internet service, broadband makes it possible for students to attend virtual classes and complete assignments at home - something that many rural students cannot currently do, even more so during the COVID-19 pandemic. Being unable to attend online classes and complete assignments at home creates a burden on students as they must find other means of internet access, including traveling to the public library, a local McDonalds or Starbucks, or friend's house which can take a great deal of time and money. Beyond virtual learning and homework, with quality residential internet service, students can easily access information and learn about their community and the world. They can also learn about secondary education options, research job opportunities, and communicate with others.

There are many online educational programs currently available for students of all ages in the project area. Several school districts have on-line learning labs, where a student can be physically located in their high school but take a class for college credit. While K-12 schools have largely returned to in-person instruction, some families prefer an on-line option. With improved internet access, families in the project area may wish to open-enroll in accredited online schools such as Acellus Academy, Virtual Charter Schools, or the Wisconsin Connections Academy.

Adult professional continuing education has made a major shift to online course delivery, and will be aided by this project. Rural health care providers at all levels, from nursing assistants to sub-specialty physicians, REALTORS, HVAC technicians, accountants, firefighters, childcare providers and others need access to highspeed internet for continuing education to maintain credentials and improve skills.

f. A description of actions taken by a city, village, town, or county in support of the grant application that have not been discussed in the context of a public-private partnership above, including but not limited to:

This project is the result of a true partnership between Bug Tussel and Marathon County. From planning and design forward, Bug Tussel and the Marathon County have been engaged, and will continue to be engaged to complete the shared goal of expanded broadband access throughout the project area.

Moreover, Bug Tussel will continue to partner with Marathon County following the completion of the construction project. Bug Tussel works diligently to level the playing field so that rural areas can utilize the same types of services as urbanized areas and therefore able to fully compete economically and socially to attract and retain residents and businesses. Through its community outreach component, Bug Tussel University, Bug Tussel will work with Marathon County to provide educational seminars ranging from basic classes (“How to use the internet” and “How to use social media”) to more advanced curriculum. Bug Tussel University personnel are always very engaged in the communities in which Bug Tussel operates, seeking user feedback on ways to assist them in connecting technology and the community.

g. Letters and messages in support of the application submitted by prospective customers, local government officials, and other interested persons.

Please see the attached Letters of Support from a schools, businesses, and health care institutions that will benefit from this project, collectively attached as **Exhibit B**.

EXHIBIT LIST

A. Resolution #R-21-22 – Authorization of County Support for Public Service Commission (PSC) Broadband Grant

B. Letters of Support

- a. **Aspirus;**
- b. **Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce;**
- c. **D.C. Everest Area School District;**
- d. **Marathon County Farm Bureau;**
- e. **Wausau Area Metropolitan Planning Organization;**
- f. **ProVision Partners Cooperative;**
- g. **Marathon County Sheriff’s Office;**
- h. **United Way of Marathon County;**
- i. **Wausau School District – Dr. Keith Hilts, Superintendent of Schools; and**
- j. **Wausau School District – Jon Euting, Director of Technology.**



March 16, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin,

Marathon County Government would like to formally announce its support for the Marathon County/Bug Tussel project to aid in the economic growth of Marathon County and support the general improvement of our communities through increased broadband capacity.

Broadband expansion is a key component to long-term economic growth for Marathon County. The availability of adequate, reliable, and affordable internet service will inevitably retain and attract both residents and talent, increase employment opportunities, and expand economic activity. Our ability to attract and retain residents is critical in not only maintaining our tax base but growing it. Furthermore, this provides the means for Marathon County to deliver a wide range of services to our residents, including the ability for our local emergency responders to leverage technology, improving the efficiency and access of our 911 system.

This project will also improve our residents' quality of life, allowing them to carry out daily tasks more efficiently, work from home, attend school virtually, and access telehealth services. Expanded broadband access will ultimately revitalize Marathon County and posture it to compete with larger cities for investment and innovation.

The Marathon County/Bug Tussel project provides a unique opportunity for 605 households and businesses in the Towns of Guenther, Knowlton, and the Village of Kronenwetter to access reliable, high-quality fiber broadband service. Marathon County Government fully supports this grant application and will fully assist in the completion of the project goal through expedited permitting. **Furthermore, we will support this project with a financial match of \$142,175 if grant funding is awarded.**

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at kurt.gibbs@co.marathon.wi.us or (715) 261-1409. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kurt Gibbs
Chair, Marathon County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION #R-21 -22

AUTHORIZATION OF COUNTY SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (PSC) BROADBAND GRANTS

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

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

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

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; and

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; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has existing opportunities to expand broadband services through a Broadband Expansion Grant Program administered by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC); and

WHEREAS, to assist PSC grant applicants, the Marathon County Broadband Task Force has recommended a policy of providing forgivable loans to PSC grant applicants whose proposed use of grant funds will benefit Marathon County. These forgivable loans would be in the amount of \$235 per unit for each applicant. Each loan would be forgiven upon activation of the broadband system within Marathon County created, expanded, or updated by grant funds. These loans would be provided based upon the applications and materials submitted and considered at the Marathon County Broadband Task Force meeting of February 28, 2022; and

WHEREAS, to further assist PSC grant applicants, the Marathon County Broadband Task Force has recommended a policy of making low interest loans available to PSC grant applicants whose expenditures will exceed \$235 per unit and whose proposed use of grant funds will benefit Marathon County. These loans would be for the non-PSC and non-county share of these projects; and

WHEREAS, these recommended loans would be available to applicants through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, an allowable use of funds pursuant to ARPA expenditure categories 5.16 and 5.17 and Section 602(c)(1)(D) of the Social Security Act as amended.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee and the Marathon County Executive Committee authorize appropriate county officials 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. County officials are also authorized to work with and support grant applicants through 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.






NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee, the Marathon County Executive Committee, and the Marathon County Board authorize county officials to provide forgivable loans in the amount of \$235 per unit to PSC grant applicants whose proposed use of grant funds will benefit Marathon County and as further defined in the applications and materials submitted and considered at the Marathon County Broadband Task Force meeting of February 28, 2022. The forgivable loan would not exceed \$70,000 for Cirrinity, \$142,175 for Bug Tussel Wireless and \$944,835 for Frontier for a total not to exceed \$1,157,010. The forgivable loans will only be made upon a successful award from the PSC.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee, the Marathon County Executive Committee, and the Marathon County Board authorize county officials to make available low interest loans available to PSC grant applicants whose proposed use of grant funds will benefit Marathon County for the non-PSC and non-county share of these projects under the terms and conditions as defined by the Marathon County Broadband Task Force.






NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these recommended loans are authorized through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, an allowable use of funds pursuant to ARPA expenditure categories 5.16 and 5.17 and Section 602(c)(1)(D) of the Social Security Act as amended.

March 15, 2022

HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

 _____	 _____
 _____	 _____
 _____	_____

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

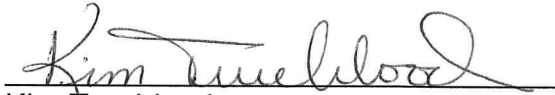
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Fiscal Impact: This resolution would have no immediate fiscal impact; however, it would authorize county officials to utilize American Rescue Plan Act funding to authorize per unit loans to PSC grant applicants whose projects benefit Marathon County. Provisions of loans under this resolution would have an impact on ARPA funds dependent on the number of applicants and the amounts approved.

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)SS.
COUNTY OF MARATHON)

I, Kim Trueblood, County Clerk in and for Marathon County, Wisconsin, hereby certify that the attached Resolution #R-21-22 was enacted by the Marathon County Board of Supervisors at the Adjourned Annual Meeting which was held on March 15, 2022.

SEAL



Kim Trueblood
Marathon County Clerk



2200 Westwood Drive, PO Box 1395, Wausau, WI 54401
715.847.2118 | 800.283.2881 | aspirus.org

March 7, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Subject: Letter of Support for the Marathon County/Bug Tussel Project

Ms. Nieto,

On behalf of Aspirus Inc., I write today to express support for the proposed Marathon County/Bug Tussel Project.

The health of our community can be greatly increased with improved internet service. Through the internet, patients are able to have greater access to their health information and increased convenience in gaining the health supplies that they need. For example, patients can go online to view their health records, order prescriptions, and view their insurance policies. Patients are also able to research tips for a healthy lifestyle and access exercise classes – these are all part of preventative care.

Adequate broadband internet is also a necessity for those seeking to better utilize telehealth. Telemedicine is changing the way patients in Marathon County, and throughout the state manage their healthcare needs. The benefits of telehealth can only be utilized with reliable high-speed internet access – yet, many in Marathon County do not have adequate, reliable, or affordable service.

As we continue to rely heavily on telemedicine to support the evolving needs of patients, expanding broadband connectivity will help to ensure Aspirus Inc. can continue operating in an effective manner. If patients do not have quality internet service, they are not able to access their health information, receive tele-health services, or stay up-to-date on events and other happenings. Because of this, it is imperative that all Marathon County residents have fast, reliable, and affordable residential internet service. This is why we offer our strong support for the Marathon County/Bug Tussel Project.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to reach me at 715-847-2537 or at wade.carroll@aspirus.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wade Carroll
VP, Information Technology
Aspirus Inc.



March 5, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Subject: Letter of Support for the Marathon County/ Bug Tussel Wireless Project

Ms. Nieto,

I am writing in support of the proposed Marathon County/ Bug Tussel Wireless project.

There are many benefits of having fast, reliable, and affordable internet service in our community related to quality of life and economic vitality. While the list of benefits is quite lengthy, I have highlighted a few key reasons why this expanded access is critical to the rural areas of Marathon County below.

First, the health of the community can be greatly increased with improved internet service. Through the internet, patients can have greater access to their health information and increased convenience in gaining prescriptions and supplies that they need. Additionally, telehealth is becoming a method of gaining healthcare and is a fantastic resource where traveling to appointments may be difficult. However, telehealth requires significant bandwidth, low latency, and symmetrical download and upload speeds.

Second, quality internet service can also have widespread impacts on our educational system. Reliable broadband makes it possible for students to attend virtual classes and complete assignments at home - something many students in Marathon County cannot currently do. Being unable to attend online classes and complete assignments at home creates a burden on students as they must find other means of accessing reliable internet service, which can take a great deal of time, money, and health exposure. Beyond virtual learning and homework, students with quality residential internet service would be able to access information and learn about their community and the world, secondary education options, research job opportunities, and communicate with others.

Third, as we continue to experience an ongoing workforce shortage, businesses have put a high emphasis on worker retention and development. Quality internet service provides existing employees with the ability to work remotely and access quality professional development opportunities. As we fill positions, we find that individuals are often drawn to the scenic beauty and rural setting of Marathon County. Unfortunately, we lose talent as prospective employees find that housing options are limited to where high speed internet infrastructure is located.



The Marathon County/Bug Tussel Wireless project is a unique opportunity for some of the more rural areas of Marathon County to have access to high quality, reliable internet service. As you have read above, the impact is extensive, touching nearly every industry in Marathon County in some manner. With this project, residents would have access to tele-health services, students can attend virtual classes and complete assignments at home, businesses can provide their employees with the added flexibility of working remotely, and the list continues.

As the President and CEO of the Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce, I fully support this grant application and will fully assist in the completion of the project goal. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to reach me at 715-848-5946 or at deckmann@wausauchamber.com. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Eckmann", is written over the typed name.

David Eckmann
President and CEO
Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce



D.C. Everest Area School District

1699 Schofield Ave., Suite 300
Schofield, WI 54476
Phone 715-359-4221
www.dce.k12.wi.us

Kristine A. Gilmore, Ed.D.
Superintendent

MISSION STATEMENT

D.C. Everest Area School District, in partnership with the community, is committed to being an innovative educational leader in developing knowledgeable, productive, caring, creative, responsible individuals prepared to meet the challenges of an ever-changing global society.

March 7, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Subject: Marathon County Bug Tussel Wireless Project

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin,

The D.C. Everest Area School District would like to formally announce its support for the "Marathon County bug Tussel Wireless" project to increase District students' ability to access educational resources, learn successfully remotely, and support the general improvement of the community through increased broadband capacity.

All levels of our educational system stand to gain from this project as broadband can overcome geographical and financial barriers to provide a wide range of educational and cultural opportunities. For residential internet service, broadband makes it possible for students to attend virtual classes and complete assignments at home – something that many rural students cannot currently do, even more so during the COVID-19 pandemic. Being unable to attend online classes and complete assignments at home creates a burden on students as they must find other means of internet access, including traveling to the public library, a local McDonalds or Starbucks, or friend's house which can take a great deal of time and money. Beyond virtual learning and homework, with quality residential internet service, students can easily access information and learn about their community and the world. They can also learn about secondary education options, research job opportunities, and communicate with others.

The Marathon County Bug Tussel Wireless Project provides a unique opportunity for households in rural Marathon County to access reliable, high quality, fiber broadband service. With this project, District students would have access to consistent high-speed internet service that would enable them to easily participate in synchronous education, attend large webinars, or take online classes even when siblings and other household members are also accessing the internet.

As the D.C. Everest Area School District, we fully support this grant application and will fully assist in the completion of the project goal. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to contact the District at 715-359-4221.

Thank you for your consideration,


Kristine A. Gilmore, Ed.D.
Superintendent

KG:es

March 09, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Subject: Letter of Support for the Marathon County/Bug Tussel Wireless Project

Ms. Nieto,

I am writing in support of the proposed Marathon County **Bug Tussel Wireless** Project. Agriculture's success and growth is dependent on reliable and affordable high speed internet service, as it allows farmers to follow commodity markets, communicate with customers and reach markets across the world. Additionally, precision agriculture, which can help reduce costs and increase efficiencies relies on the availability of broadband service and agricultural tourism, a growing market, relies on a strong digital presence.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is the state's largest general farm organization representing farms of different sizes, commodities and management styles.

Marathon County Farm Bureau is a division of Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation. We work side by side with our Local, State and Nationwide members. We strive to be a voice for agriculture and Our Mission, "Empowering the Wisconsin agricultural community through our grassroots membership to preserve and promote the advancement of agriculture."

Furthermore, high speed internet access is necessary for our children to have equal access to educational resources, employment opportunities, and for us to remain connected to friends and family. For these reasons, it is critical that Marathon County receives increased broadband service.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to reach me at 715.348.0677 or at mueller675@yahoo.com. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

**William Mueller
Marathon County President
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation**



March 11, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Subject: Letter of Support for the Marathon County/Bug Tussel Wireless Project

Ms. Nieto,

I am writing on behalf of the Marathon Planning Metropolitan Planning Commission to express our support for the proposed Marathon County/Bug Tussel Wireless broadband expansion project in the Village of Kronenwetter and the Town of Guenther. Our organization represents 13 local units of government in the greater Wausau area and understands that there are many benefits of having fast, reliable, and affordable internet service in our community related to quality of life and economic vitality. While the list of benefits is quite lengthy, I've highlighted a few key reasons why this expanded access is critical to suburban and rural areas of Marathon County currently unserved or underserved below.

First, the health of the community can be greatly increased with improved internet service. Through the internet, patients can have greater access to their health information and increased convenience in gaining prescriptions and supplies that they need. Additionally, telehealth is becoming a method of gaining healthcare and is a fantastic resource where traveling to appointments may be difficult. However, telehealth requires significant bandwidth, low latency, and symmetrical download and upload speeds.

Second, quality internet service can also have widespread impacts on our educational system. Reliable broadband makes it possible for students to attend virtual classes and complete assignments at home - something many students in Marathon County cannot currently do. Being unable to attend online classes and complete assignments at home creates a burden on students as they must find other means of accessing reliable internet service, which can take a great deal of time, money, and health exposure. Beyond virtual learning and homework, students with quality residential internet service would be able to access information and learn about their community and the world, secondary education options, research job opportunities, and communicate with others.

Third, as we continue to experience an ongoing workforce shortage, businesses have put a high emphasis on worker retention and development. Quality internet service provides existing employees with the ability to work remotely and access quality professional development opportunities. As we fill positions, we find that individuals are often drawn to the scenic beauty and rural setting of Marathon County. Unfortunately, we lose talent as prospective employees find that housing options are limited to where high speed internet infrastructure is located.

Finally, access to adequate broadband service is critical in our efforts to keep the public engaged and informed of what is taking place in local government. It provides them an opportunity to access meeting agendas, minutes and watch many of the meetings that are live streamed on our web sites.

The Marathon County/Bug Tussel Wireless project is an opportunity for some of the suburban and rural areas of Marathon County to have access to high quality, reliable internet service. As you've read above, the impact is extensive, touching nearly every industry in Marathon County in some manner. With this project, residents would have access to tele-health services, students can attend virtual classes and complete assignments at home, businesses can provide their employees with the added flexibility of working remotely, and the list continues.

Wausau Area Metropolitan Planning Organization supports this grant application and will fully assist in the completion of the project goal.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to reach me at 715 212-2227 or at john.robinson@co.marathon.wi.us. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Robinson", written in a cursive style.

John Robinson
Chairperson
Marathon County Metropolitan Planning Organization

cc Dave Mack, MPO Director



Main Office • 2327 W Veterans Pkwy • PO Box 988 • Marshfield, WI 54449-0988
Regional Office • 70 South State St • Hixton, WI 54635

800-236-1041 • FAX 715-687-4126

March 8, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Subject: Letter of Support for the Marathon County/Bug Tussel, Frontier, Cirrinity Broadband Project

Ms. Nieto,

I am writing in support of the proposed Marathon County/Broadband Project. Agriculture's success and growth is dependent on reliable and affordable high speed internet service, as it allows farmers to follow commodity markets, communicate with customers and reach markets across the world. Additionally, precision agriculture, which can help reduce costs and increase efficiencies relies on the availability of broadband service and agricultural tourism, a growing market, relies on a strong digital presence.

ProVision Partners Cooperative of Wisconsin is an ag supply cooperative of feed/grain, agronomy, and energy products. We employ around 350 people. A good deal of our employees and patrons live and do business in rural areas of Wisconsin where local internet is a challenge.

Having fast, reliable, and affordable internet service in rural areas of Marathon County is directly related to business vitality.

As a company we have been fortunate to have access for most of our locations. However, we are limited on using necessary technology in the field with poor rural broadband. In addition, with the pandemic forcing some of our employees to be able to work remotely has been a challenge with extremely slow down and upload speeds. Virtual meetings and training are difficult and often not even possible. Our farmers that we serve also are facing these challenges with internet speeds which limits them from using a lot of today's technologies to advance their operations.

As our business who looks to recruit new employees to service rural areas, residential broadband service is an essential quality of life issue for retention and relocation. Without this vital piece of infrastructure, we will lose qualified young employees to other regions or other states.

If this project can bring better rural broadband to under served areas we will be able to offer more flexible working arrangements, offer new technologies to our agriculture customers, and our employees can use vital technology to better and more efficiently do their jobs.

Furthermore, high speed internet access is necessary for our children to have equal access to educational resources, employment opportunities, and for us to remain connected to friends and family. For these reasons, it is critical that Marathon County receives increased broadband service.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to reach me at 800-236-1041 or at rlarson@provisionpartners.coop. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Larson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rob Larson
General Manager/CEO

Auburndale • Black River Falls • Chili • Colby • Fairchild • Hixton • Humbird
Marshfield • Merrillan • Northfield • Pittsville • Stratford • Unity • Warrens • West Salem

Provisionpartners.coop



MARATHON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

500 FOREST STREET WAUSAU, WI 54403-5568

**SCOTT R. PARKS
SHERIFF**

NON-EMERGENCY
(715) 261-1200
FAX (715) 261-1221
www.marathoncountysheriff.org

March 8, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Dear Ms. Kristy Nieto,

This letter is in support of the Broadband Infrastructure Application submitted by Marathon County.

The Marathon County Sheriff's Office is committed to the persons living, working and visiting Marathon County through public safety management, trust building and assisting all levels of government maintaining this community. Technology is a major component of conducting this mission effectively. If individuals cannot connect with us, everyone loses and the trust established diminishes with each negative effort at interaction.

Technology has become a means of life no matter the age group of those we serve. Granted some are more familiar with technology than others within our County. Knowing more youthful individuals depend on using technology to connect rather than the more traditional means of telephoning, we have improved access to our 911 Center by upgrading our systems to accept text messages and shared photographs. This has worked well for us where there is solid connectivity, but there are many areas of our County especially in the more rural areas where connectivity access is minimal to poor to non-existent. This needs to change for the benefit of all.

Our local emergency responders in law enforcement, fire and EMS experience the same lack of connectivity. Many times our law enforcement professionals have to seek identified hot spots, sometimes needing to leave their assigned patrol areas, to gain access back to our Office to submit intelligence, reports and other data. This results in frequent visits to regular locations providing a developed pattern which could cause individuals with criminal intent to target the professionals using those identified hot spots. Broader access does not necessarily eliminate this problem but it does assist in lessening it.

I am requesting you consider and award this grant to Marathon County. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to reach me at 715-261-1205 and/or my direct email scott.parks@co.marathon.wi.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott R. Parks".

Scott R. Parks
Marathon County Sheriff

March 7, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Subject: Letter of Support for the Marathon County/Bug Tussel Project

Ms. Nieto,

I am writing in support of the proposed Marathon County/Bug Tussel project.

There are many benefits of having fast, reliable, and affordable internet service in our community related to quality of life and economic vitality. While the list of benefits is quite lengthy, I've highlighted a few key reasons why this expanded access is critical to the rural areas of Marathon County below.

First, the health of the community can be greatly increased with improved internet service. Through the internet, patients can have greater access to their health information and increased convenience in gaining prescriptions and supplies that they need. Additionally, telehealth is becoming a method of gaining healthcare and is a fantastic resource where traveling to appointments may be difficult. However, telehealth requires significant bandwidth, low latency, and symmetrical download and upload speeds.

Second, quality internet service can also have widespread impacts on our educational system. Reliable broadband makes it possible for students to attend virtual classes and



United Way
of Marathon County

complete assignments at home - something many students in Marathon County cannot currently do. Being unable to attend online classes and complete assignments at home creates a burden on students as they must find other means of accessing reliable internet service, which can take a great deal of time, money, and health exposure. Beyond virtual learning and homework, students with quality residential internet service would be able to access information and learn about their community and the world, secondary education options, research job opportunities, and communicate with others.

Third, as we continue to experience an ongoing workforce shortage, businesses have put a high emphasis on worker retention and development. Quality internet service provides existing employees with the ability to work remotely and access quality professional development opportunities. As we fill positions, we find that individuals are often drawn to the scenic beauty and rural setting of Marathon County. Unfortunately, we lose talent as prospective employees find that housing options are limited to where high speed internet infrastructure is located.

The Marathon County/Bug Tussel project is a unique opportunity for some of the more rural areas of Marathon County to have access to high quality, reliable internet service. As you've read above, the impact is extensive, touching nearly every industry in Marathon County in some manner. With this project, residents would have access to tele-health services, students can attend virtual classes and complete assignments at home, businesses can provide their employees with the added flexibility of working remotely, and the list continues.

As the executive director of United Way of Marathon County I fully support this grant application and will fully assist in the completion of the project goal. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to reach me at (715) 298-5701 or at jsargent@unitedwaymc.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Sargent".

Jeff Sargent, Executive Director/CEO



WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

Longfellow Administration Center

415 Seymour Street • P.O. Box 359 • Wausau, Wisconsin 54402-0359 • 715-261-0500 • www.wausauschools.org

Dr. Keith W. Hilts, Superintendent of Schools

March 7, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Subject: Marathon County/Bug Tussel Wireless

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin,

The Wausau School District would like to formally announce its support for the "Marathon County/Bug Tussel Wireless" project to increase District students' ability to access educational resources, learn successfully remotely, and support the general improvement of the community through increased broadband capacity.

All levels of our educational system stand to gain from this project as broadband can overcome geographical and financial barriers to provide a wide range of educational and cultural opportunities. For residential internet service, broadband makes it possible for students to attend their virtual classes and complete assignments at home – something that many students cannot currently do, even more so with the current COVID-19 pandemic. Being unable to attend online classes and complete assignments at home creates a burden on students as they must find other means of internet provision, including traveling to the public library, a local McDonalds, or friends house which can take a great deal of time and money. Beyond virtual learning and homework, with quality residential internet service, students can easily access information and learn about their community and the world. They can also learn about secondary education options, research job opportunities, and communicate with others.

The Marathon County/Bug Tussel Wireless Project provides a unique opportunity for households in rural Marathon County to access reliable, high quality, fiber broadband service. With this project, District students would have access to consistent high speed internet service that would enable them to easily participate in synchronous education, attend large webinars, even when siblings and other household members are also accessing the internet.

As the Wausau School District, we fully support this grant application and will fully assist in the completion of the project goal. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to contact the District at (715) 261-0505.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dr. Keith Hilts
Superintendent of Schools

It is the mission of the Wausau School District to advance student learning, achievement, and success.



WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT
Longfellow Administration Center

5 Seymour Street • P.O. Box 359 • Wausau, WI 54402-0359 • 715-261-0500 • Fax 715-261-2503 • www.wausauschools.org

Dr. Keith Hiltz, Superintendent of Schools

March 10, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto

Division Administrator

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

4822 Madison Yards Way

P.O. Box 7854

Madison, WI 53705-9100

Subject: Marathon County/Bug Tussel Wireless Project

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin,

The Wausau School District would like to formally announce its support for the Marathon County/Bug Tussel Wireless project to increase District students' ability to access educational resources, learn successfully remotely, and support the general improvement of the community through increased broadband capacity.

All levels of our educational system stand to gain from this project as broadband can overcome geographical and financial barriers to provide a wide range of educational and cultural opportunities. For residential internet service, broadband makes it possible for students to attend their virtual classes and complete assignments at home – something that many students cannot currently do, even more so with the current COVID-19 pandemic. Being unable to attend online classes and complete assignments at home creates a burden on students as they must find other means of internet provision, including traveling to the public library, a local McDonalds, or friends house which can take a great deal of time and money. Beyond virtual learning and homework, with quality residential internet service, students can easily access information and learn about their community and the world. They can also learn about secondary education options, research job opportunities, and communicate with others.

The Marathon County/Bug Tussel Wireless Project provides a unique opportunity for households in rural Marathon County to access reliable, high quality, fiber broadband service. With this project, District students would have access to consistent high speed internet service that would enable them to easily participate in synchronous education, attend large webinars, even when siblings and other household members are also accessing the internet.

As the Wausau School District, we fully support this grant application and will fully assist in the completion of the project goal. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to contact the District at Jon Euting, Director of Technology and Media Services at jeuting@wausauschools.org.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Jon Euting


Director of Technology
Wausau School District



It is the mission of the Wausau School District to advance student learning, achievement, and success.

BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT APPLICATION

For Fiscal Year 2022

<p>Primary Applicant (Name and Address):</p> <p>Frontier North Inc. 2378 Wilshire Boulevard Mound, MN 55364</p>	<p>Applications MUST be UPLOADED to ERF via the Commission's website, http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx. Refer to section 2.3 for detailed instructions.</p> <p>Applications are due and MUST be uploaded to ERF no later than: March 17, 2022 at 4:00pm (16:00) Central Time. Late applications will not be accepted.</p>	
<p>Contact for further information: PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov</p>		
<p>Date: March 17, 2022</p>		
<p>The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is seeking applications for Broadband Expansion Grants. The Commission may award one or more grants during Fiscal Year 2022 to public and private entities that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504. This grant round will be funded with bond proceeds authorized by the Wisconsin Building Commission pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). As such, successful applicants are subject to the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). Successful applicants will demonstrate a clear and achievable plan to improve broadband communications services in one or more underserved areas in the State.</p>		
<p>Applicant Certification: In signing this application, the undersigned verifies under penalty of perjury that the Applicant and its employees and agents have not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition with respect to this application; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit an application; that this application has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other proposer, competitor or potential competitor; that this application has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of applications to any other applicant or competitor; that all of the responses and representations of Applicant in this application are true and correct to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information, and belief; and that Applicant agrees to, accepts, and will comply with all of the terms and conditions respecting this application and any award of a broadband expansion grant as may be established in a grant award Agreement.</p>		
<p>Name of Authorized Representative (Type or Print)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Scott Bohler</p>	<p>Title</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Manager, Government and External Affairs</p>	<p>Phone</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(952) 491-5534</p>
<p>Signature of Authorized Representative</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>Date</p> <p style="text-align: center;">March 17, 2022</p>	

SUMMARY OF GRANT APPLICATION

Primary Applicant Name Frontier North Inc.	Amount of Broadband Grant Request (round to nearest dollar) \$4,293,662
Federal Employer Identification No. 35-1869961	Amount of Matching Funds Pledged (round to nearest dollar) \$13,140,988
Contact Name and Title Scott Bohler Manager, Government and External Affairs	Total Cost of Proposed Project (round to nearest dollar) \$17,434,650
Telephone Number (952) 491-5534	Project Name Marathon County Project
E-mail Address(es) Scott.bohler@ftr.com	Type of Proposed Broadband Service (FTTH, Cable, DSL, etc.) FTTH
Grant Manager, if different than Primary Applicant Same as Primary Applicant	Type of Proposed Project (Last-mile, Middle-Mile, backbone, other) Last mile
Grant Manager Contact Name Same as Primary Applicant	Grant Manager Email Address and Telephone Number Same as Primary Applicant
<p>If the application proposes a public-private partnership, list the names, addresses, and FEINs of the partner companies or organizations</p> <p>The project is a public-private partnership between Frontier North and Marathon County. Frontier North Inc.: 2378 Wilshire Boulevard, Mound, MN 55364, 35-1869961 Marathon County: County of Marathon, 500 Forest Street, Wausau, WI 54403, 39-6005716 Town of Harrison: 183945 Bear Lake Road, Aniwa, WI 54408, 39-1570706 Town of Frankfort: 114488 County Rd N Edgar, WI 54426 Town of Ringle: 223207 Abt Road, Wausau, WI 54471, 39-6060084</p>	
<p>Brief Project Description (2 sentences)</p> <p>The proposed project will deploy fiber to the home network to 10,626 locations within Marathon County. The new facilities will allow Frontier to offer broadband service at speeds up to 2Gig, symmetrical.</p>	
Maximum Proposed Download Transmission Speed Up to 2 Gig	Maximum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed Up to 2 Gig
Minimum Proposed Download Speed to Customer Location	Minimum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed to Customer Location
County or Counties served by this project Marathon County	Community or Communities served by this project Portions of 25 Villages or Towns will be served.

<p>List of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve All of the locations are categorized as “unserved” or “underserved” by the PSC.</p>	
<p>Does proposed project serve an <i>unserved</i> area of the State, as defined in Section 1.4 of the application instruction? (yes/no) Yes.</p>	<p>Is the Applicant certified as a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community, or does the grant project propose to serve a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community? (yes/no) Yes</p>
<p>For last mile projects or component the expected number of Business Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total business locations passed or with new service access). 812</p>	<p>For last mile projects or components the expected number of Residential Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total residential locations passed or with new service access). 9,884</p>
<p>Of the improved business locations, how many locations are <i>unserved</i>? 755.</p>	<p>Of the improved residential locations, how many are <i>unserved</i>? 9,289</p>
<p>For providers that are eligible telecommunications carriers will the proposed broadband service be available to Lifeline customers? (yes/no) Yes.</p>	<p>Are there any programs available for low-income households to access low-cost service or discounts? (yes/no) Yes</p>
<p>Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program? (yes/no) Yes</p>	<p>Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Department of Public Instruction and CESA purchasing’s Digital Learning Bridge? (yes/no) No</p>
<p>Did the internet service provider participate in the Public Service Commission’s voluntary Broadband Coverage Data Collection in 2012? (yes/no) Yes.</p>	

FY22 Broadband Expansion Grant Application

Budget & Income Summary



Please complete this form using Microsoft Excel. A PDF copy must be attached to your application as page four. In addition, this form must also be uploaded to ERF in Excel format.

Grant Summary

Grant Applicant:	Project:
Frontier North Inc.	Marathon County

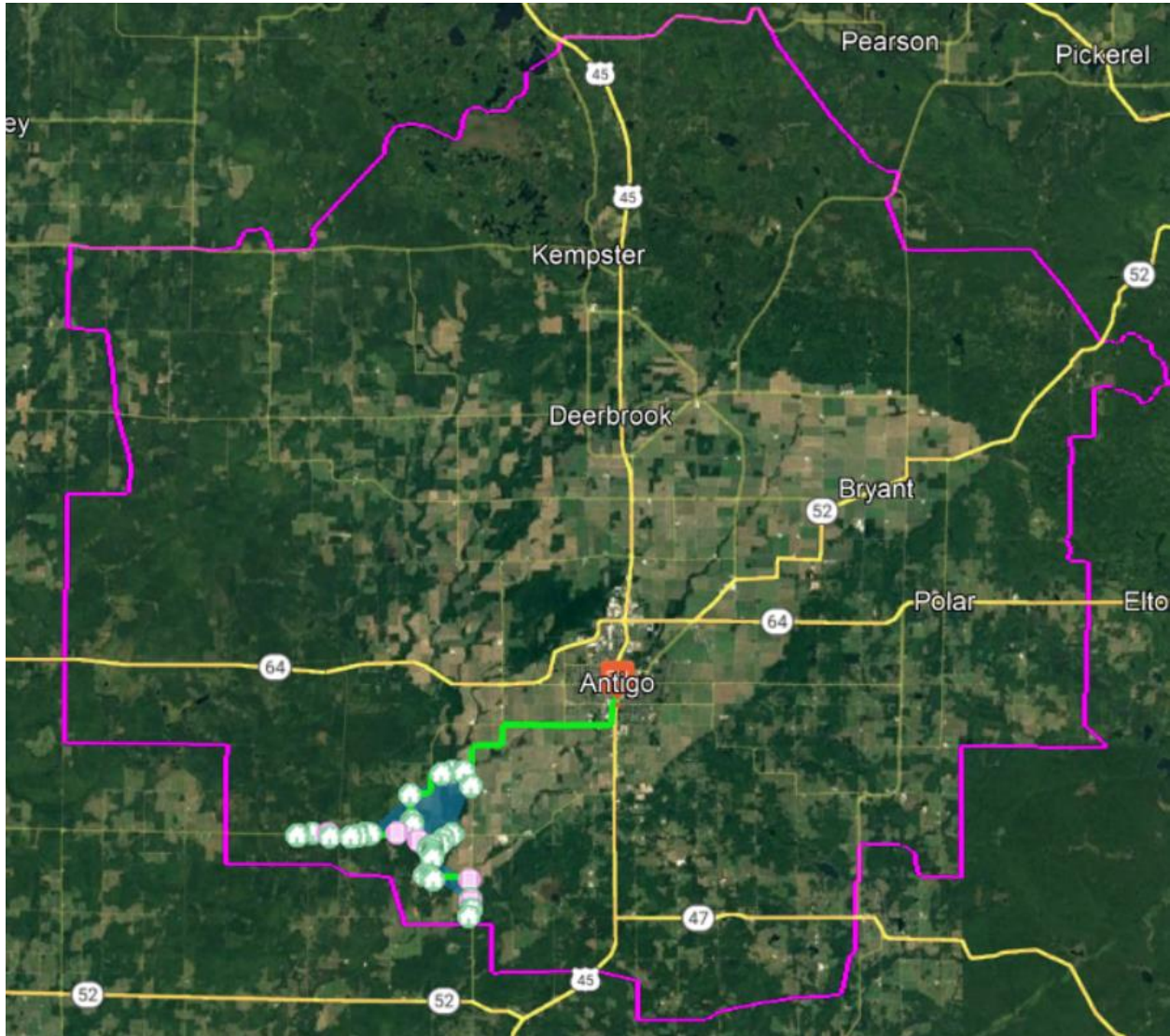
Budget

Line:	Description / Category:	Grant Funds:	Match:	Total:
1	Contractual, Consultant Fees	\$ 4,050,463.62	\$ 12,396,666.02	\$ 16,447,129.64
2	Equipment	\$ 139,943.32	\$ 428,304.21	\$ 568,247.53
3	Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4	Labor (Salary, Fringe)	\$ 28,403.05	\$ 86,929.08	\$ 115,332.13
5	Permitting, Licensing Fees	\$ 74,852.01	\$ 229,088.69	\$ 303,940.70
6	Travel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7	Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total:		\$ 4,293,662.00	\$ 13,140,988.00	\$ 17,434,650.00
		75.4% match requested		

Pledged Contributions

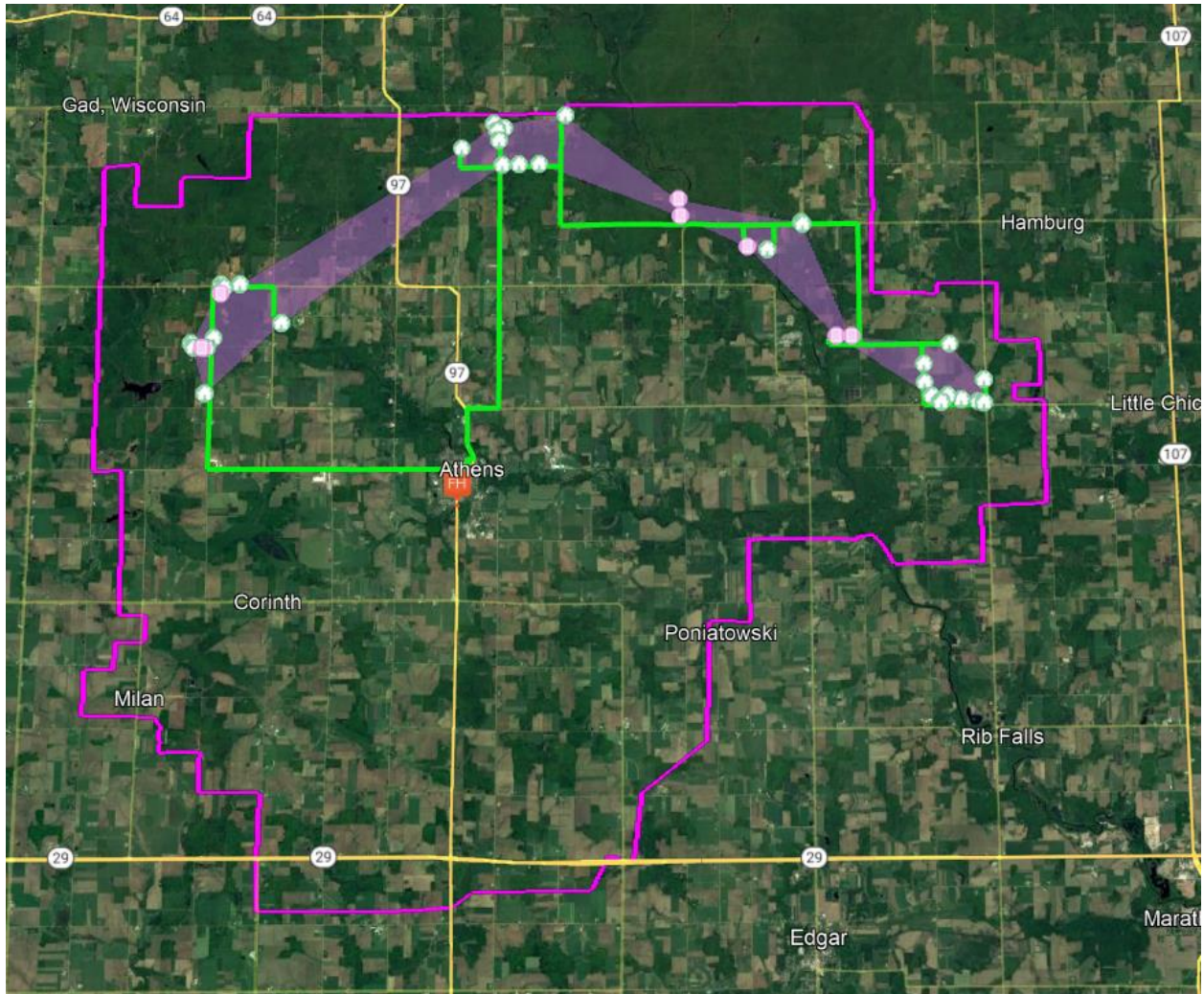
#:	Entity:	Entity Type:	Pledge Type:	Pledge:
1	Frontier North Inc.	Applicant	Cash	\$ 12,131,153.00
2	County of Marathon	Partner	Cash	\$ 944,835.00
3	Town of Frankfort	Partner	Cash	\$ 50,000.00
4	Town of Harrison	Partner	Cash	\$ 15,000.00
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
Total:				\$ 13,140,988.00

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 71 unserved customer locations in the Marathon County portion of Frontier’s Antigo exchange. There are 7 businesses and 64 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Antigo Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



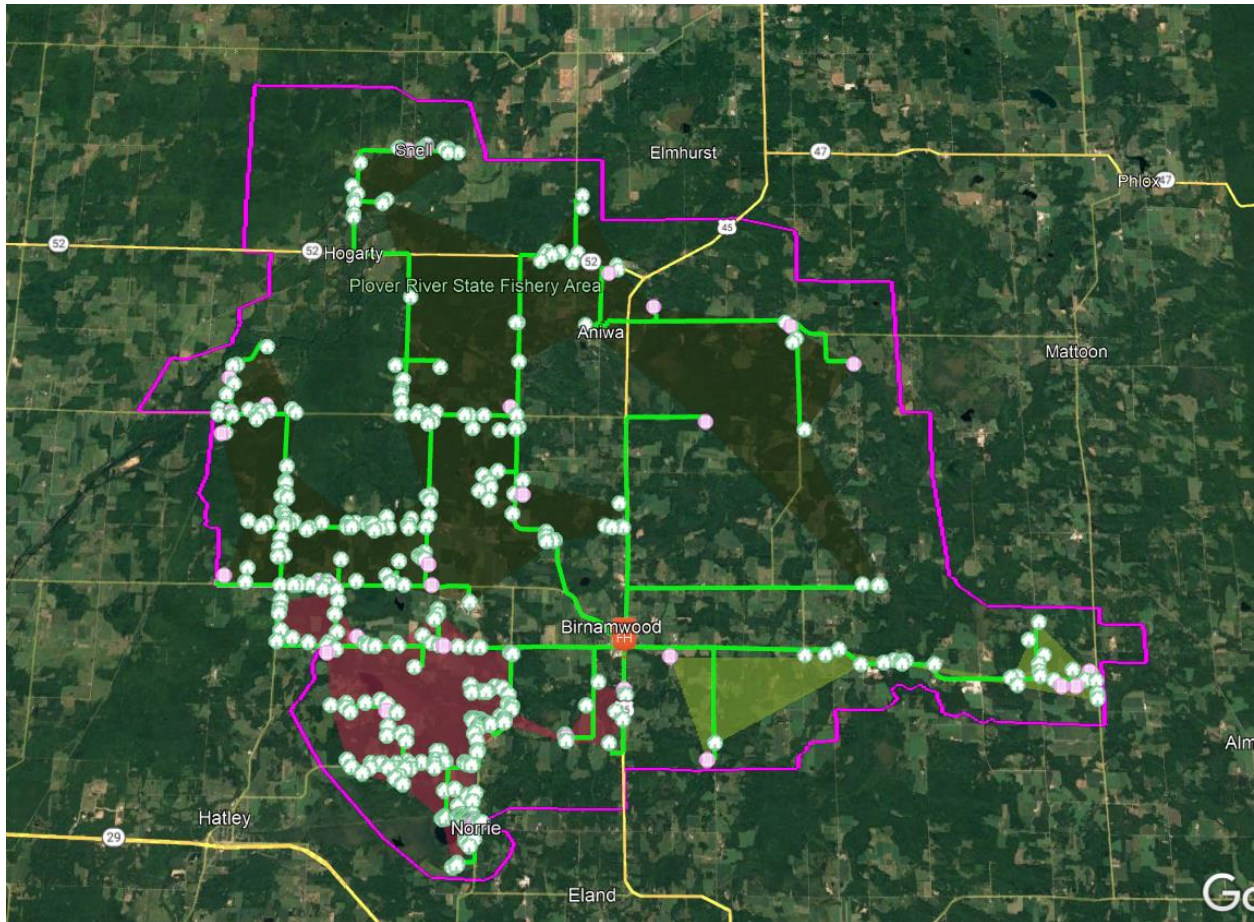
The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Antigo central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 60 unserved customer locations and 2 underserved customer locations in Frontier’s Athens exchange. There are 7 businesses and 55 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Athens Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



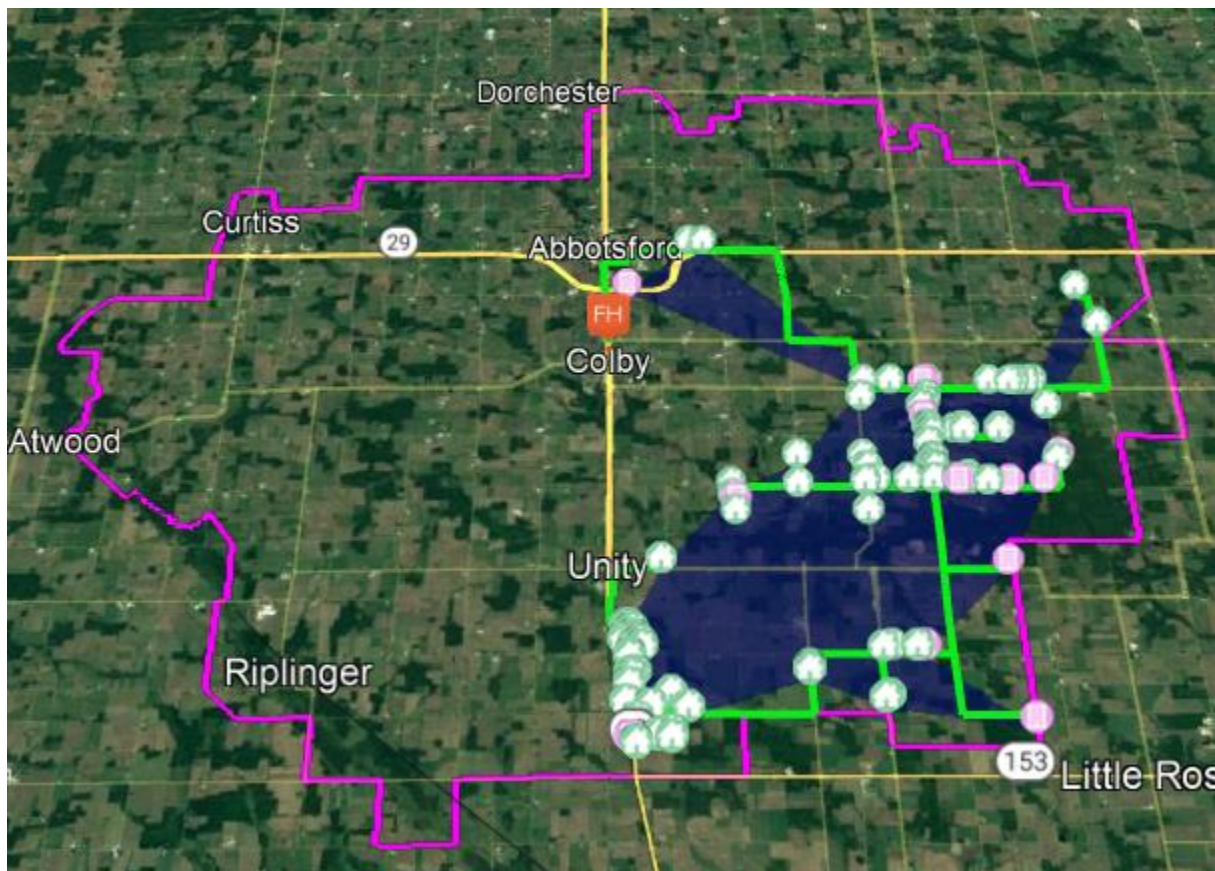
The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Athens central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 154 unserved customer locations and 488 underserved customer locations in the Marathon County portion of Frontier’s Birnamwood exchange. There are 24 businesses and 618 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Birnamwood Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



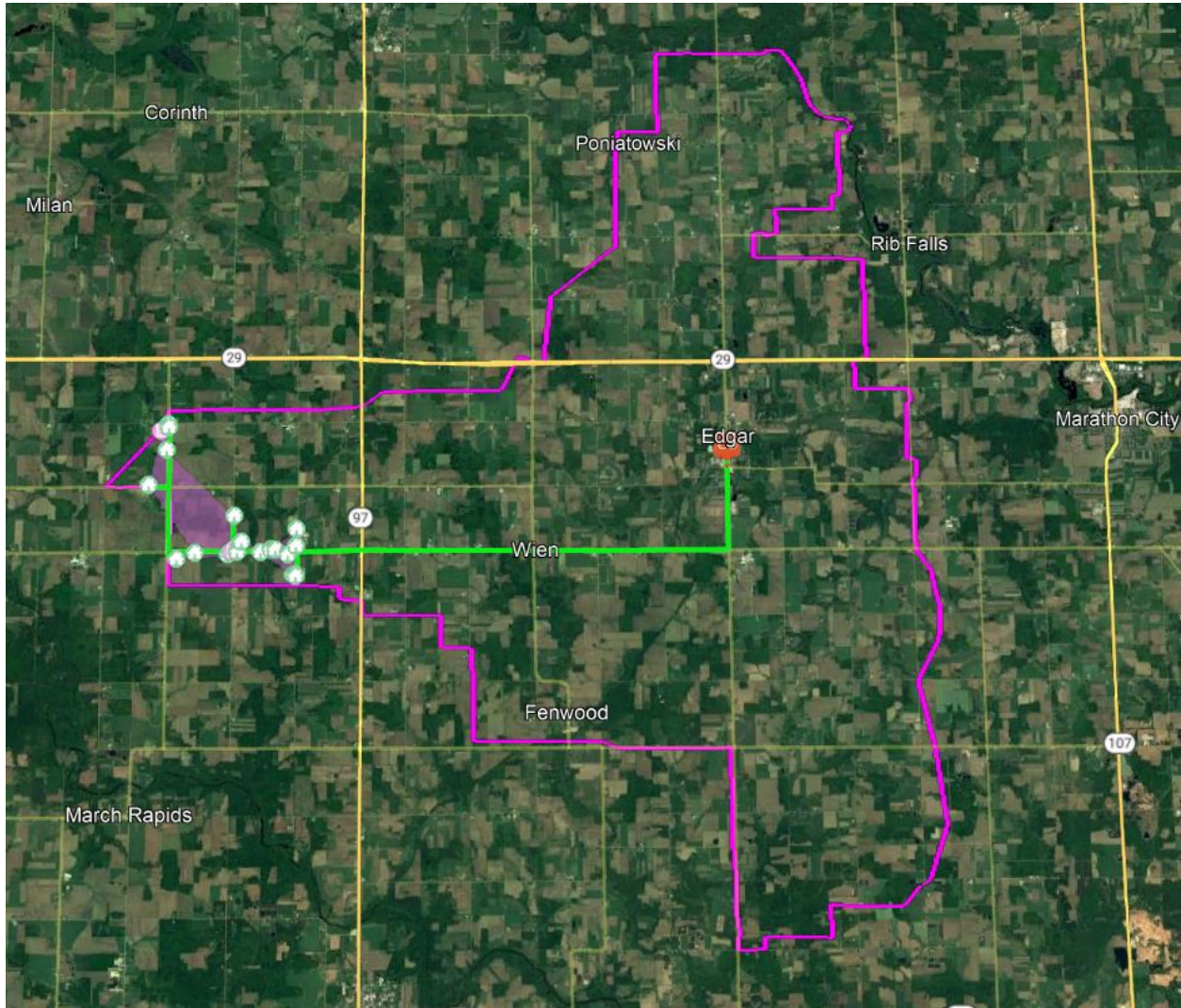
The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Marathon central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 172 unserved customer locations and 8 underserved customer locations in the Marathon County portion of Frontier’s Colby exchange. There are 23 businesses and 157 residential customer locations in that group. This project places approximately 22 miles of middle mile fiber to connect the Colby and Athens exchanges. Middle mile fiber will provide broadband speeds that are scalable for the next 30 years to these rural cities. There are no restrictions that may limit the availability or interconnection with the middle mile route. Frontier will have 72 middle mile fiber strands reserved for public use. The map below illustrates coverage from the Colby Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



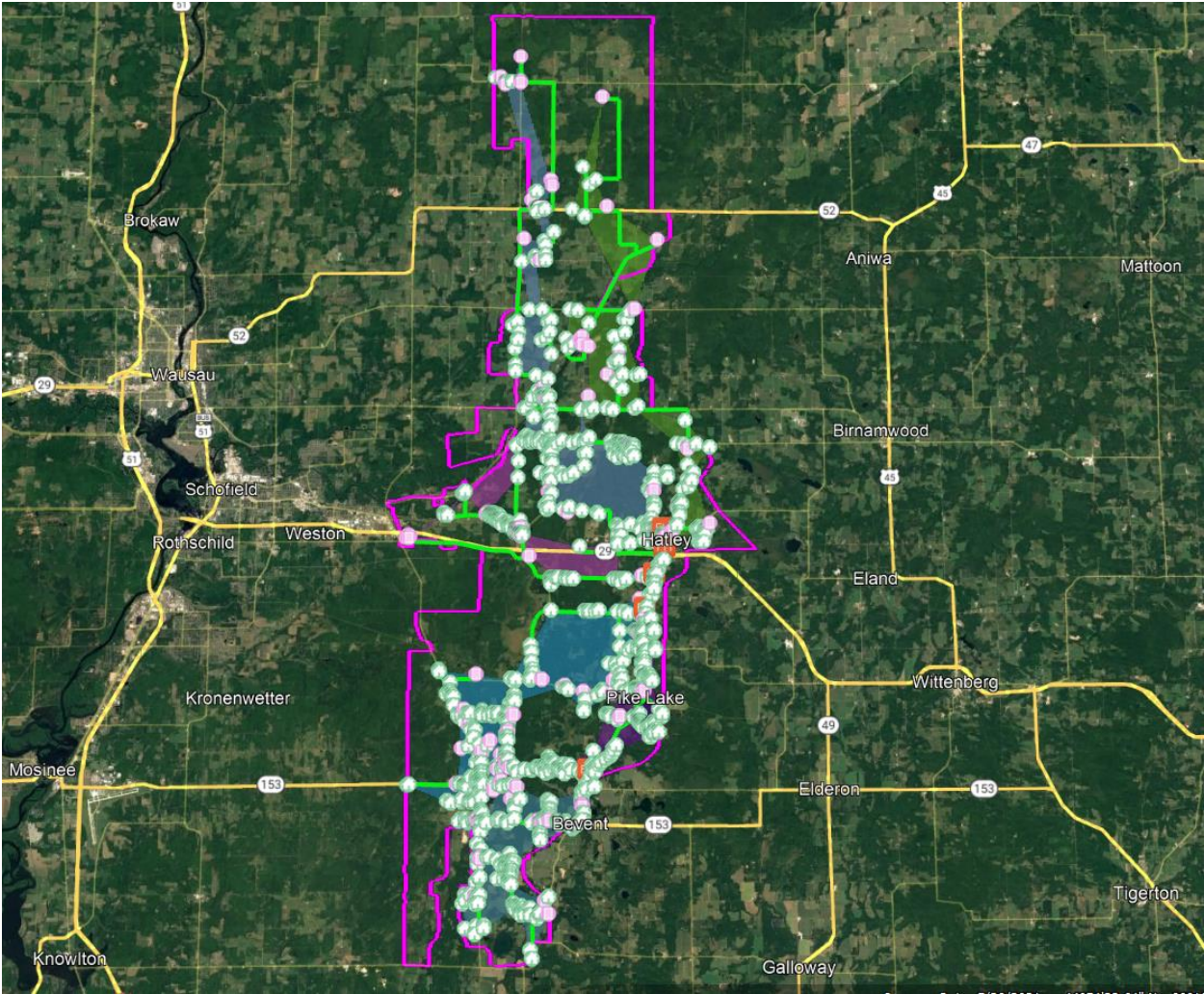
The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Colby central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 9 unserved customer locations and 34 underserved customer locations in the Edgar exchange. There are 2 businesses and 41 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Edgar Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



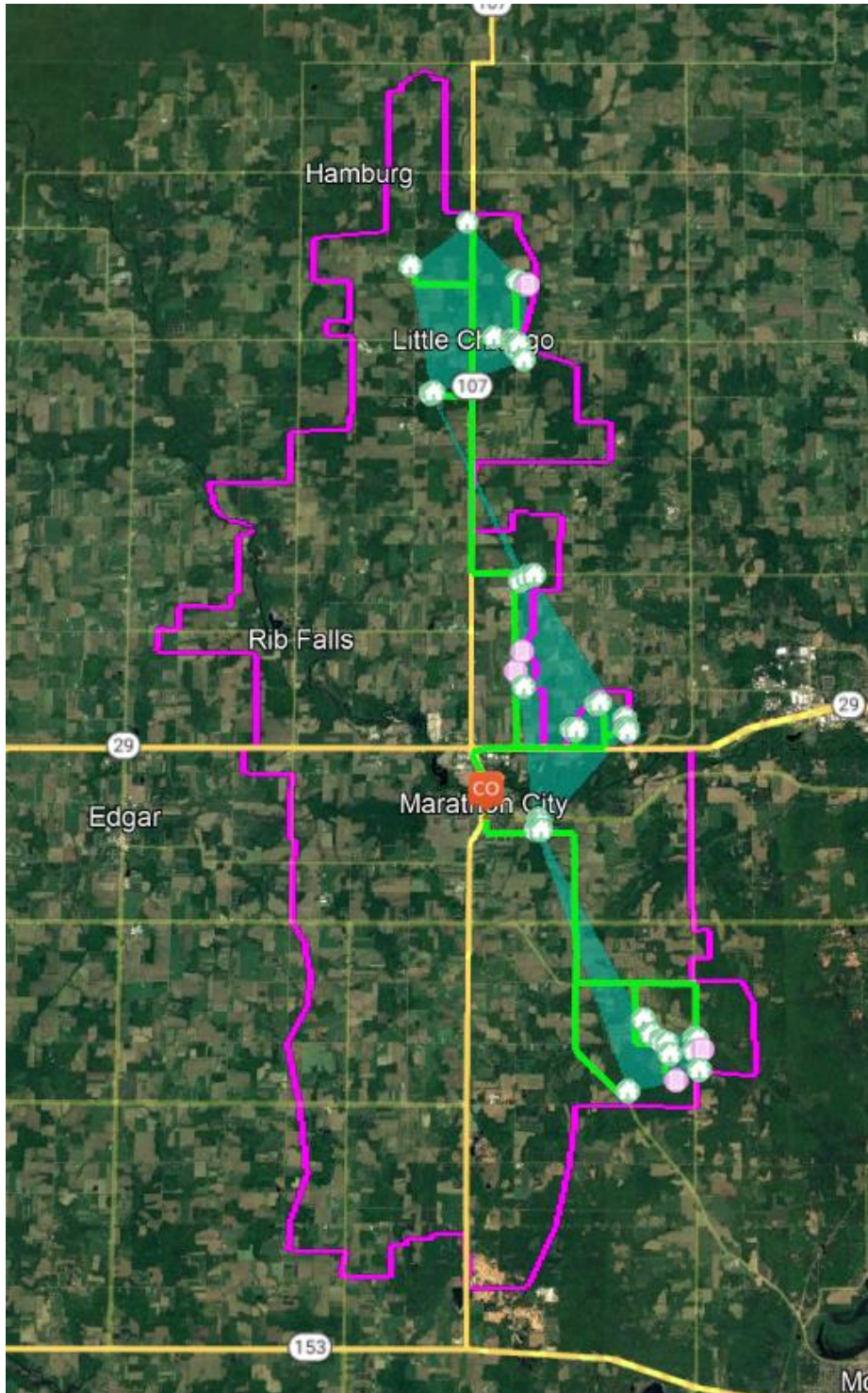
The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Marathon central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 1588 unserved customer locations and 97 underserved customer locations in Frontier’s Hatley exchange. There are 94 businesses and 1591 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Hatley Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



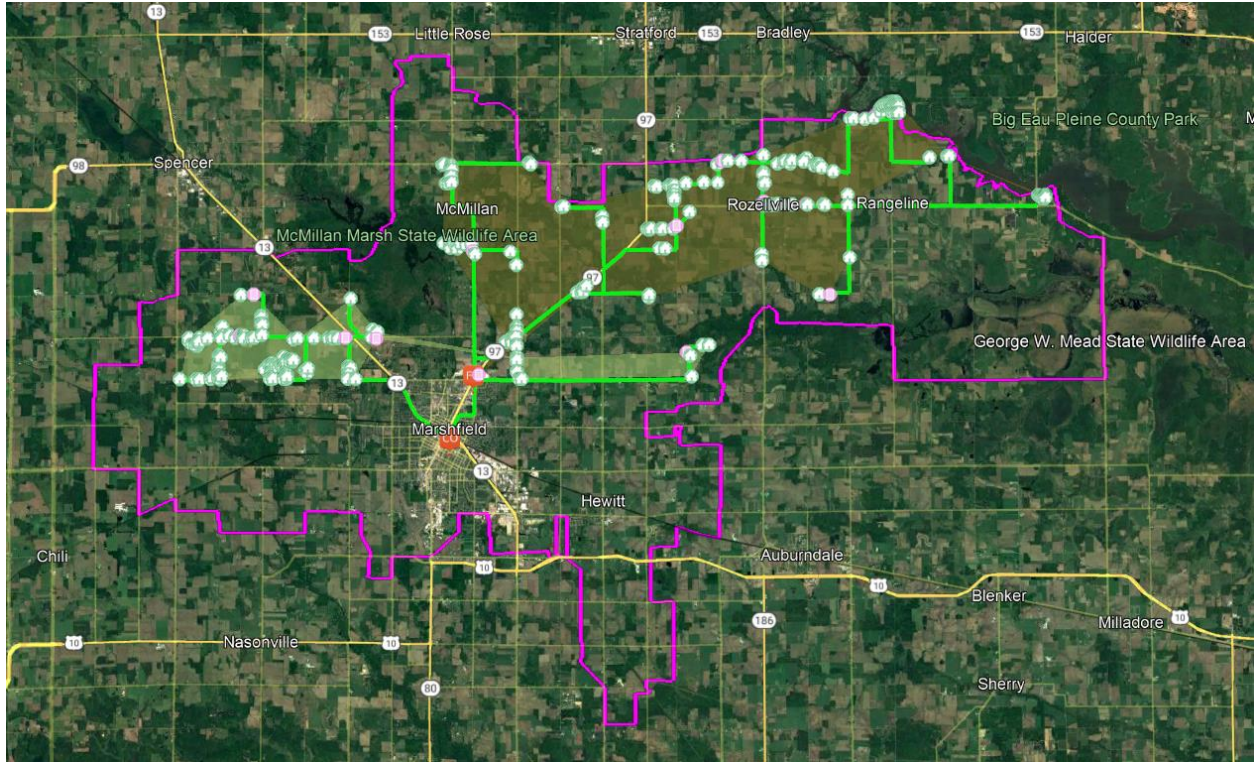
The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Hatley central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 15 unserved customer locations and 66 underserved customer locations in Frontier’s Marathon City exchange. There are 5 businesses and 76 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Marathon City Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



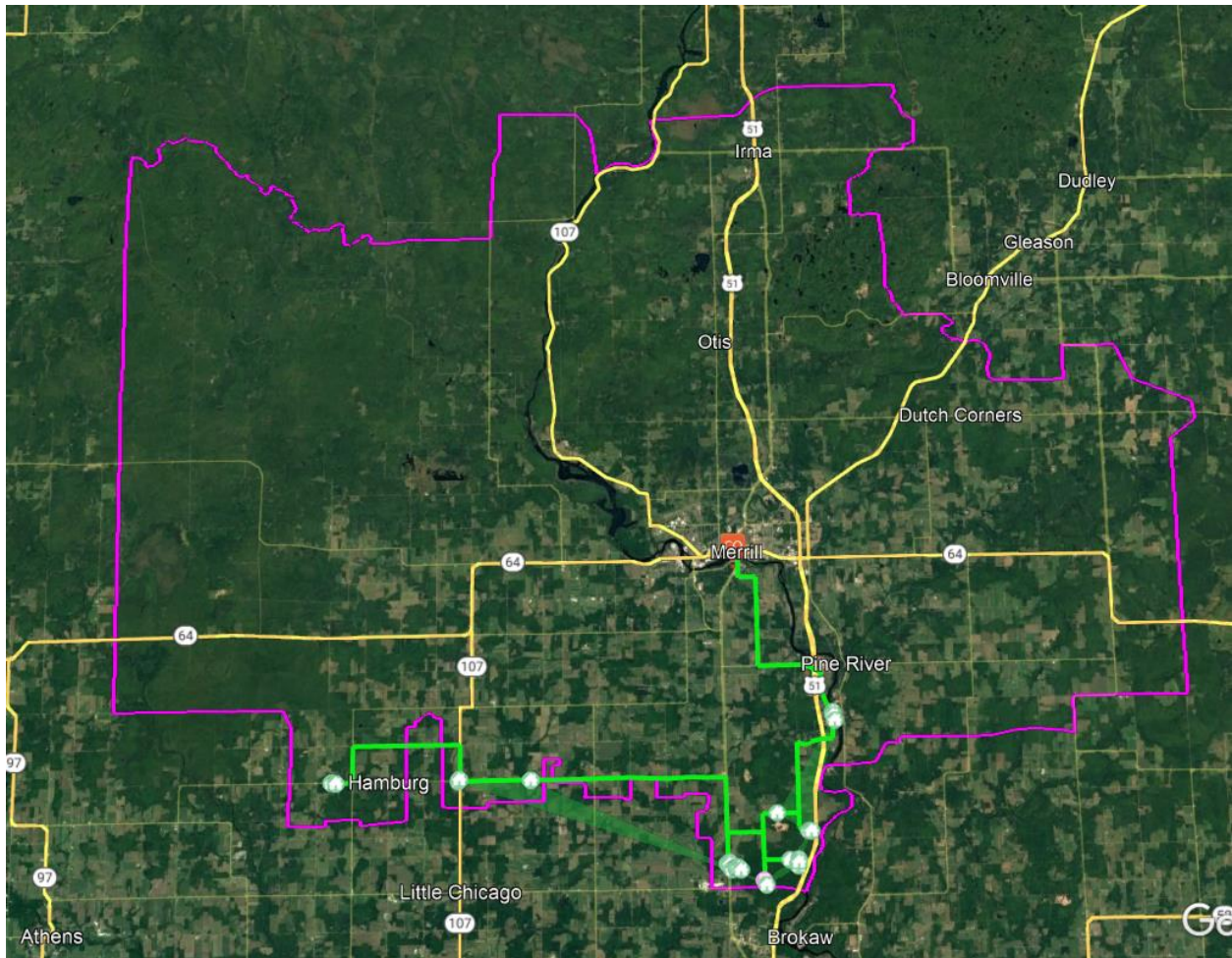
The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Marathon central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 77 unserved customer locations and 483 underserved customer locations in the Marathon County portion of Frontier’s Marshfield exchange. There are 17 businesses and 543 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Marshfield Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



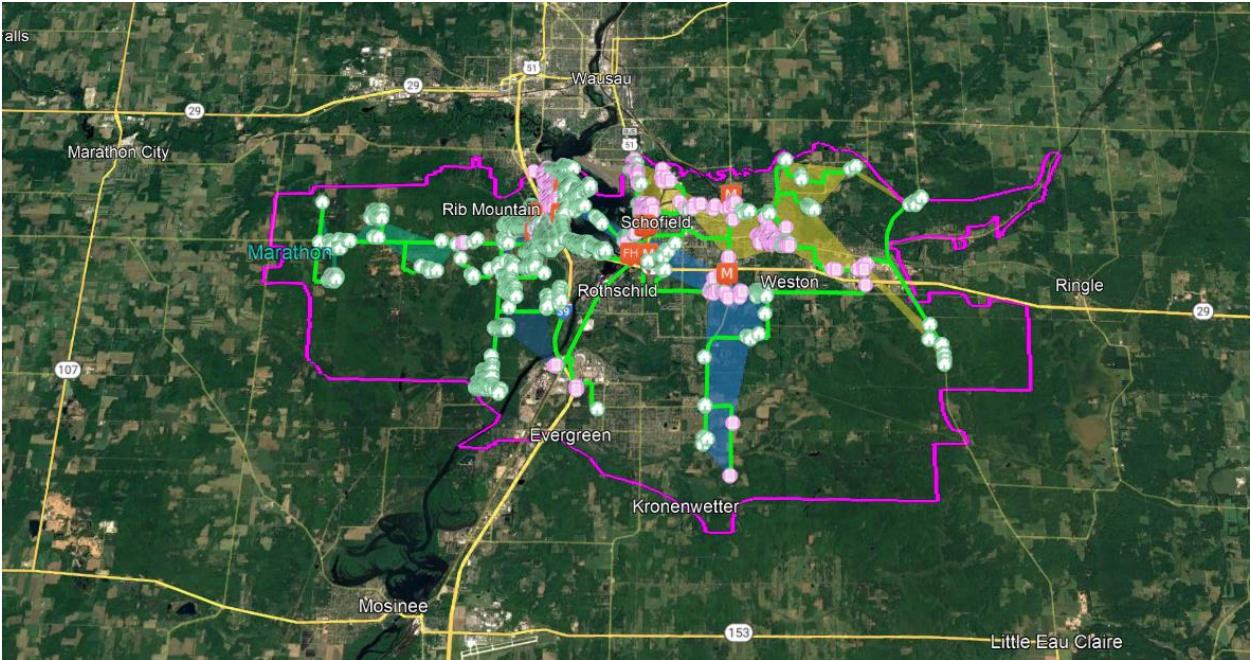
The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Marathon central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 31 unserved customer locations and 0 underserved customer locations in the Marathon County portion of Frontier’s Merrill exchange. There are 1 business and 30 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Merrill Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



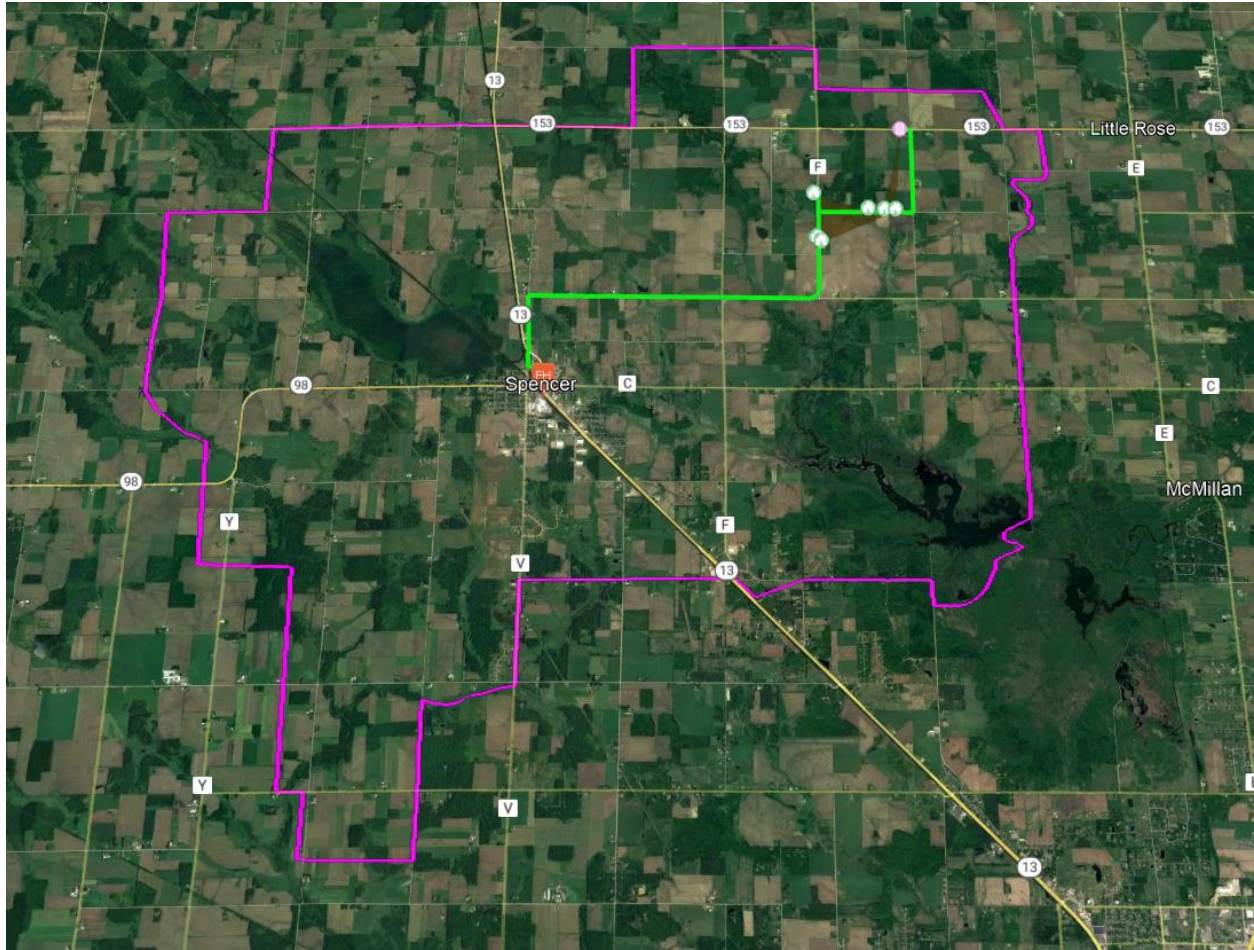
The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Merrill (Marathon) Central Office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 2660 unserved customer locations and 14 underserved customer locations in Frontier’s Schofield exchange. There are 338 businesses and 2336 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Schofield Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



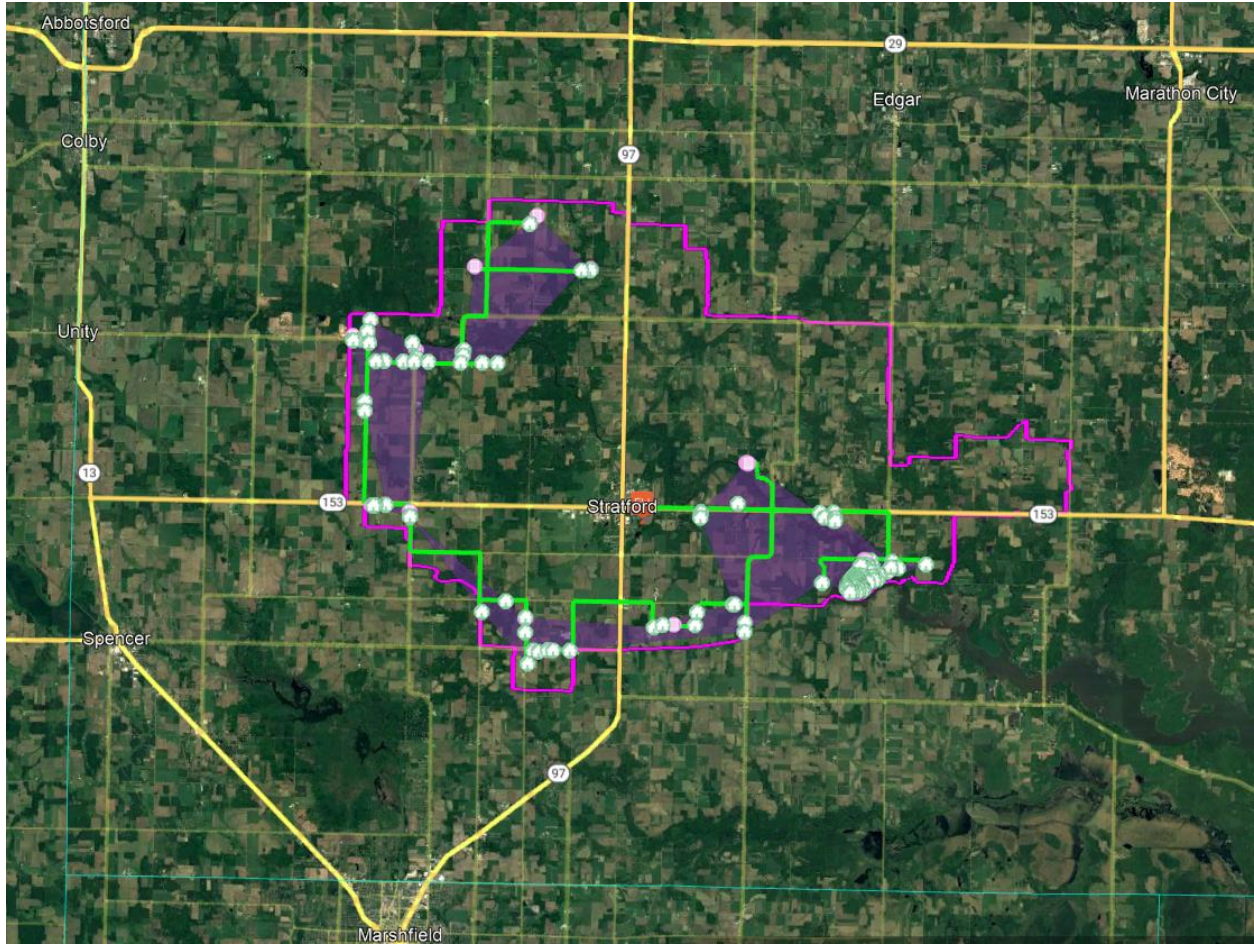
The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Schofield central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 13 unserved customer locations and 0 underserved customer locations in the Marathon County portion of Frontier’s Spencer exchange. There are 1 business and 12 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Spencer Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



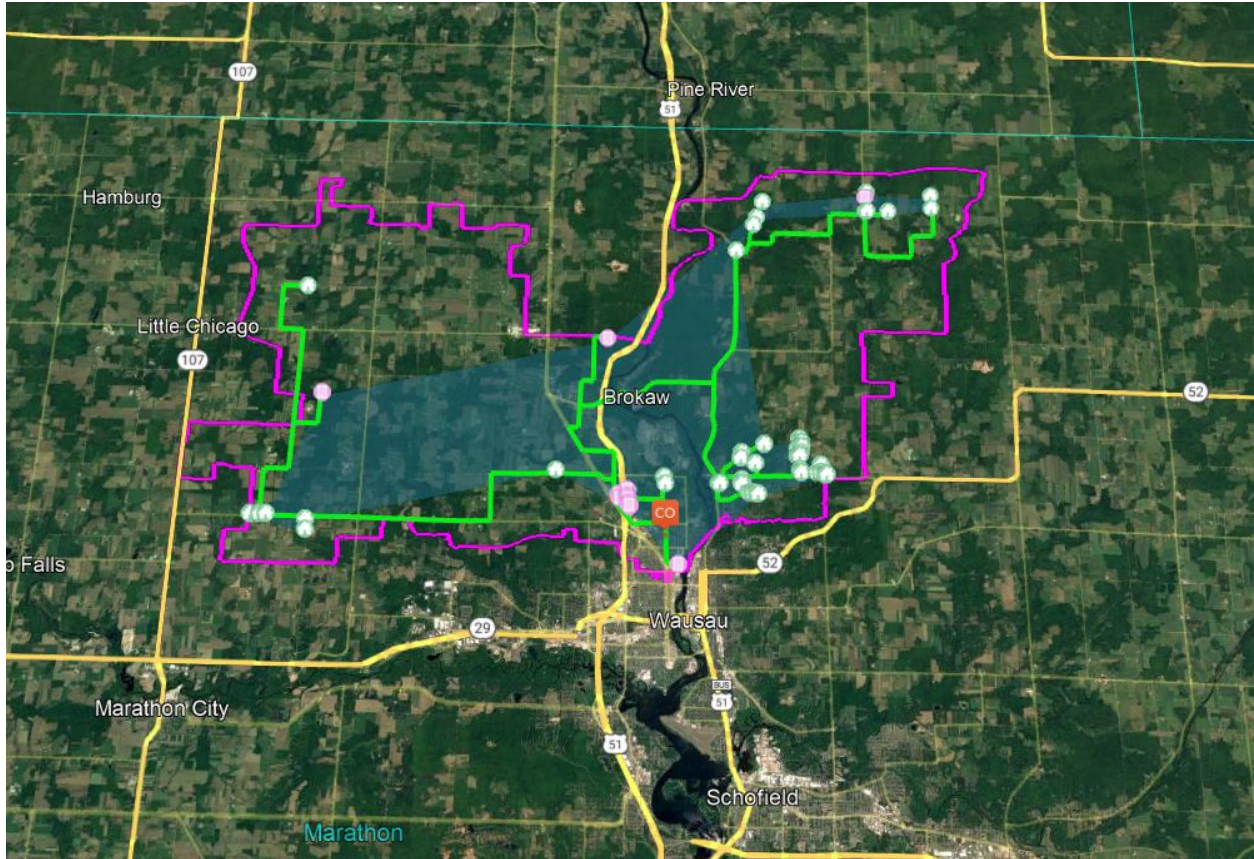
The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Spencer central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 264 unserved customer locations and 20 underserved customer locations in Frontier’s Stratford exchange. There are 21 businesses and 263 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Stratford Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



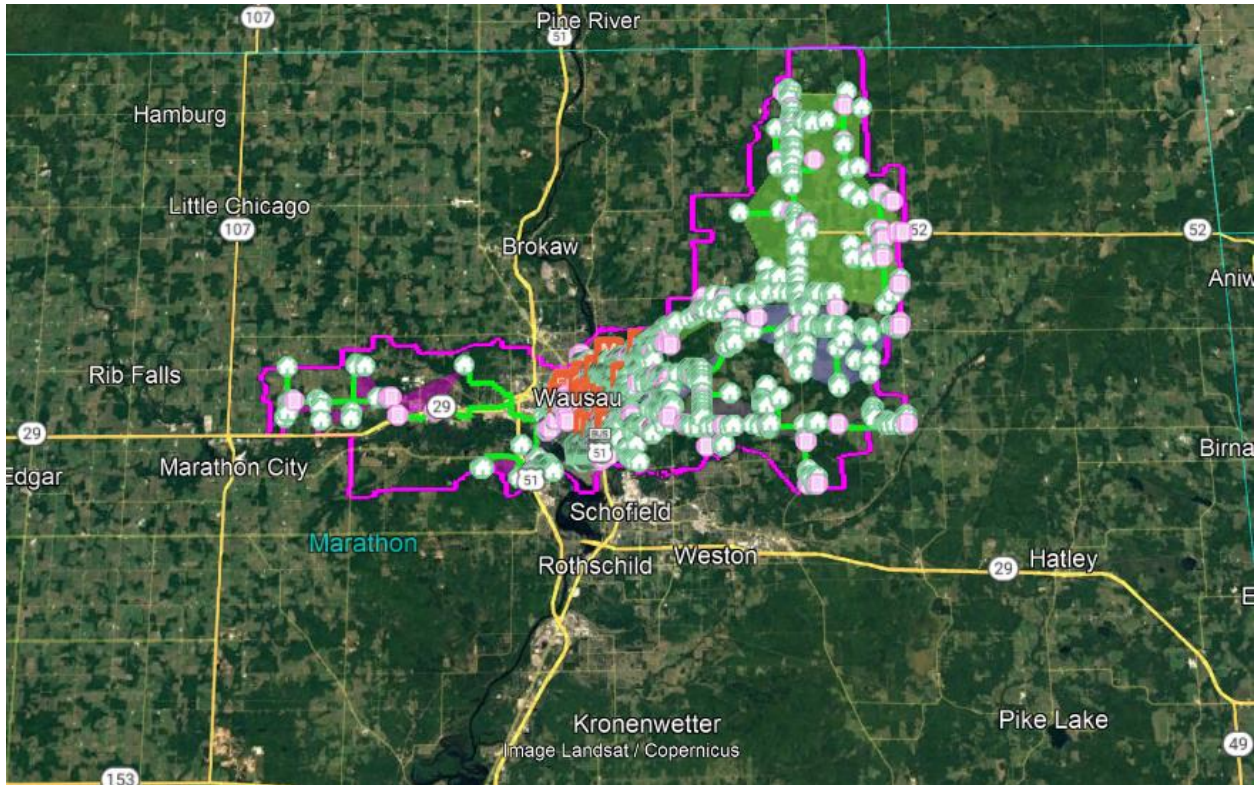
The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Stratford central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 99 unserved customer locations and 0 underserved customer locations in Frontier’s Wausau Northwest exchange area. There are 13 businesses and 86 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Wausau Northwest Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Wausau Northwest central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

Frontier North is applying for a Wisconsin (WI) Broadband Expansion Grant to deploy last mile fiber-to-the-home (“FTTH”) facilities enabling provisioning of XGS-PON, 2 Gbps upload/2 Gbps download broadband service to 4236 unserved customer locations and 35 underserved customer locations in Frontier’s Wausau exchange. There are 259 businesses and 4012 residential customer locations in that group. The map below illustrates coverage from the Wausau Central Office. See attached spatial KML file displaying the proposed service area.



The broadband service provided will be Fiber Optic to the home (FTTH) and will transport broadband traffic from the subscriber and will interconnect to the Wausau central office. The bandwidth terminating at each project location will be dedicated to all the subscribers within the serving area of the project site.

3.2 Mandatory application requirements

3.2.1 Applicant identification and contact information

- a. Applicant is Frontier North Inc. Contact person is:

Scott Bohler
 2378 Wilshire Boulevard, Mound, MN 55364
 (612) 562-7183
 scott.bohler@ftr.com

- b. Partnering with Frontier North on this project are:

County of Marathon, 500 Forest Street, Wausau, WI 54403
 Town of Ringle, 223207 Abt Road, Wausau, WI 54471
 Town of Harrison, 183945 Bear Lake Road, Aniwa, WI 54408
 Town of Frankfort, 114488 County Rd N Edgar, WI 54426

- c. Frontier North Inc is a telecommunications utility. It has been designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier by the Public Service Commission for calendar year 2022.

3.2.2 Description of the project

- a. Please see pages 5 and following of this application for maps of the project area. The project will cover a large portion of Marathon County including areas within the following municipalities:

Municipality	Locations
Wausau	6,490
Hatley	1,142
Birnamwood	566
Ringle	492
Stratford	437
Schofield	401
Marshfield	307
Aniwa	168
Marathon	135
Colby	90
Athens	80
Auburndale	74
Antigo	69
Unity	63
Edgar	49
Rosholt	35
Mosinee	34
Spencer	33
Merrill	23
Rothschild	4
Abbotsford	3
Wittenberg	1
Total	10,696

A KML map accompanies this application.

- b. N/A.
- c. The project will serve 9,884 residential locations and 812 business locations. Service at speeds up to 2Gig symmetrical will be available over these new facilities.
- d. The project will be targeting the “last mile” portion of the broadband infrastructure.
- e. The project will deploy a fiber to the home network to the area. The project will provide broadband service at speeds up to 2Gig, symmetrical. The project will deploy individual fiber facilities to each customer seeking broadband service. Middle mile transport facilities will be designed and constructed to serve all the customers in the area while maintaining a high level of bandwidth speeds consistent with the service levels to which customers subscribe.
- f. N/A
- g. The project is planned to be completed within 24 months of the award of the grant funding.

3.2.3 Itemized Budget (all amounts should be rounded to the nearest dollar)

- a. All facilities involved in the project will be owned by Frontier.

Cost Detail - MARATHON PROJECT -FTTP	Qty	PRICE
CO Power	14	\$319,200.00
Nokia 7360 FX-8 XGS-PON OLT	14	\$957,600.00
Fiber Distribution Panel (FDP)	14	\$31,920.00
144 Fiber Cable	4,153,931	\$3,406,224.00
288 Fiber Cable	151,453	\$233,237.00
FDH	45	\$157,500.00
FTTH Terminal	3,172	\$348,920.00
Sub-Structure/Pull Boxes	45	\$86,220.00
Site Prep New	45	\$855,000.00
Total Loaded		\$6,395,821.00

- b. Payments made by the State for this grant will be under a reimbursement process. Frontier will provide documentation that the costs being reimbursed are only for construction of new facilities, and not for any on-going operating costs.
- c. Payments made by the State for this grant will be under a reimbursement process. Frontier will provide documentation that the costs being reimbursed are only for construction of new facilities connected with the project.

3.2.4 Priority factors supporting the application

- a. **Matching funds.** Frontier North and project partners will fund approximately 75% of the total project cost of \$17,434,650. Frontier will fund \$12,131,153; Marathon County will fund \$944,835; the Town of Frankfort will fund \$50,000; the Town of Harrison will fund \$15,000.
- b. **Public-private partnerships.** Please see following pages for documentation regarding public-private partnerships:



March 16, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin,

Marathon County Government would like to formally announce its support for the Marathon County/Frontier project to aid in the economic growth of Marathon County and support the general improvement of our communities through increased broadband capacity.

Broadband expansion is a key component to long-term economic growth for Marathon County. The availability of adequate, reliable, and affordable internet service will inevitably retain and attract both residents and talent, increase employment opportunities, and expand economic activity. Our ability to attract and retain residents is critical in not only maintaining our tax base, but growing it. Furthermore, this provides the means for Marathon County to deliver a wide range of services to our residents, including the ability for our local emergency responders to leverage technology, improving the efficiency and access of our 911 system.

This project will also improve our residents' quality of life, allowing them to carry out daily tasks more efficiently, work from home, attend school virtually, and access telehealth services. Expanded broadband access will ultimately revitalize Marathon County and posture it to compete with larger cities for investment and innovation.

The Marathon County/Frontier project provides a unique opportunity for 10,626 households and businesses in Northeast, Southeast, and Southwest Marathon County to access reliable, high-quality fiber broadband service. Marathon County Government fully supports this grant application and will fully assist in the completion of the project goal through expedited permitting. **Furthermore, we will support this project with a financial match of \$944,835 if grant funding is awarded.**

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at kurt.gibbs@co.marathon.wi.us or (715) 261-1409. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kurt Gibbs
Chair, Marathon County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION #R-21 -22

AUTHORIZATION OF COUNTY SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (PSC) BROADBAND GRANTS

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

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

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

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; and

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; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has existing opportunities to expand broadband services through a Broadband Expansion Grant Program administered by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC); and

WHEREAS, to assist PSC grant applicants, the Marathon County Broadband Task Force has recommended a policy of providing forgivable loans to PSC grant applicants whose proposed use of grant funds will benefit Marathon County. These forgivable loans would be in the amount of \$235 per unit for each applicant. Each loan would be forgiven upon activation of the broadband system within Marathon County created, expanded, or updated by grant funds. These loans would be provided based upon the applications and materials submitted and considered at the Marathon County Broadband Task Force meeting of February 28, 2022; and

WHEREAS, to further assist PSC grant applicants, the Marathon County Broadband Task Force has recommended a policy of making low interest loans available to PSC grant applicants whose expenditures will exceed \$235 per unit and whose proposed use of grant funds will benefit Marathon County. These loans would be for the non-PSC and non-county share of these projects; and

WHEREAS, these recommended loans would be available to applicants through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, an allowable use of funds pursuant to ARPA expenditure categories 5.16 and 5.17 and Section 602(c)(1)(D) of the Social Security Act as amended.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee and the Marathon County Executive Committee authorize appropriate county officials 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. County officials are also authorized to work with and support grant applicants through 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.






NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee, the Marathon County Executive Committee, and the Marathon County Board authorize county officials to provide forgivable loans in the amount of \$235 per unit to PSC grant applicants whose proposed use of grant funds will benefit Marathon County and as further defined in the applications and materials submitted and considered at the Marathon County Broadband Task Force meeting of February 28, 2022. The forgivable loan would not exceed \$70,000 for Cirrinity, \$142,175 for Bug Tussel Wireless and \$944,835 for Frontier for a total not to exceed \$1,157,010. The forgivable loans will only be made upon a successful award from the PSC.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee, the Marathon County Executive Committee, and the Marathon County Board authorize county officials to make available low interest loans available to PSC grant applicants whose proposed use of grant funds will benefit Marathon County for the non-PSC and non-county share of these projects under the terms and conditions as defined by the Marathon County Broadband Task Force.





NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these recommended loans are authorized through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, an allowable use of funds pursuant to ARPA expenditure categories 5.16 and 5.17 and Section 602(c)(1)(D) of the Social Security Act as amended.

March 15, 2022

HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

 _____	 _____
 _____	 _____
 _____	_____

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

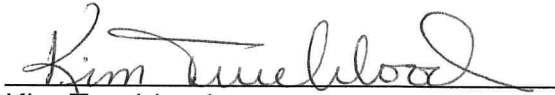
 _____	 _____
 _____	 _____
 _____	_____

Fiscal Impact: This resolution would have no immediate fiscal impact; however, it would authorize county officials to utilize American Rescue Plan Act funding to authorize per unit loans to PSC grant applicants whose projects benefit Marathon County. Provisions of loans under this resolution would have an impact on ARPA funds dependent on the number of applicants and the amounts approved.

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)SS.
COUNTY OF MARATHON)

I, Kim Trueblood, County Clerk in and for Marathon County, Wisconsin, hereby certify that the attached Resolution #R-21-22 was enacted by the Marathon County Board of Supervisors at the Adjourned Annual Meeting which was held on March 15, 2022.

S E A L



Kim Trueblood
Marathon County Clerk

TOWN OF FRANKFORT, MARATHON COUNTY

March 9, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Re: Marathon County/Frontier Project

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin,

The Town of Frankfort would like to formally announce its support for the “Marathon County/Frontier” project to aid in the economic growth of the Town of Frankfort and support the general improvement of the community through increased broadband capacity.

Broadband expansion is a key component to long-term economic growth for the Town of Frankfort. The availability of adequate, reliable, and affordable internet service will inevitably retain and attract both residents and talent, increase employment opportunities, and expand economic activity in the Town of Frankfort. Our ability to attract and retain residents is critical in not only maintaining our tax base, but growing it. Furthermore, this provides the means for the Town of Frankfort to deliver a wide range of services to our residents. Expanded broadband access will ultimately revitalize the Town of Frankfort and posture it to compete with larger cities for investment and innovation.

The “Marathon County/Frontier” project in the Town of Frankfort will also improve our residents’ quality of life, allowing them to carry out daily tasks more efficiently, work from home, attend school virtually, and access telehealth services. The Marathon County/Frontier Project provides a unique opportunity for households in rural Marathon County to access reliable, high quality, fiber broadband service.

As the Clerk of the Town of Frankfort, we fully support this grant application and will fully assist in the completion of the project goal. Furthermore, we will support this project with a financial match of \$50,000.00, if grant funding is awarded.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to reach me at 715-302-5217 or at kswussow@hotmail.com. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly Wussow
Clerk
Town of Frankfort

TOWN OF HARRISON – Marathon County

Ken Mach – Town Chairman

Randy Kloes – Town Supervisor
Scott Olson – Town Supervisor

March 9, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Re: Marathon County/Town of Harrison Project

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin,

The Town of Harrison would like to formally announce its support for the “Marathon County/Frontier Communications” project to aid in the economic growth of the Town of Harrison and support the general improvement of the community through increased broadband capacity.

Broadband expansion is a key component to long-term economic growth for the Town of Harrison. The availability of adequate, reliable, and affordable internet service will inevitably retain and attract both residents and talent, increase employment opportunities, and expand economic activity in the Town of Harrison. Our ability to attract and retain residents is critical in not only maintaining our tax base, but growing it. Furthermore, this provides the means for the Town of Harrison to deliver a wide range of services to our residents. Expanded broadband access will ultimately revitalize the Town of Harrison and posture it to compete with larger cities for investment and innovation.

The “Marathon County/Frontier Communications” project in the Town of Harrison will also improve our residents’ quality of life, allowing them to carry out daily tasks more efficiently, work from home, attend school virtually, and access telehealth services. The Marathon County/Frontier Communications Project provides a unique opportunity for households in rural Marathon County to access reliable, high quality, fiber broadband service.

As the Town Supervisor of the Town of Harrison, we fully support this grant application and will fully assist in the completion of the project goal. Furthermore, we will support this project with a financial match of \$15,000, if grant funding is awarded.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to reach me at 715.216.2956 or at rjkloes@yahoo.com. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Randy J Kloes

Randy Kloes
Town Supervisor
Town of Harrison

- c. **Existing broadband service.** The project only includes locations deemed “unserved” or “underserved” by the PSC. Approximately 88% of the locations impacted by the project are “unserved”.
- d. **Project impact.** The project will deploy fiber to the home facilities in portions of fourteen Frontier exchanges: Antigo, Athens, Birnamwood, Colby, Edgar, Hatley, Marathon City, Marshfield, Merrill, Schofield, Spencer, Stratford, Wausau Northwest, and Wausau. A total of 10,696 locations will be covered; 9,449 in unserved areas and 1,247 in underserved areas. The project will provide broadband service at speeds up to 2Gig, symmetrical. Frontier participates in the Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity Program programs, offering credits for qualifying customers.
- e. **Scalability.** The project will provide broadband speeds up to 2Gig, symmetrical. Currently, that level of bandwidth and speed is unsurpassed as a general residential and small business offering. Construction of the project will put in place facilities that could be leveraged and expanded upon to deliver similar broadband service to adjoining areas and locations not included in this currently project.
- f. **Economic development.** The areas impacted by the projects are located relatively close to Wausau. This project will provide a very high level of broadband service to the area which will have several benefits for economic development in the area. The new service will make work from home and tele-commuting much more practical for people working in connection with businesses and establishments in Wausau. The high level of broadband service will be attractive to existing businesses that are relocating or expanding. All of these results will promote job growth or retention, expand the property tax base, and improve the overall economic vitality of the project area.
- g. **Effect upon broadband service to adjacent areas.** Construction of this project will not impair the ability of a broadband service provider or competing broadband service provider to extend broadband service to areas adjacent to the proposed project area. In fact, construction of the project will position Frontier to consider expansion of the service into adjoining areas.

3.2.5 Other information supporting the application

- a. Frontier currently provides broadband service to about 92,000 customers in Wisconsin. Frontier and its affiliates have extensive organizational experience in successfully participating in federal and state funding initiatives in all 25 of the states they serve to expand and provide broadband service to unserved and

underserved communities. For example, Frontier affiliates were recipients of federal funds under the Connect America Fund Phase II broadband grant program to deploy broadband service to over 706,000 rural locations throughout its footprint including over 77,000 locations in Wisconsin. More recently, Frontier affiliates participated in the FCC's Rural Development Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") reverse auction and were awarded funding (for areas other than the Project area) that will enable it to bring FTTP and gigabit broadband service to 127,000K high-cost locations across eight states.

b. Frontier affiliates have also successfully participated in numerous state grant programs, including programs in New York, Minnesota, and California. For example, the New York Broadband Project Office (BPO) awarded Frontier a total of \$46M in grant funding to bring broadband service to over 19,000K locations. Similarly, Frontier participated in the Border-to-Border grant programs in Minnesota, which awarded Frontier \$3.4M in grants to construct middle mile and last mile facilities in rural areas of the state and in California, where Frontier was awarded \$17M through the California Advanced Services Fund to bring broadband service, including for some FTTP projects, to nearly 9,000 rural locations. Frontier has several additional FTTP projects pending approval in California.

c. The proposed project will not duplicate existing broadband infrastructure which is offering broadband at the speeds that will be provided over the project's new facilities.

d. Frontier is well qualified financially to undertake the proposed broadband construction project. Frontier is a wholly owned subsidiary of Frontier Communications Parent Inc. ("Frontier Parent"), a corporation publicly traded on Nasdaq under the ticker symbol "FYBR." Frontier Parent, through its local operating entities, provides broadband service in 25 states and has over 85 years of experience providing communications services. Frontier Parent's latest annual 10-K and 10-Q quarterly reports to the SEC are available at: <https://investor.frontier.com/filings-and-financials/sec-filings/default.aspx> Frontier has approximately \$2.5B of liquidity to help fund its fiber build plans. Frontier is committed to disciplined balance sheet management with net leverage in the mid-threes. There are no debt maturities earlier than 2027.

e. Rural communities, like that of the Project area, generally have greater challenges in accessing health care due to distance, cost, lack of local health providers, and the absence of fully equipped medical facilities. The Project will open the door to greater access to connect with healthcare providers virtually through telehealth applications and services that typically require high capacity, symmetrical connections to function properly. The Project will provide the necessary level of connectivity for health care professionals to more quickly and easily share important information with patients and other providers. This will not

only save healthcare costs but also support overall better healthcare within the Project Area.

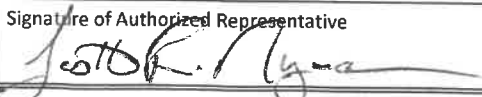
In addition, improved broadband access will allow community members to adopt new and valuable digital telemedicine devices including those that enable remote patient monitoring by medical professionals; thereby allowing them to identify and respond to issues in a timelier manner. Many telehealth devices also include advanced functionality that enable patients to establish monitoring and alerts for out of town caretakers; providing additional peace of mind to families and loved ones. Such functionality is particularly important in the Project Area because it contains no major medical facilities. Broadband access will enable local medical personnel, including doctors and dentists, to access the expertise of large medical facilities by utilizing online consultation of x-rays, test results, and other patient information over a secure network. In addition, rural health providers will be able to take advantage of electronic health record applications available in the cloud to reduce costs and maintain security. Thus, the Project can bring the latest medical technology to the Project Area.

f. The Project will make high-speed broadband available to a wider range of students, affording them more opportunities to participate in technology-based educational opportunities—both K-12 and higher education—through interactive classroom and distance learning experiences that rely on both fast upload and download speeds. It will also provide students access to a more diverse and comprehensive educational experience by opening a new world of virtual resources.

g. The Town of Ringle has committed to partnering with Frontier in this project by expediting the permit process and waiving permit fees.

h. Letters in support of the application attached.

BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT APPLICATION For Fiscal Year 2022

<p>Primary Applicant (Name and Address):</p> <p>Wittenberg Telephone Co./Wittenberg Wireless LLC dba Cirrinity LLC PO BOX 160 104 W Walker Street Wittenberg, WI 54499</p>	<p>Applications MUST be UPLOADED to ERF via the Commission's website, http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx. Refer to section 2.3 for detailed instructions.</p> <p>Applications are due and MUST be uploaded to ERF no later than: March 17, 2022 at 4:00pm (16:00) Central Time. Late applications will not be accepted.</p>	
<p>Contact for further information: PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov</p>		
<p>Date: December 1, 2021</p>		
<p>The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is seeking applications for Broadband Expansion Grants. The Commission may award one or more grants during Fiscal Year 2022 to public and private entities that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504. This grant round will be funded with bond proceeds authorized by the Wisconsin Building Commission pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). As such, successful applicants are subject to the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). Successful applicants will demonstrate a clear and achievable plan to improve broadband communications services in one or more underserved areas in the State.</p>		
<p>Applicant Certification: In signing this application, the undersigned verifies under penalty of perjury that the Applicant and its employees and agents have not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition with respect to this application; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit an application; that this application has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other proposer, competitor or potential competitor; that this application has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of applications to any other applicant or competitor; that all of the responses and representations of Applicant in this application are true and correct to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information, and belief; and that Applicant agrees to, accepts, and will comply with all of the terms and conditions respecting this application and any award of a broadband expansion grant as may be established in a grant award Agreement.</p>		
<p>Name of Authorized Representative (Type or Print)</p> <p>Scott Nyman</p>	<p>Title</p> <p>CEO/General Manager</p>	<p>Phone (715)253-2114</p>
<p>Signature of Authorized Representative</p> 	<p>Date</p> <p>3/16/22</p>	

SUMMARY OF GRANT APPLICATION

Primary Applicant Name Wittenberg Telephone Co./Wittenberg Wireless LLC dba Cirrinity LLC	Amount of Broadband Grant Request (round to nearest dollar) \$918,225
Federal Employer Identification No. 39-0718390	Amount of Matching Funds Pledged (round to nearest dollar) \$751,275
Contact Name and Title Scott Nyman, CEO/General Manager	Total Cost of Proposed Project (round to nearest dollar) \$1,669,500
Telephone Number (715)253-2114	Project Name Marathon County Town of Reid FTTH Project
E-mail Address(es) snyman@cirrinity.net	Type of Proposed Broadband Service (FTTH, Cable, DSL, etc.) FTTH
Grant Manager, if different than Primary Applicant	Type of Proposed Project (Last-mile, Middle-Mile, backbone, other) Last-mile, Backbone
Grant Manager Contact Name	Grant Manager Email Address and Telephone Number
If the application proposes a public-private partnership, list the names, addresses, and FEINs of the partner companies or organizations Marathon County Board of Supervisors, 500 Forest Street, Wausau, WI 54403 FEIN ES43306 Town of Reid, 7089 Plover River Road, Hatley, WI 54440,	
Brief Project Description (2 sentences) Complete building FTTH to residents in the Town of Reid past 368 homes and businesses. This project will build off of our existing grants from previous rounds which has sparked an additional investment from Cirrinity and expanded our partnership with Marathon County as well as the Town of Reid.	
Maximum Proposed Download Transmission Speed 10 Gigabit	Maximum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed 10 Gigabit
Minimum Proposed Download Speed to Customer Location 100M	Minimum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed to Customer Location 100M
County or Counties served by this project Marathon County	Community or Communities served by this project Town of Reid

<p>List of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve</p> <p>Frontier North, Inc. Cirrinity/Wittenberg Telephone Company</p>	
<p>Does proposed project serve an <u>unserved</u> area of the State, as defined in <u>Section 1.4</u> of the application instruction? (yes/no)</p> <p>YES</p>	<p>Is the Applicant certified as a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community, or does the grant project propose to serve a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community? (yes/no)</p> <p>YES, Telecommuter Forward</p>
<p>For last mile projects or component the expected number of Business Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total business locations passed or with new service access).</p> <p>15</p>	<p>For last mile projects or components the expected number of Residential Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total residential locations passed or with new service access).</p> <p>363</p>
<p>Of the improved business locations, how many locations are <i>unserved</i>?</p> <p>15</p>	<p>Of the improved residential locations, how many are <i>unserved</i>?</p> <p>363</p>
<p>For providers that are eligible telecommunications carriers will the proposed broadband service be available to Lifeline customers? (yes/no)</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>Are there any programs available for low-income households to access low-cost service or discounts? (yes/no)</p> <p>Yes ACP (Affordable Connectivity Program)</p>
<p>Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program? (yes/no)</p> <p>Now ACP - Yes</p>	<p>Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Department of Public Instruction and CESA purchasing's Digital Learning Bridge? (yes/no)</p> <p>No</p>
<p>Did the internet service provider participate in the Public Service Commission's voluntary Broadband Coverage Data Collection in 2021? (yes/no)</p> <p>Yes</p>	

FY22 Broadband Expansion Grant Application

Budget & Income Summary



Please complete this form using Microsoft Excel. A PDF copy must be attached to your application as page four. In addition, this form must also be uploaded to ERF in Excel format.

Grant Summary

Grant Applicant:	Project:
Wittenberg Telephone Co./Wittenberg Wireless DBA Cirrinity LLC	Marathon County Town of Reid FTTH Project

Budget

Line:	Description / Category:	Grant Funds:	Match:	Total:
1	Contractual, Consultant Fees	\$ 661,122.00	\$ 540,918.00	\$ 1,202,040.00
2	Equipment	\$ 238,738.50	\$ 195,331.50	\$ 434,070.00
3	Supplies			\$ -
4	Labor (Salary, Fringe)	\$ 18,364.50	\$ 15,025.50	\$ 33,390.00
5	Permitting, Licensing Fees			\$ -
6	Travel			\$ -
7	Other			\$ -
Total:		\$ 918,225.00	\$ 751,275.00	\$ 1,669,500.00
45.0% match requested				

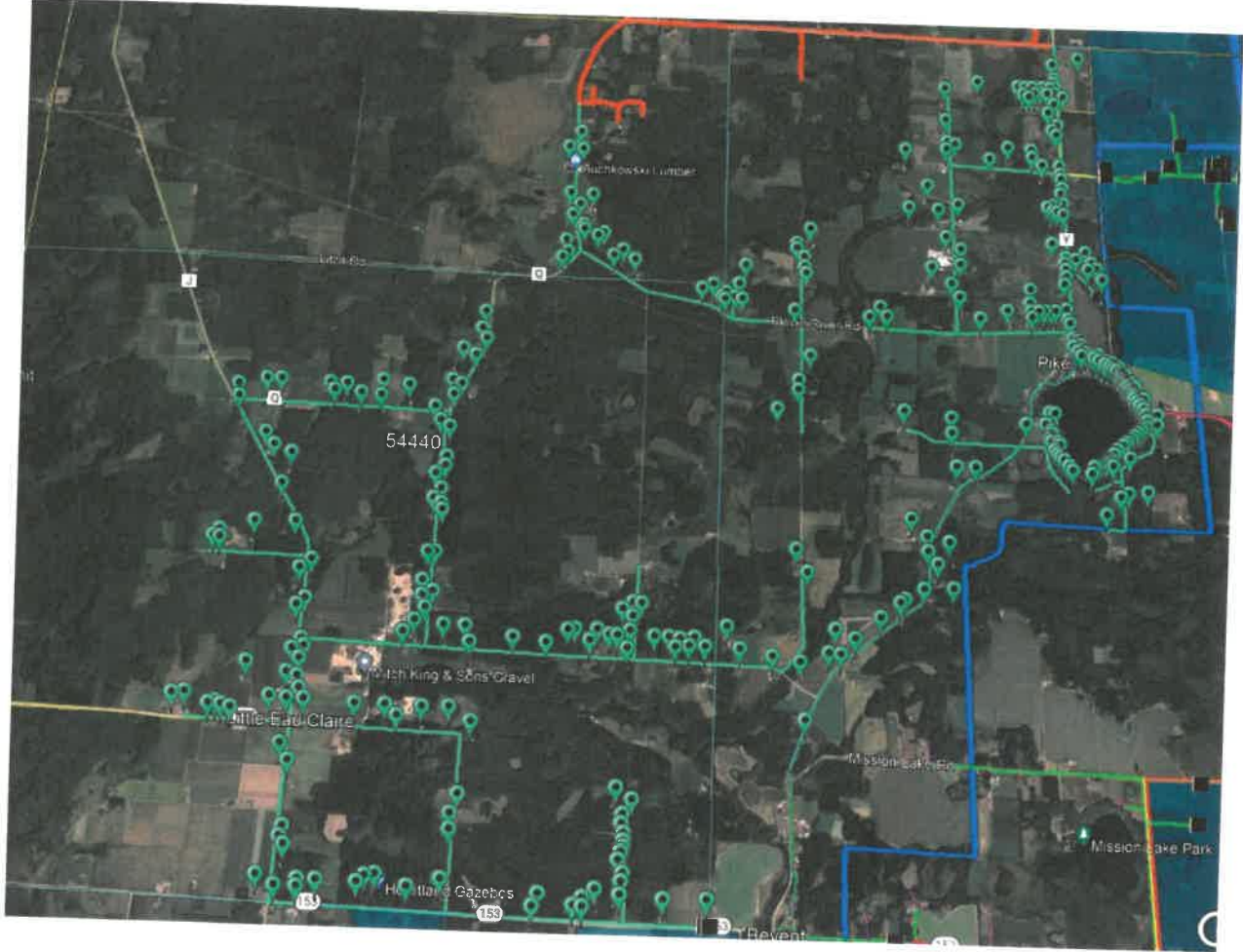
Pledged Contributions

#:	Entity:	Entity Type:	Pledge Type:	Pledge:
1	Marathon County	Partner	Cash	\$ 70,000.00
2	Cirrinity	Applicant	Cash	\$ 681,275.00
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
Total:				\$ 751,275.00

Maps

Description: The Town of Reid is in this photo, and you will see that (GREEN) lines are the proposed Fiber routes and (GREEN) balloons are homes and businesses passed for this application. The other colored lines are our previous fiber routes except the Blue line shows our Wittenberg Telephone Company ILEC Exchange Boundary line.

Town of Reid



1.0 Executive Summary of the Application

Cirrinity proposes a fully Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) deployment in partnership with Marathon County and the Town of Reid to build Gigabit capable reliable and affordable Broadband to these 368 rural homes and businesses

Marathon County and Wittenberg Wireless has created a partnership starting in 2019 and have worked as a team together to close the digital divide and provide the vital Broadband that is needed to the rural community areas. Through the partnerships and with the assistance of Broadband Expansion Grants 25 miles of Buried FTTH construction has been completed in the past year providing the valuable High-Speed affordable Broadband desired to nearly 1500 Marathon County Residents. The proposed path of Fiber optic which will include Gigabit Speed Broadband for all homes and businesses passed, starts at the East near Wittenberg Telephone Company's exchange boundary and continues to all homes and businesses West throughout the Town of Reid. The project would meet up with a previously awarded grant from the PSC in the North side of the Town of Reid near the Joe's Road Subdivision off of County Road Q. The previous awarded grants in this area have shown fantastic take rates of 60-70% and we expect the same in the new area to complete this project for these rural residents. The town of Bevent where Cirrinity has FTTH today would be the South boundary and also therefore provide a redundant path to this area increasing the availability of services and eliminate downtime. Recent changes to the use of ARPA funds has made the Town of Reid pull its financial backing of this application to use for needed roads projects.

The majority area of this proposal for this grant round is described as "unserved/underserved" in that there are no broadband service offerings providing a speed of 25/3 as we have confirmed in our current FTTH buildout that this project will expand on. Consumers have reported long wait times for repairs and in some instances new customers have been unable to obtain service from the incumbent provider. Taking into account the outdated copper last mile deployment strategies by the incumbent telephone provider, expansion of true 100M/100M broadband services in these areas is not anticipated or expected. Providers in this area include landline: Frontier North Inc. and Wireless: US Cellular other major mobile carriers.

Matching contributions of \$751,275 (45%) toward this project's \$1,669,500 cost will be provided by Cirrinity LLC and Marathon County. These contributions, as always, are substantial, and arise from the understanding that these areas are severely underserved. The incumbent voice provider has not provided a fiber-based broadband solution to the area.

3.2 Mandatory Application Requirements

3.2.1 Applicant identification and contact information

- a. *The name of the entity applying for the grant, and the mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address of one or more contact persons representing the applicant.*

Name of Entity: Wittenberg Telephone Company, Inc/Wittenberg Wireless LLC dba Cirrinity LLC

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 160, 104 W. Walker Street, Wittenberg, WI 54499-0160

Telephone Number: 715-253-2111

Contact: Scott Nyman, General Manager snyman@cirrinity.net

- b. *If the application proposes a public-private partnership, the identity and contact information for all application partners.*

Recognizing distinct local and countywide benefits of this application, the Town of Reid Board has committed \$ in ARPA matching funds and Marathon County has determined to continue to support us in our endeavors by working with Towns in the area as well as working in-kind in our future plans of expansion in the area.

Public-Private Partnerships

Name of Entity: Marathon County
Mailing Address: 500 Forest Street, Wausau, WI 54403
Telephone Number: (715)261-1404
Contact: Noor Ali Hassan

Name of Entity: Town of Reid
Mailing Address: 215764 County Road Y, Hatley, WI 54440
Telephone Number: (715)446-3767
Contact: Kittie Milanowski– Clerk

- c. *The application must show that the applicant is an organization, a telecommunications utility, or a city, village, town, or county that has established a legal partnership or joint venture arrangement with an otherwise qualified organization or telecommunications utility, and as such meets the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504(1).*

Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier Wittenberg Telephone Company Inc. is certified to provide telecommunications service in the State of Wisconsin pursuant to Section 196.50(2)(b) of the Wisconsin State Statute. Wittenberg Telephone Company (PSCW Utility #6750) currently serves the Wittenberg and Elderon exchanges of Wisconsin in study area #330973.

Wittenberg Wireless LLC now Cirrinity LLC (PSCW Utility #6752), a wholly owned subsidiary of Wittenberg Telephone Company, has been designated an Alternate Exchange Carrier by the

Commission. Cirrinity LLC has an active Interconnection Agreement with Frontier North, Inc. that was approved by the PSCW in its Docket 5-TI-2357

3.2.2 Description of the Project

a. A static map and description of the area of the State that will be affected by the proposed project.

1. A map file has been emailed to pscbroadbanddata@wisconsin.gov to show the affected areas of the project immediately following submission of this application to the ERF.
2. The proposed service area includes the entire Southern Town of Reid expanding off of previous PSC Broadband Expansion Grant. The maps on page 5 show the fiber backbone routes as well as the last mile construction to over 368 homes and businesses.

The fiber backbone flows throughout this portion of the County to reach more homes, farms and businesses. Fiber pedestals will be constructed at intervals for drops and also to facilitate future expansion. As provided in the Executive Summary on page 6 this area has a history of being underserved.

c. An explanation of how the proposed project will increase broadband access.

- a) Potential and Expected Number of households served including number of unserved and underserved locations. **353 residents all underserved**
- b) Potential and expected number of businesses served. **15 Businesses all underserved**
- c) Estimated download and upload speed of the broadband service packages available for purchase:
 - 100M/100M symmetrical unlimited \$59.99 per month
 - 500M/500M symmetrical unlimited \$99.99 per month
 - 1 Gigabit/1 Gigabit symmetrical unlimited \$139.99 per month
 - Higher speeds available on request up to 10 Gigabit

d. A statement whether the proposed project is targeting the “last mile,” “middle mile,” or backbone portion of the broadband infrastructure.

- a) The proposed project includes backbone, distribution and last mile fiber facilities. The project is an extension of Cirrinity’s existing fiber network, with dedicated backbone, distribution, feeder and drop fiber to premises in the service area.
- b) No middle mile infrastructure costs or construction are included in this grant application.
- c) Cirrinity LLC currently maintains sufficient middle mile and backhaul facilities, and capacity, on its existing backbone ring network to deliver high-speed broadband services to all proposed and future last mile subscribers in the area.

e. *A description of the broadband service to be provided, including estimated download and upload speeds, whether the speed is dedicated or shared bandwidth, and the technology that will be used.*

1. In this Application, Cirrinity will provide its high-speed wireline broadband service using a FTTH network design. This will be an extension of the fiber network currently in place and used in the Wittenberg Telephone service territory. The same technology will be used to provide the longest-lived service infrastructure to new customers in this application
2. This will also be an extension of the fiber network currently in place and used in the Wittenberg Telephone service territory. The same successful wireless technology as has been implemented elsewhere by the company to provide the longest-lived service infrastructure to new customers in this application
3. This fiber network will be connected to the existing fiber network and broadband electronics used to provide broadband services in the Wittenberg Telephone service territory
4. Pricing of FTTH broadband in the proposed service area will be as follows: --and have not changed since 2021. Don't expect to raise.
100M/100M dedicated unlimited \$59.99
500M/500M dedicated unlimited \$99.99
1 Gigabit/1 Gigabit dedicated unlimited \$139.99
5. Much faster service speeds will be immediately available, and priced ICB for residential and business customers with special needs
6. Fully-featured VoIP voice services will be available at subscribers' request. Subscribers will not be required to take voice services in the proposed service area. Cirrinity will provide video services via a partnership.

d. *A schedule by which the applicant intends to complete the components of the proposed project.*

If the grant application for the project is approved by the end of July 2022 Cirrinity will follow the deployment schedule below, based on similar projects we have completed:

August 2022 – March 2023

May – September 2023

October – December 2023

Order and stage equipment

Bury new backbone and last mile fiber optic cable

Install electronics at FTTH subscriber locations and turning up all customer services

NOTE: This schedule is subject to no unforeseen circumstances in the supply chain as we are currently experiencing some delays of equipment and materials needed to complete these in-depth future proof FTTH projects.

3.2.3 *Itemized Budget*

- *In addition to the Summary of Project Budget that is included as page 3, applicants should include a price list or quote for any equipment the applicant intends to purchase, including capital expenditures. The application should also indicate whether any facilities involved would be owned, rented, or leased.*

All construction and installation costs will be managed by Cirrinity. The company and will utilize internal employees and trusted third party contractors the company has successfully used in similar fiber and wireless builds.

All fiber and network equipment will be owned by Cirrinity LLC., a wholly owned subsidiary of Wittenberg Telephone Company.

- *The application must show that the grant, if awarded, will not subsidize the expenses of a telecommunications provider or the monthly bills of telecommunications customers. For purposes of this grant program, subsidize means a contribution to the operating costs, including profit, of the telecommunications provider.*

The grant funds requested in this Application will only be used for authorized purposes. The applicant will not subsidize its ongoing expenses or the monthly bills of telecommunications customers. It is understood that for purposes of this grant program, subsidy means a contribution to the recurring service charges, operating costs, including profit, of the telecommunications provider.

- *The application must show that the grant funds requested will be used for the sole purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure in the underserved areas covered by the application. Construction of broadband infrastructure may include any of the following:*
- *Project planning that takes place during the performance period*

All project planning activities will be paid for by Cirrinity.

- *Obtaining Construction Permits*

All Permits will be obtained by Cirrinity and its sub-contractors while also working with the County and Towns on an in-kind basis.

- *Construction of facilities, including construction of both "middle mile" and "last mile" infrastructure.*

All construction of last mile infrastructure will be paid for by Cirrinity. The application does not include any expenditure for middle-mile facilities. All middle-mile expenditures are incurred and managed by Cirrinity, as part of its scalable infrastructure.

- *Installation and testing of the broadband service*

All installation and testing activities will be paid for by Cirrinity. Cirrinity affirmatively states all grant funds requested in this Application will be used for the sole purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure in the underserved areas covered by this Application. The partners' self-funded contributions to this project's costs will be 55.0% of construction and testing costs, with any over-runs covered by Cirrinity.

3.2.4 Priority factors supporting the application

a. **Matching Funds**

Can be found on the Funding Statement on Page 4

b. **Public-private partnerships.** *If the public-private partnership is memorialized in a joint venture agreement or other writing, provide a copy of that agreement. If the partnership has not been reduced to a written agreement, provide a short description of the management role, financial commitment, or other contribution to the project for each participating partner.*

Since 2019 Cirrinity has been working with Marathon County and engaged in activities to expand Broadband throughout the County. Our partnership has expanded to all the Towns in the area and support of the Broadband Task Force. The Town of Reid has been actively working with us since 2019 on getting viable broadband to its residents. Cirrinity and Marathon County have partnered on several previous Grants with the Broadband expansion program and have been very successful in completing these projects by working together on expedited permitting and funding. Most recently we were awarded a Grant in the Fall 2021 ARPA Grant Round to complete the build to all residents and business to the Town of Norrie and will have this project completed in the summer of 2022.

The Town of Reid and Marathon County has agreed to the following to assist:

1. Provide in-kind assistance to the Project which may be in the form of waived fees and expenses for obtaining permits or permissions required;
2. Grant permission on and across Town and County property, to engage in activities to construct the Project in compliance with all existing rules and regulations;
3. Provide community education and outreach regarding the expansion of broadband access to residences and businesses within the scope of the Project; and recognizing that the broadband expansion project is a priority and is consistent with any internal planning documents

c. **Existing broadband service.** *A list of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve.*

- *The degree to which the proposed project avoids duplicating existing broadband infrastructure.*

Cirrinity's proposed project does not duplicate existing broadband infrastructure. No carrier today in the proposed project area is capable of offering a consistently reliable and available broadband service as defined by the state's and the FCC's 25/3 Mbps standard.

- *Provide a list of all landline broadband service providers (DSL, cable or fiber to the home) and fixed wireless broadband service providers that overlap the footprint of the proposed broadband project.*

The incumbent provider, Frontier North makes available a copper DSL service described with speeds of up to 6/1 Mbps in most of the proposed grant area, with no known plans to make a significant investment in achieving faster speeds. A few Frontier areas, abutting are shown on the state's Broadband Map as offering speeds up to 6/1 Mbps, and some census blocks are shown either with no speed or as "unserved". No other landline providers in the area are known.

US Cellular and other major mobile providers show speeds of 5-20 Mbps subject to tree lines and weather, but these are not seen by the provider as viable services as older equipment becomes obsolete.

- *If known, provide an estimate of the customers within the proposed footprint that are served by competing landline and fixed wireless broadband service providers, and the download/upload speeds offered by those competing service providers.*

In addition to speeds mentioned directly above, letters from businesses and home owners in the proposed project area offer a resounding set of comments that incumbent landline speeds either fall below advertised levels and/or are not sufficient for current needs, much less those of the coming 2 years or more.

- *Provide a list of mobile wireless broadband service providers that overlap the footprint of the proposed project.*

Mobile/cellular broadband service is advertised by AT&T, T-Mobile, US Cellular, and CellCom. Sprint advertises coverage of approximately a third of the proposed area. None provide particular advertised data speeds as of early March 2022. Letters of support at the end of this application includes actual customer feedback that such speeds are not truly available in these areas, and that the incumbent was resistant to expanding their infrastructure to do so. We also have shown high 60-70% or higher take rates in areas we have already built FTTH in this area and expect the same for this project.

- d. ***Project Impact*** *A description of the geographic area and the population, both in terms of absolute numbers and likely users, which will be served by the proposed project. Indicate the number of anticipated residential and business customers in the project area, if known. Explain the speed and quality of internet service that will be available. Include information about the range of packages available for purchase. Provide details on any low-income access programs and steps the project will take to support adoption.*

The geographic area served by the project include the Towns of Reid in rural Marathon Count. Cirrinity has identified approximately 368 current household units of which 15 are known to be business or work from home. Based on previous fiber expansions, 75% of these are likely to take service in the first two years, with a long-term target of 90%. The network has been engineered to accommodate a 100% take rate, plus growth due to the economic impact of this build.

Cirrinity's fiber to the home (FTTH) deployment, the area will benefit the areas by providing:

- The first 25/3 and faster FTTH broadband to almost all current and future Community residences and businesses, capable of accommodating continual speed increases past GigE speeds for a generation to have data connectivity and video entertainment,
- Enable both residential and home business connectivity to high-speed Internet services. Increase the productivity of home agricultural businesses.
- Raise the value of local housing and the area in general due to FTTH broadband availability.

Primary benefits of this project include:

1. Delivering the area's only fiber-to-the-home (FTTH), schools and business high speed broadband service. The provision of up to gigabit and faster connectivity will give residents world class access to education, healthcare, Work at Home applications and video services, not previously available in this area. Businesses coming to these communities will now be on an equal footing with their urban counterparts, attracting capital and workers not now in the area. It is expected that new housing and jobs will be stimulated by the existing of fiber-based broadband services.
2. High speed broadband service will allow many residents to work at home as employers allow. This broadband project will provide the facility-based infrastructure to expand to new housing developments as an amenity raising housing value as a destination.
3. Tourism. The project area is a large tourism destination drawing people from all over the Midwest. Tourism includes shopping and dining along the many Wisconsin natural treasures, blossoming stores, lodges, casual restaurants, services and gas stations. There are many places for fishing, hiking, and site seeing. Increased tourism is this area's principal engine for economic development as increased job opportunities and the ability to spend time as they move through the Mountain Bay trails, enjoying locally available products and services from the local business community raise its visibility across the region.
4. Access to emergency services. High-speed fiber-based broadband services enable rural practitioners in the medical facilities of the area to transmit medical imagery and data to

clinics and healthcare providers in larger population centers. Along with access to broadband, this is cited as an important concern of visitors and seasonal residents—apart from the value it confers to permanent residents and small businesses in the area. The local fire station, roads department, social centers, high school, County offices, and Emergency Services approached Cirrinity for fiber connectivity necessary to maintain and grow their roles and we delivered.

5. Cirrinity will now be able to meet past requests for fiber that will create more opportunities for residents, visitors and travelers to this 4-season leisure and tourism area to include the relocation of Tele-workers to a slice of the Northwoods.
 6. Home WIFI networks will expand the range of cellular phones, access to emergency services and provide connectivity in homes choosing not to use landline telephone services.
 - **Cirrinity is a participant in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) formerly EBB Emergency Broadband Benefit and all residents affected by this project would be able to apply to qualify for the benefit. Cirrinity will communicate this to all customers at the time of sign up as well as proactively via Social Media marketing and regular Bill messages after a customer has service.**
- e. ***Scalability.*** *A description of how the proposed project could expand or improve the broadband service it delivers, while maintaining the quality of its broadband service. This description should include specific projected increases in the following parameters that are known at the time of the application:*
- *The number of users.*
 - *The number of network nodes.*
 - *The number of services provided.*
 - *The geographic area served by the project.*

This description may also include a discussion of possible growth potential that is outside the commitment the applicant is making as part of its application.

This project is intended to grow to ultimately accommodate all current estimated at 368 and all future residential and businesses in the FTTH target area. Our existing Nodes will be able to handle all of the projects expected impact as well as future growth. First with high-speed Broadband, video, and all voice service features currently available to the applicant's existing subscribers. This project initially deploys ultrafast broadband services over fiber facilities suitable for broadband at practically unlimited speeds, well in excess of the definition of broadband services as 25/3 Mbps. Initial speeds of up to 1 Gbps will be available to every fiber-based subscriber.

Cirrinity has seen its past expansions the Town of Reid act as engines to bring jobs and residential subscribers to new areas based upon the availability of fiber-based broadband services. The entire area is also ripe for economic expansion arising from year-around

tourism. Cirrinity will continue to work with Marathon County long after this project, and all points in between to continue to grow in this high-need area.

f. ***Economic development.*** *A description of how the proposed project will promote job growth or retention, expand the property tax base or improve the overall economic vitality of the municipality or region. This description may be supplemented with a letter from one or more persons discussing the potential economic impact the project could have for that individual or business. In scoring this element, the following factors will be taken into account:*

- *A discussion of potential economic impact the project could have for an individual business located in the project area.*
- *An explanation of how an improved download and upload transmission speed could better support a specific business in the project area.*
- *An explanation of the likely impact improved broadband service could have on residential property values, supported by local sales data if available.*
- *A demonstration of how improved broadband service to a residential portion of the project could benefit a telecommuting population.*
- *A demonstration of how the speeds and service being offered by the project fits with current and future economic needs of the community and local businesses*

The Marathon County Development Corporation (MCDEVCO) and board of Marathon County have been discussing strategies to expand broadband in the County for several years. These discussions have been rooted in a deep understanding that strong broadband availability is a vital economic factor in the new growth of communities throughout the entire County landscape. Expanding broadband beyond the County's urban areas to keep and grow jobs in the rural towns is a key factor to help keep Wisconsin Businesses strong with local workers from the Wausau area that have the need to be able to telework. Due to its proximity to the urban area of Wausau, the value of homes in this area will benefit as homeowners look to relocate to the country to work from home or take the short drive in to the city as needed.

Better connectivity for municipal, governmental and commercial services all stimulates growth, customer bases and employment in the area.

- o Town of Reid Town Hall
- o A local Lumber Yard

g. ***Effect upon broadband service to adjacent areas.*** *A description of whether the proposed project will or will not impair the ability of a broadband service provider or competing broadband service provider to extend broadband service to areas adjacent to the proposed project area.*

The incumbent does not maintain fiber nodes within the proposed project areas. Services being proposed will therefore not impact the incumbent's ability to serve in areas adjacent to the proposed project areas. If subscribers in adjacent areas are not met with

updated infrastructure and capabilities from their incumbent provider, using infrastructure in the adjacent areas, residents of adjacent areas may eventually petition Cirrinity to further expand its FTTH broadband network. The incumbent has made no attempts to reassure subscribers of eventual CAF II construction requirements arguably do not require fiber infrastructure, and can be satisfied by 10/1 Mbps service availability at any point in the coming five years. The incumbent can look statewide to satisfy federal requirements. This application does not have any material impact on the incumbent's ability to meet its CAF II requirements.

3.2.5 Other Information Supporting the Application.

A description of applicant's history or experience constructing broadband communications facilities in the state and elsewhere

- *If applicable, an applicant must comment upon the status of all prior broadband expansion grant projects, including the type of broadband technology used, the facility route actually built or installed, the number of residential and business customers actually connected, and other relevant details of the prior project(s).*
- *An applicant may also comment on broadband construction projects undertaken in prior years that were not funded in part by the Broadband Expansion Grant program.*

Wittenberg Wireless/Cirrinity has distinguished itself as both a provider, and as a manager of fiber-based broadband networks. It is the successful recipient of 7 other Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grants letter of support from some customers who benefitted from these well managed projects.

Wittenberg Wireless/Cirrinity LLC purchased the City of Antigo's broadband utility in 2010 and has successfully operated it since that time. It currently has over 2500 FTTH and wireless subscribers in that area. It's major engineering projects as owner and operator of the broadband utility now include CoVantage Credit Union (one of the largest in the state), Antigo School District, the City of Antigo, Amron, Inc. (a maker of ammunition for the government) and many others.

Cirrinity proved itself adept at understanding local needs through its negotiations with the City of Antigo via a city referendum to allow sale of its broadband utility was passed handsomely by an 88% margin. Cirrinity also initiated a docket with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to insure all regulatory issues associated with its purchase would be in place. Ultimately, the broadband utility was acquired for a price of \$1.6 million. Cirrinity continues to operate it, today. Cirrinity has since built a widely distributed fiber network by which it offers both fiber-based business services within the City of Antigo and throughout Langlade County. Through its projects beyond its regulated service areas, and previous successes completing Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grants, the company has proved it can create and manage successful customer growth.

Wittenberg Telephone Company has also completed a FTTH build over the past 3 years to all of our ILEC customers while also juggling the progressive expansion in other areas.

Our previous Grant Status's:

All previous Wittenberg Wireless Grants are completed on or ahead of schedule. The previous ARPA round grants are on track and construction will start as soon as the ground allows this spring.

Cirrinity Innovations LLC grant from FY 2020 is on track for a 2022 completion – delayed due to tower lease issues during the start of the COVID19 pandemic but still during the performance period of the grant.

- *A description of how the proposed project will or will not duplicate existing broadband infrastructure.*

This project does not duplicate existing broadband infrastructure.

The Wisconsin intent to see broadly deployed broadband at speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps and much higher, which cannot be achieved with the incumbent's existing equipment. The areas in this application do not currently have fiber communications infrastructure, and are unlikely to see it under any reasonable scenario in the coming five years. Similarly, there is no duplication of fiber infrastructure able to served CMRS and wireless Internet providers in the area. There is no comparison of the service quality of fiber and aging copper plant that would count as a duplication of infrastructure.

- *A description of an applicant's financial ability to undertake the proposed broadband construction project.*

Cirrinity has demonstrated its ability to undertake state broadband grants through seven earlier awards. This application comes as it and its parent, Wittenberg Telephone Company have experienced successful expansion in both their regulated and non-regulated endeavors. Each year Wittenberg Telephone and Wittenberg Wireless/Cirrinity submits its PSCW Annual Questionnaire in which it describes its revenues in both areas.

- *A description of how the proposed project will affect the ability of individuals to access health care service from home, including any impact upon the costs of those services*

In any sparsely populated area, the introduction of fiber infrastructure enables much faster and more reliable access to healthcare services and providers. Remote diagnostic medicine and health maintenance services from pediatric to geriatric purposes become possible with simple laptop cameras and attached devices that are becoming commonly available. The costs of travel and ultimately health insurance can quickly decline just due to the availability of highspeed broadband services. These communities lack local healthcare services and providers. This application makes a big difference.

- *A description of how the proposed project will affect the ability of students to access educational opportunities from home.*

High speed broadband access for the purposes of research and completing homework at home become possibilities if this application is accepted. As schools depend more and more on interactive distance learning and Internet access in real-time, the availability of high-speed broadband to students and those seeking vocational training will now be unencumbered by connection speed. Home schooling and summer classes, previously unworkable without high-speed broadband connection, now become a time-saving and travel-saving opportunity for children and teens. As mentioned above, the Marathon County Economic Development staff is emblematic of the demand for locally-accessed vocational training. Travel to UW-Extension two-year campuses can be difficult for those in rural Wisconsin settings. The ability to participate in online learning, and to work around interruptions of local employment and family life are an important adjunct to fiber broadband connectivity. Providing this connectivity significantly improves the return of this grant as an investment in Wisconsin's workforce.

- *A description of actions taken by a city, village, town, or county in support of the grant application that have not been discussed in the context of a public-private partnership above, including but not limited to:*

There are several ways where Marathon County and the Towns of Reid have given their time and support as a spur to rapid and successful completion of this project. To get to the point of us collaborating to work together and be successful, there has been several planning meetings and phone calls on personal time and without the hard work of each of our public-private partners this application wouldn't happen.

2/13/22

To whom it may concern

The slowness of our internet has affected our family in many ways. The most we can get from Frontier is 1MB. Our children in school have problems and frustration with that speed and it takes them a lot longer to get any work done.

Since COVID, my wife and I have both been having to work from home. Our internet speed is not fast enough for most of our work. We have to pay extra out of pocket for cell phone hot spot to get 3MB. There has been times we have had to drive into town to upload things for our job.

This has been a draw on our finance and significant frustration. We need faster internet. We are willing to contribute \$25.00 to help make this happen.

Troy + Kern Henrick
21621 Lyon Lane Hatley WI

From: Jeff Pawlowski <jpaws6788@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 3:52 PM
To: snyman@cirrinity.net
Subject: Town Of Reid Meeting 1-11-22
Attachments: mom.jpg

Scott:

I first want to Thank you for attending the monthly Town of Reid meeting and sharing with us the Plans for Cirrinity and laying fiber optic cable to all of the residents in the Pike Lake/Town of Reid area.

I will share why it is so important to me, my sister and my 94 yr old mother. My mother Florence is 94 and lives alone, she gets around on her own and other than some dementia is living in her own house alone where she has resided for 70 yrs (also was her grandmothers homestead) which means a lot to her.

I am her primary care giver and for her safety I have installed 6 "granny cams" Wyze and Netvue these monitor the smoke alarms, carbon dioxide sensors, along with motion and sound detectors, they are set up for 2 way audio and live stream video monitoring, My sister Dawn lives in Wausau and between the 2 of us we feel these cams have been a game changer in our mother being able to stay in her own home.

The problem is that our up load and down load speed is extremely slow and streaming will run for 5 seconds then stop for 15 seconds then start up again. So there is no live streaming, and many times will error out.

Because of the slow upload and download speed (**download runs between 3.1 Mb/s to 4.7 MB/s) depends on the time of day (upload can run from 288 to 594kb/s)**

During the lockdown my wife was told she could work from home but once our download/upload speed was looked at she had no choice but to go in and work from the office rather than remotely.

Everything is going paperless and documents need to be sent via email, many time we can only attach 1-2 documents or they will just not send.

I have talked to Frontier I have been told repeatedly that the reason service is getting worse/slowing down is that Frontier keeps add more people to the line and it slows everyone down more and more.

(My mother and I live **on Shady Lane West**) as does 3 others that attend the meeting last evening)

I tried to get some commitment from the Town of Reid Board on their support but didn't get any commitments.

I think if you took a survey you would find the vast majority would support it. (of course there are a few that don't own computers)

If there is anything I can do to help, please let me know.

The high speed connection is not all about streaming movies or games...It's about safety, peoples lives learning, communication, banking and so on...

The rural areas have been left behind and I think this is a great opportunity for us to catch up a little.

Please keep me posted as you move along.

Regards

Jeff Pawlowski

(attached a photo of my mom)

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows



WITTENBERG-BIRNAMWOOD School District

400 West Grand Avenue, Wittenberg, WI 54499

Garrett Rogowski, District Superintendent
715-253-2213 (phone) 715-253-3588 (fax)
www.wittbirn.k12.wi.us

March 7, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Subject: Marathon County/Cirrinity Project

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin,

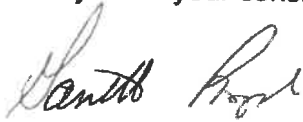
The Wittenberg Birnamwood School District would like to formally announce its support for the "Marathon County/Cirrinity" project to increase District students' ability to access educational resources, learn successfully remotely, and support the general improvement of the community through increased broadband capacity.

All levels of our educational system stand to gain from this project as broadband can overcome geographical and financial barriers to provide a wide range of educational and cultural opportunities. For residential internet service, broadband makes it possible for students to attend their virtual classes and complete assignments at home – something that many students cannot currently do, even more so with the current COVID-19 pandemic. Being unable to attend online classes and complete assignments at home creates a burden on students as they must find other means of internet provision, including traveling to the public library, a local McDonalds, or friends house which can take a great deal of time and money. Beyond virtual learning and homework, with quality residential internet service, students can easily access information and learn about their community and the world. They can also learn about secondary education options, research job opportunities, and communicate with others.

The Marathon County/Cirrinity Project provides a unique opportunity for households in rural Marathon County to access reliable, high quality, fiber broadband service. With this project, District students would have access to consistent high speed internet service that would enable them to easily participate in synchronous education, attend large webinars, even when siblings and other household members are also accessing the internet.

As the Wittenberg Birnamwood School District, we fully support this grant application and will fully assist in the completion of the project goal. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to contact the District at 715-253-2213.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Garrett Rogowski".

Garrett Rogowski
District Administrator



March 16, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin,

Marathon County Government would like to formally announce its support for the Marathon County/Cirrinity project to aid in the economic growth of Marathon County and support the general improvement of our communities through increased broadband capacity.

Broadband expansion is a key component to long-term economic growth for Marathon County. The availability of adequate, reliable, and affordable internet service will inevitably retain and attract both residents and talent, increase employment opportunities, and expand economic activity. Our ability to attract and retain residents is critical in not only maintaining our tax base but growing it. Furthermore, this provides the means for Marathon County to deliver a wide range of services to our residents, including the ability for our local emergency responders to leverage technology, improving the efficiency and access of our 911 system.

This project will also improve our residents' quality of life, allowing them to carry out daily tasks more efficiently, work from home, attend school virtually, and access telehealth services. Expanded broadband access will ultimately revitalize Marathon County and posture it to compete with larger cities for investment and innovation.

The Marathon County/Cirrinity project provides a unique opportunity for 368 households and businesses in Reid and Bevent to access reliable, high-quality fiber broadband service. Marathon County Government fully supports this grant application and will fully assist in the completion of the project goal through expedited permitting. **Furthermore, we will support this project with a financial match of \$70,000 if grant funding is awarded.**

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at kurt.gibbs@co.marathon.wi.us or (715) 261-1409. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kurt Gibbs
Chair, Marathon County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION #R-21 -22

AUTHORIZATION OF COUNTY SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (PSC) BROADBAND GRANTS

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

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

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

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; and

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; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has existing opportunities to expand broadband services through a Broadband Expansion Grant Program administered by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC); and

WHEREAS, to assist PSC grant applicants, the Marathon County Broadband Task Force has recommended a policy of providing forgivable loans to PSC grant applicants whose proposed use of grant funds will benefit Marathon County. These forgivable loans would be in the amount of \$235 per unit for each applicant. Each loan would be forgiven upon activation of the broadband system within Marathon County created, expanded, or updated by grant funds. These loans would be provided based upon the applications and materials submitted and considered at the Marathon County Broadband Task Force meeting of February 28, 2022; and

WHEREAS, to further assist PSC grant applicants, the Marathon County Broadband Task Force has recommended a policy of making low interest loans available to PSC grant applicants whose expenditures will exceed \$235 per unit and whose proposed use of grant funds will benefit Marathon County. These loans would be for the non-PSC and non-county share of these projects; and

WHEREAS, these recommended loans would be available to applicants through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, an allowable use of funds pursuant to ARPA expenditure categories 5.16 and 5.17 and Section 602(c)(1)(D) of the Social Security Act as amended.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee and the Marathon County Executive Committee authorize appropriate county officials 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. County officials are also authorized to work with and support grant applicants through 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.

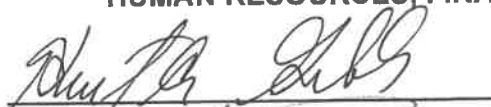




NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee, the Marathon County Executive Committee, and the Marathon County Board authorize county officials to provide forgivable loans in the amount of \$235 per unit to PSC grant applicants whose proposed use of grant funds will benefit Marathon County and as further defined in the applications and materials submitted and considered at the Marathon County Broadband Task Force meeting of February 28, 2022. The forgivable loan would not exceed \$70,000 for Cirrinity, \$142,175 for Bug Tussel Wireless and \$944,835 for Frontier for a total not to exceed \$1,157,010. The forgivable loans will only be made upon a successful award from the PSC.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee, the Marathon County Executive Committee, and the Marathon County Board authorize county officials to make available low interest loans available to PSC grant applicants whose proposed use of grant funds will benefit Marathon County for the non-PSC and non-county share of these projects under the terms and conditions as defined by the Marathon County Broadband Task Force.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these recommended loans are authorized through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, an allowable use of funds pursuant to ARPA expenditure categories 5.16 and 5.17 and Section 602(c)(1)(D) of the Social Security Act as amended.

March 15, 2022

HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

 _____	 _____
 _____	 _____
 _____	_____

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

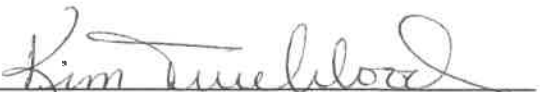
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Fiscal Impact: This resolution would have no immediate fiscal impact; however, it would authorize county officials to utilize American Rescue Plan Act funding to authorize per unit loans to PSC grant applicants whose projects benefit Marathon County. Provisions of loans under this resolution would have an impact on ARPA funds dependent on the number of applicants and the amounts approved.

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)SS.
COUNTY OF MARATHON)

I, Kim Trueblood, County Clerk in and for Marathon County, Wisconsin, hereby certify that the attached Resolution #R-21-22 was enacted by the Marathon County Board of Supervisors at the Adjourned Annual Meeting which was held on March 15, 2022.

SEAL



Kim Trueblood
Marathon County Clerk

March 7, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Subject: Letter of Support for the Marathon County/Cirrinity Project

Ms. Nieto,

I am writing in support of the proposed Marathon County/Cirrinity project.

There are many benefits of having fast, reliable, and affordable internet service in our community related to quality of life and economic vitality. While the list of benefits is quite lengthy, I've highlighted a few key reasons why this expanded access is critical to the rural areas of Marathon County below.

First, the health of the community can be greatly increased with improved internet service. Through the internet, patients can have greater access to their health information and increased convenience in gaining prescriptions and supplies that they need. Additionally, telehealth is becoming a method of gaining healthcare and is a fantastic resource where traveling to appointments may be difficult. However, telehealth requires significant bandwidth, low latency, and symmetrical download and upload speeds.

Second, quality internet service can also have widespread impacts on our educational system. Reliable broadband makes it possible for students to attend virtual classes and



United Way
of Marathon County

complete assignments at home - something many students in Marathon County cannot currently do. Being unable to attend online classes and complete assignments at home creates a burden on students as they must find other means of accessing reliable internet service, which can take a great deal of time, money, and health exposure. Beyond virtual learning and homework, students with quality residential internet service would be able to access information and learn about their community and the world, secondary education options, research job opportunities, and communicate with others.

Third, as we continue to experience an ongoing workforce shortage, businesses have put a high emphasis on worker retention and development. Quality internet service provides existing employees with the ability to work remotely and access quality professional development opportunities. As we fill positions, we find that individuals are often drawn to the scenic beauty and rural setting of Marathon County. Unfortunately, we lose talent as prospective employees find that housing options are limited to where high speed internet infrastructure is located.

The Marathon County/Cirrinity project is a unique opportunity for some of the more rural areas of Marathon County to have access to high quality, reliable internet service. As you've read above, the impact is extensive, touching nearly every industry in Marathon County in some manner. With this project, residents would have access to tele-health services, students can attend virtual classes and complete assignments at home, businesses can provide their employees with the added flexibility of working remotely, and the list continues.

As the executive director of United Way of Marathon County I fully support this grant application and will fully assist in the completion of the project goal. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to reach me at (715) 298-5701 or at jsargent@unitedwaymc.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JSargent", is written over a white background.

Jeff Sargent, Executive Director/CEO



March 5, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Subject: Letter of Support for the Marathon County/Cirrinity Project

Ms. Nieto,

I am writing in support of the proposed Marathon County/Cirrinity project.

There are many benefits of having fast, reliable, and affordable internet service in our community related to quality of life and economic vitality. While the list of benefits is quite lengthy, I have highlighted a few key reasons why this expanded access is critical to the rural areas of Marathon County below.

First, the health of the community can be greatly increased with improved internet service. Through the internet, patients can have greater access to their health information and increased convenience in gaining prescriptions and supplies that they need. Additionally, telehealth is becoming a method of gaining healthcare and is a fantastic resource where traveling to appointments may be difficult. However, telehealth requires significant bandwidth, low latency, and symmetrical download and upload speeds.

Second, quality internet service can also have widespread impacts on our educational system. Reliable broadband makes it possible for students to attend virtual classes and complete assignments at home - something many students in Marathon County cannot currently do. Being unable to attend online classes and complete assignments at home creates a burden on students as they must find other means of accessing reliable internet service, which can take a great deal of time, money, and health exposure. Beyond virtual learning and homework, students with quality residential internet service would be able to access information and learn about their community and the world, secondary education options, research job opportunities, and communicate with others.

Third, as we continue to experience an ongoing workforce shortage, businesses have put a high emphasis on worker retention and development. Quality internet service provides existing employees with the ability to work remotely and access quality professional development opportunities. As we fill positions, we find that individuals are often drawn to the scenic beauty and rural setting of Marathon County. Unfortunately, we lose talent as prospective employees find that housing options are limited to where high speed internet infrastructure is located.



The Marathon County/Cirrinity project is a unique opportunity for some of the more rural areas of Marathon County to have access to high quality, reliable internet service. As you have read above, the impact is extensive, touching nearly every industry in Marathon County in some manner. With this project, residents would have access to tele-health services, students can attend virtual classes and complete assignments at home, businesses can provide their employees with the added flexibility of working remotely, and the list continues.

As the President and CEO of the Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce, I fully support this grant application and will fully assist in the completion of the project goal. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to reach me at 715-848-5946 or at deckmann@wausauchamber.com. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Eckmann", written over a light blue horizontal line.

David Eckmann
President and CEO
Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce



2200 Westwood Drive, PO Box 1395, Wausau, WI 54401
715.847.2118 | 800.283.2881 | aspirus.org

March 7, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Subject: Letter of Support for the Marathon County/Cirrinity Project

Ms. Nieto,

On behalf of Aspirus Inc., I write today to express support for the proposed Marathon County/Cirrinity Project.

The health of our community can be greatly increased with improved internet service. Through the internet, patients are able to have greater access to their health information and increased convenience in gaining the health supplies that they need. For example, patients can go online to view their health records, order prescriptions, and view their insurance policies. Patients are also able to research tips for a healthy lifestyle and access exercise classes – these are all part of preventative care.

Adequate broadband internet is also a necessity for those seeking to better utilize telehealth. Telemedicine is changing the way patients in Marathon County, and throughout the state manage their healthcare needs. The benefits of telehealth can only be utilized with reliable high-speed internet access – yet, many in Marathon County do not have adequate, reliable, or affordable service.

As we continue to rely heavily on telemedicine to support the evolving needs of patients, expanding broadband connectivity will help to ensure Aspirus Inc. can continue operating in an effective manner. If patients do not have quality internet service, they are not able to access their health information, receive tele-health services, or stay up-to-date on events and other happenings. Because of this, it is imperative that all Marathon County residents have fast, reliable, and affordable residential internet service. This is why we offer our strong support for the Marathon County/Cirrinity Project.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to reach me at 715-847-2537 or at wade.carroll@aspirus.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wade Carroll
VP, Information Technology
Aspirus Inc.



March 11, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Subject: Letter of Support for the Marathon County/Cirrinity Project

Ms. Nieto,

I am writing on behalf of the Marathon Planning Metropolitan Planning Commission to express our support for the proposed Marathon County/Cirrinity broadband expansion project in the and Towns of Reid and Bevent. Our organization represents 13 local units of government in the greater Wausau area and understands that there are many benefits of having fast, reliable, and affordable internet service in our community related to quality of life and economic vitality. While the list of benefits is quite lengthy, I've highlighted a few key reasons why this expanded access is critical to the rural areas of Marathon County currently unserved or underserved below.

First, the health of the community can be greatly increased with improved internet service. Through the internet, patients can have greater access to their health information and increased convenience in gaining prescriptions and supplies that they need. Additionally, telehealth is becoming a method of gaining healthcare and is a fantastic resource where traveling to appointments may be difficult. However, telehealth requires significant bandwidth, low latency, and symmetrical download and upload speeds.

Second, quality internet service can also have widespread impacts on our educational system. Reliable broadband makes it possible for students to attend virtual classes and complete assignments at home - something many students in Marathon County cannot currently do. Being unable to attend online classes and complete assignments at home creates a burden on students as they must find other means of accessing reliable internet service, which can take a great deal of time, money, and health exposure. Beyond virtual learning and homework, students with quality residential internet service would be able to access information and learn about their community and the world, secondary education options, research job opportunities, and communicate with others.

Third, as we continue to experience an ongoing workforce shortage, businesses have put a high emphasis on worker retention and development. Quality internet service provides existing employees with the ability to work remotely and access quality professional development opportunities. As we fill positions, we find that individuals are often drawn to the scenic beauty and rural setting of Marathon County. Unfortunately, we lose talent as prospective employees find that housing options are limited to where high speed internet infrastructure is located.

Finally, access to adequate broadband service is critical in our efforts to keep the public engaged and informed of what is taking place in local government. It provides them an opportunity to access meeting agendas, minutes and watch many of the meetings that are live streamed on our web sites.

The Marathon County/Cirrinity project is an opportunity for some of the rural areas of Marathon County to have access to high quality, reliable internet service. As you've read above, the impact is extensive, touching nearly every industry in Marathon County in some manner. With this project, residents would have access to tele-health services, students can attend virtual classes and complete assignments at home, businesses can provide their employees with the added flexibility of working remotely, and the list continues.

Wausau Area Metropolitan Planning Organization supports this grant application and will fully assist in the completion of the project goal.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to reach me at 715 212-2227 or at john.robinson@co.marathon.wi.us. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Robinson", written in a cursive style.

John Robinson
Chairperson
Marathon County Metropolitan Planning Organization

cc Dave Mack, MPO Director



Main Office • 2327 W Veterans Pkwy • PO Box 988 • Marshfield, WI 54449-0988
Regional Office • 70 South State St • Hixton, WI 54635

800-236-1041 • FAX 715-687-4126

March 8, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Subject: Letter of Support for the Marathon County/Bug Tussel, Frontier, Cirrinity Broadband Project

Ms. Nieto,

I am writing in support of the proposed Marathon County/Broadband Project. Agriculture's success and growth is dependent on reliable and affordable high speed internet service, as it allows farmers to follow commodity markets, communicate with customers and reach markets across the world. Additionally, precision agriculture, which can help reduce costs and increase efficiencies relies on the availability of broadband service and agricultural tourism, a growing market, relies on a strong digital presence.

ProVision Partners Cooperative of Wisconsin is an ag supply cooperative of feed/grain, agronomy, and energy products. We employ around 350 people. A good deal of our employees and patrons live and do business in rural areas of Wisconsin where local internet is a challenge.

Having fast, reliable, and affordable internet service in rural areas of Marathon County is directly related to business vitality.

As a company we have been fortunate to have access for most of our locations. However, we are limited on using necessary technology in the field with poor rural broadband. In addition, with the pandemic forcing some of our employees to be able to work remotely has been a challenge with extremely slow down and upload speeds. Virtual meetings and training are difficult and often not even possible. Our farmers that we serve also are facing these challenges with internet speeds which limits them from using a lot of today's technologies to advance their operations.

As our business who looks to recruit new employees to service rural areas, residential broadband service is an essential quality of life issue for retention and relocation. Without this vital piece of infrastructure, we will lose qualified young employees to other regions or other states.

If this project can bring better rural broadband to under served areas we will be able to offer more flexible working arrangements, offer new technologies to our agriculture customers, and our employees can use vital technology to better and more efficiently do their jobs.

Furthermore, high speed internet access is necessary for our children to have equal access to educational resources, employment opportunities, and for us to remain connected to friends and family. For these reasons, it is critical that Marathon County receives increased broadband service.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to reach me at 800-236-1041 or at rlarson@provisionpartners.coop. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Larson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rob Larson
General Manager/CEO

Auburndale • Black River Falls • Chili • Colby • Fairchild • Hixton • Humbird
Marshfield • Merrillan • Northfield • Pittsville • Stratford • Unity • Warrens • West Salem

Provisionpartners.coop



WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT
Longfellow Administration Center

415 Seymour Street • P.O. Box 359 • Wausau, Wisconsin 54402-0359 • 715-261-0500 • www.wausauschools.org
Dr. Keith W. Hiltz, Superintendent of Schools

March 7, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Subject: Marathon County/Cirrinity

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin,

The Wausau School District would like to formally announce its support for the “Marathon County/Cirrinity” project to increase District students’ ability to access educational resources, learn successfully remotely, and support the general improvement of the community through increased broadband capacity.

All levels of our educational system stand to gain from this project as broadband can overcome geographical and financial barriers to provide a wide range of educational and cultural opportunities. For residential internet service, broadband makes it possible for students to attend their virtual classes and complete assignments at home – something that many students cannot currently do, even more so with the current COVID-19 pandemic. Being unable to attend online classes and complete assignments at home creates a burden on students as they must find other means of internet provision, including traveling to the public library, a local McDonalds, or friends house which can take a great deal of time and money. Beyond virtual learning and homework, with quality residential internet service, students can easily access information and learn about their community and the world. They can also learn about secondary education options, research job opportunities, and communicate with others.

The Marathon County/Cirrinity Project provides a unique opportunity for households in rural Marathon County to access reliable, high quality, fiber broadband service. With this project, District students would have access to consistent high speed internet service that would enable them to easily participate in synchronous education, attend large webinars, even when siblings and other household members are also accessing the internet.

As the Wausau School District, we fully support this grant application and will fully assist in the completion of the project goal. If you have further questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the District at (715) 261-0505.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dr. Keith Hiltz
Superintendent of Schools

It is the mission of the Wausau School District to advance student learning, achievement, and success.

March 09, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Subject: Letter of Support for the Marathon County/Cirrinity Wireless Project

Ms. Nieto,

I am writing in support of the proposed Marathon County **Cirrinity Wireless Project**. Agriculture's success and growth is dependent on reliable and affordable high speed internet service, as it allows farmers to follow commodity markets, communicate with customers and reach markets across the world. Additionally, precision agriculture, which can help reduce costs and increase efficiencies relies on the availability of broadband service and agricultural tourism, a growing market, relies on a strong digital presence.

*The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is the state's largest general farm organization representing farms of different sizes, commodities and management styles. **Marathon County Farm Bureau is a division of Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation. We work side by side with our Local, State and Nationwide members. We strive to be a voice for agriculture and Our Mission, "Empowering the Wisconsin agricultural community through our grassroots membership to preserve and promote the advancement of agriculture."***

Furthermore, high speed internet access is necessary for our children to have equal access to educational resources, employment opportunities, and for us to remain connected to friends and family. For these reasons, it is critical that Marathon County receives increased broadband service.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to reach me at 715.348.0677 or at mueller675@yahoo.com. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

**William Mueller
Marathon County President
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation**



MARATHON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
500 FOREST STREET WAUSAU, WI 54403-5568

SCOTT R. PARKS
SHERIFF

NON-EMERGENCY
(715) 261-1200
FAX (715) 261-1221
www.marathoncountysheriff.org

March 8, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Dear Ms. Kristy Nieto,

This letter is in support of the Broadband Infrastructure Application submitted by Marathon County.

The Marathon County Sheriff's Office is committed to the persons living, working and visiting Marathon County through public safety management, trust building and assisting all levels of government maintaining this community. Technology is a major component of conducting this mission effectively. If individuals cannot connect with us, everyone loses and the trust established diminishes with each negative effort at interaction.

Technology has become a means of life no matter the age group of those we serve. Granted some are more familiar with technology than others within our County. Knowing more youthful individuals depend on using technology to connect rather than the more traditional means of telephoning, we have improved access to our 911 Center by upgrading our systems to accept text messages and shared photographs. This has worked well for us where there is solid connectivity, but there are many areas of our County especially in the more rural areas where connectivity access is minimal to poor to non-existent. This needs to change for the benefit of all.

Our local emergency responders in law enforcement, fire and EMS experience the same lack of connectivity. Many times our law enforcement professionals have to seek identified hot spots, sometimes needing to leave their assigned patrol areas, to gain access back to our Office to submit intelligence, reports and other data. This results in frequent visits to regular locations providing a developed pattern which could cause individuals with criminal intent to target the professionals using those identified hot spots. Broader access does not necessarily eliminate this problem but it does assist on lessening it.

I am requesting you consider and award this grant to Marathon County. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to reach me at 715-261-1205 and/or my direct email scott.parks@co.marathon.wi.us.

Sincerely,


Scott R. Parks
Marathon County Sheriff



D.C. Everest Area School District

1699 Schofield Ave., Suite 300
Schofield, WI 54476
Phone 715-359-4221
www.dce.k12.wi.us

Kristine A. Gilmore, Ed.D.
Superintendent

MISSION STATEMENT

D.C. Everest Area School District, in partnership with the community, is committed to being an innovative educational leader in developing knowledgeable, productive, caring, creative, responsible individuals prepared to meet the challenges of an ever-changing global society.

March 7, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53705-9100

Subject: Marathon County Cirrinity Project

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin,


The D.C. Everest Area School District would like to formally announce its support for the "Marathon County Cirrinity" project to increase District students' ability to access educational resources, learn successfully remotely, and support the general improvement of the community through increased broadband capacity.

All levels of our educational system stand to gain from this project as broadband can overcome geographical and financial barriers to provide a wide range of educational and cultural opportunities. For residential internet service, broadband makes it possible for students to attend virtual classes and complete assignments at home – something that many rural students cannot currently do, even more so during the COVID-19 pandemic. Being unable to attend online classes and complete assignments at home creates a burden on students as they must find other means of internet access, including traveling to the public library, a local McDonalds or Starbucks, or friend's house which can take a great deal of time and money. Beyond virtual learning and homework, with quality residential internet service, students can easily access information and learn about their community and the world. They can also learn about secondary education options, research job opportunities, and communicate with others.

The Marathon County Cirrinity Project provides a unique opportunity for households in rural Marathon County to access reliable, high quality, fiber broadband service. With this project, District students would have access to consistent high-speed internet service that would enable them to easily participate in synchronous education, attend large webinars, or take online classes even when siblings and other household members are also accessing the internet.

As the D.C. Everest Area School District, we fully support this grant application and will fully assist in the completion of the project goal. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to contact the District at 715-359-4221.

Thank you for your consideration,



Kristine A. Gilmore, Ed.D.
Superintendent

KG:es



WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT
Longfellow Administration Center

5 Seymour Street • P.O. Box 359 • Wausau, WI 54402-0359 • 715-261-0500 • Fax 715-261-2503 • www.wausauschools.org

Dr. Keith Hiltz, Superintendent of Schools

March 10, 2022

Ms. Kristy Nieto

Division Administrator

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

4822 Madison Yards Way

P.O. Box 7854

Madison, WI 53705-9100

Subject: Marathon County/Cirrinity Project

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin,

The Wausau School District would like to formally announce its support for the Marathon County/Cirrinity project to increase District students' ability to access educational resources, learn successfully remotely, and support the general improvement of the community through increased broadband capacity.

All levels of our educational system stand to gain from this project as broadband can overcome geographical and financial barriers to provide a wide range of educational and cultural opportunities. For residential internet service, broadband makes it possible for students to attend their virtual classes and complete assignments at home – something that many students cannot currently do, even more so with the current COVID-19 pandemic. Being unable to attend online classes and complete assignments at home creates a burden on students as they must find other means of internet provision, including traveling to the public library, a local McDonalds, or friends house which can take a great deal of time and money. Beyond virtual learning and homework, with quality residential internet service, students can easily access information and learn about their community and the world. They can also learn about secondary education options, research job opportunities, and communicate with others.

The Marathon County/Cirrinity Project provides a unique opportunity for households in rural Marathon County to access reliable, high quality, fiber broadband service. With this project, District students would have access to consistent high speed internet service that would enable them to easily participate in synchronous education, attend large webinars, even when siblings and other household members are also accessing the internet.

As the Wausau School District, we fully support this grant application and will fully assist in the completion of the project goal. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to contact the District at Jon Euting, Director of Technology and Media Services at jeuting@wausauschools.org.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

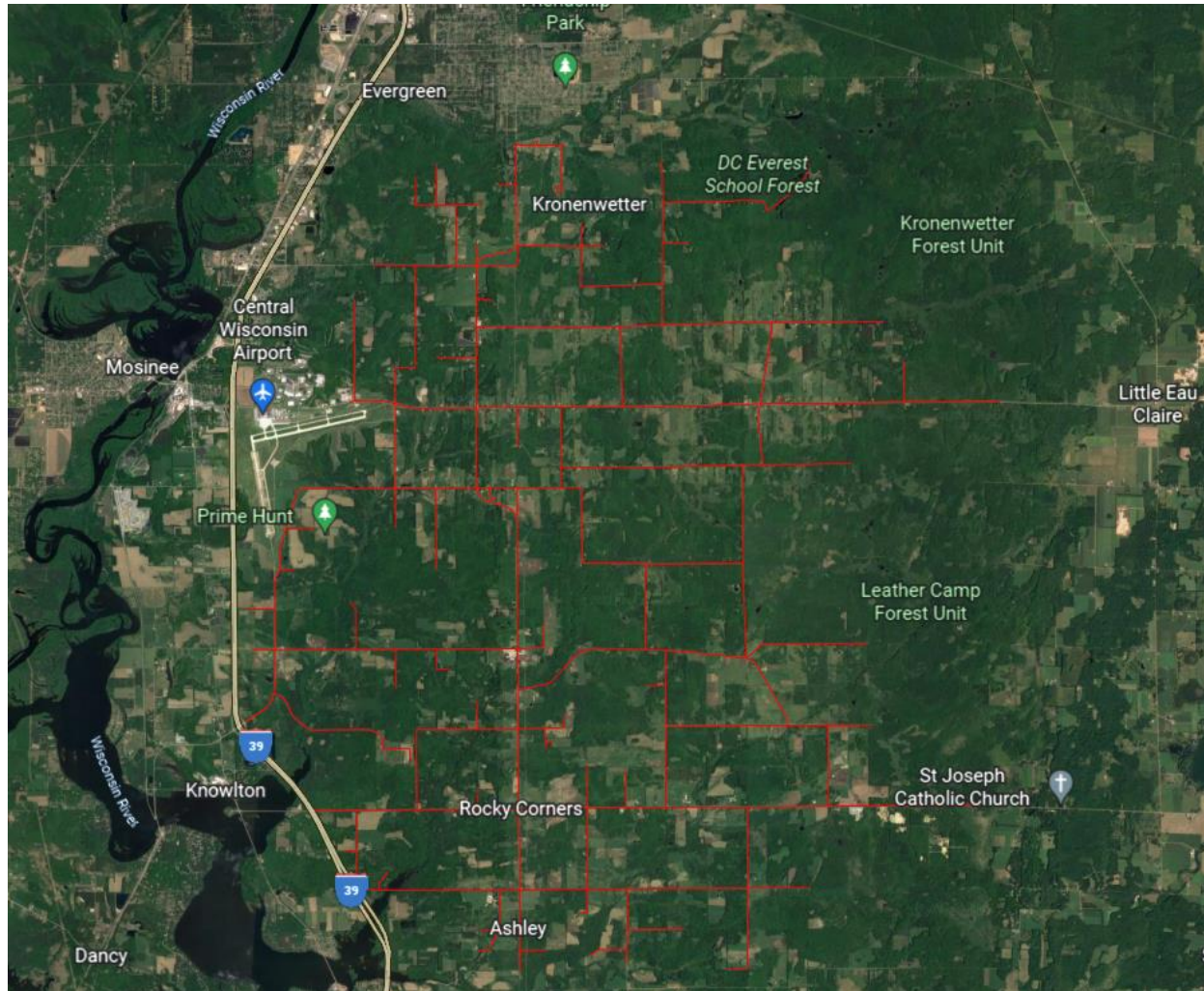
Jon Euting



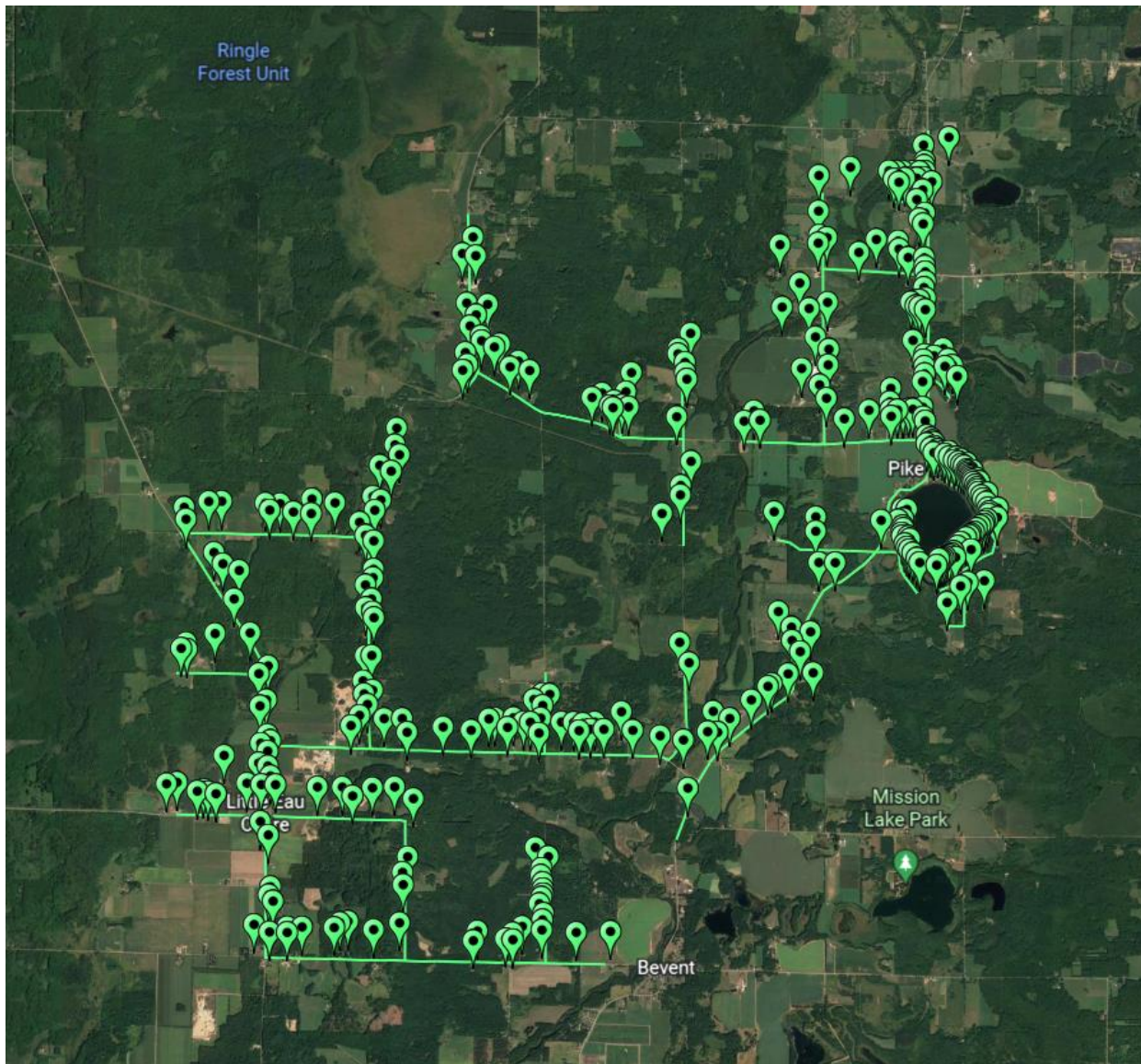
Director of Technology
Wausau School District

It is the mission of the Wausau School District to advance student learning, achievement, and success.

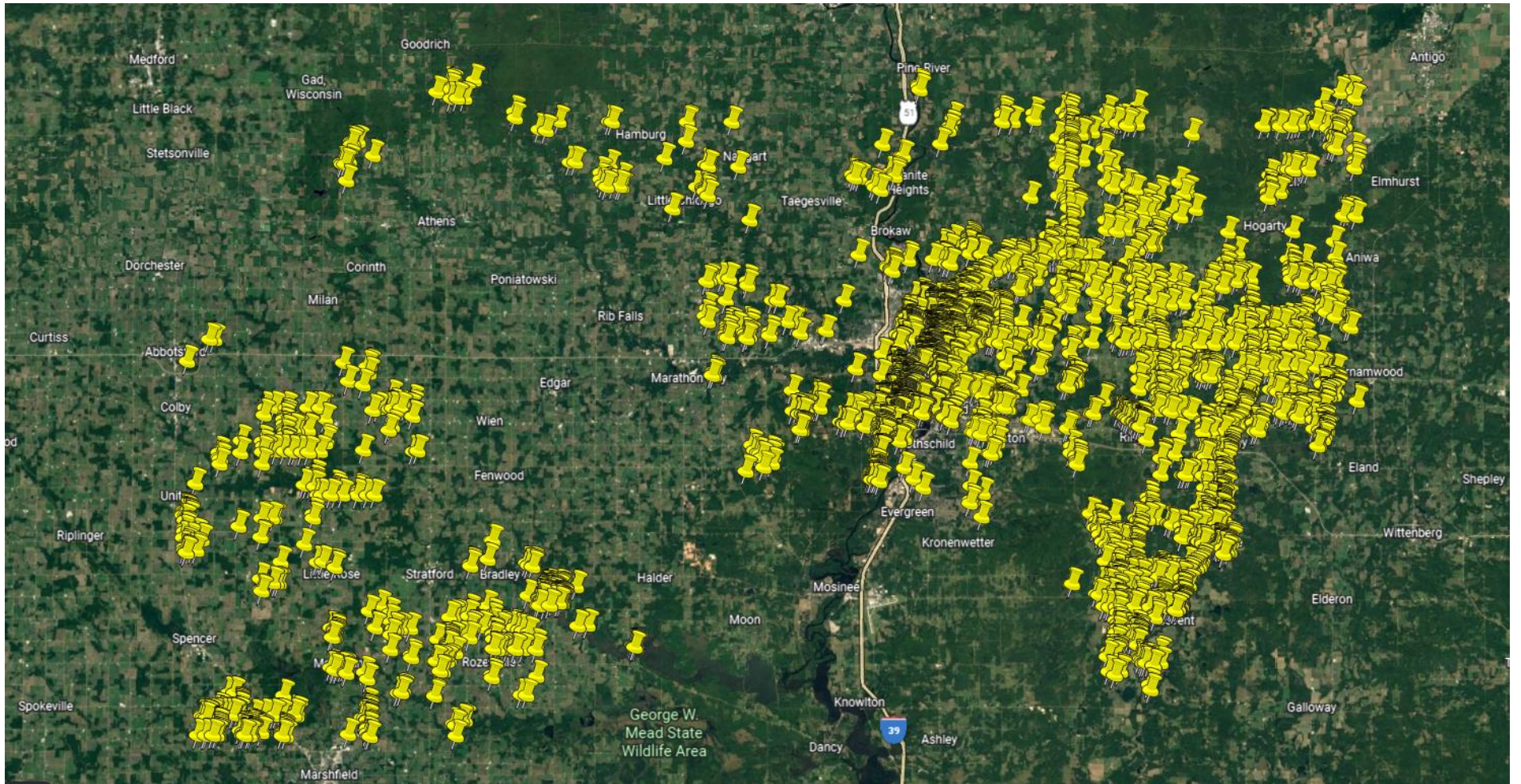
Bug Tussel



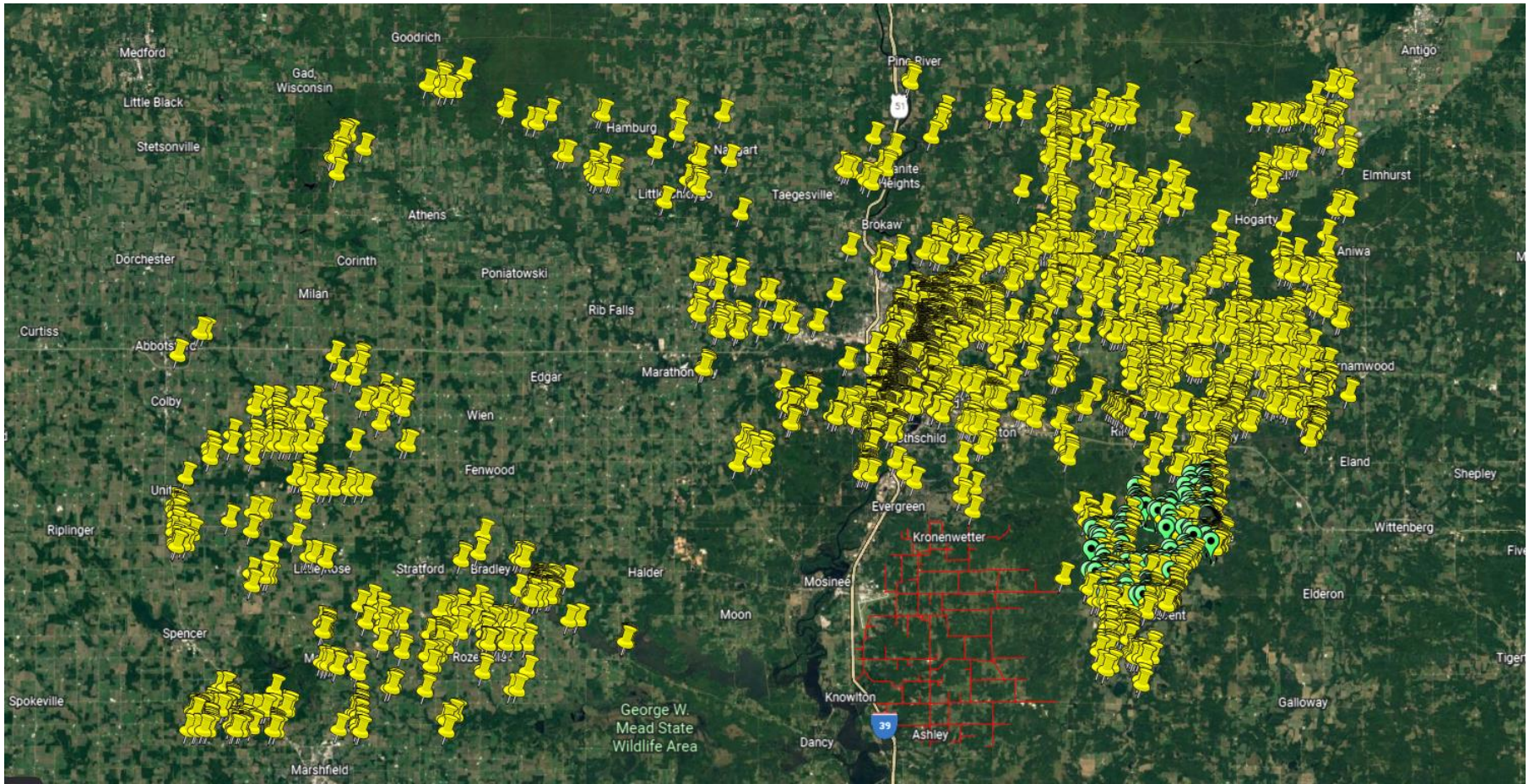
Cirrinity



Frontier



Bug Tussel/Cirrinity/Frontier



RESOLUTION #R-21 -22

AUTHORIZATION OF COUNTY SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (PSC) BROADBAND GRANTS

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

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

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

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; and

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; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has existing opportunities to expand broadband services through a Broadband Expansion Grant Program administered by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC); and

WHEREAS, to assist PSC grant applicants, the Marathon County Broadband Task Force has recommended a policy of providing forgivable loans to PSC grant applicants whose proposed use of grant funds will benefit Marathon County. These forgivable loans would be in the amount of \$235 per unit for each applicant. Each loan would be forgiven upon activation of the broadband system within Marathon County created, expanded, or updated by grant funds. These loans would be provided based upon the applications and materials submitted and considered at the Marathon County Broadband Task Force meeting of February 28, 2022; and

WHEREAS, to further assist PSC grant applicants, the Marathon County Broadband Task Force has recommended a policy of making low interest loans available to PSC grant applicants whose expenditures will exceed \$235 per unit and whose proposed use of grant funds will benefit Marathon County. These loans would be for the non-PSC and non-county share of these projects; and

WHEREAS, these recommended loans would be available to applicants through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, an allowable use of funds pursuant to ARPA expenditure categories 5.16 and 5.17 and Section 602(c)(1)(D) of the Social Security Act as amended.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee and the Marathon County Executive Committee authorize appropriate county officials 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. County officials are also authorized to work with and support grant applicants through 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.




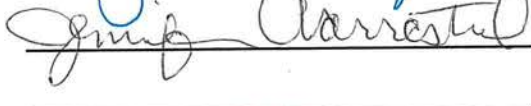
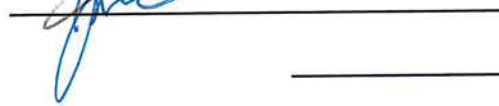
NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee, the Marathon County Executive Committee, and the Marathon County Board authorize county officials to provide forgivable loans in the amount of \$235 per unit to PSC grant applicants whose proposed use of grant funds will benefit Marathon County and as further defined in the applications and materials submitted and considered at the Marathon County Broadband Task Force meeting of February 28, 2022. The forgivable loan would not exceed \$70,000 for Cirrinity, \$142,175 for Bug Tussel Wireless and \$944,835 for Frontier for a total not to exceed \$1,157,010. The forgivable loans will only be made upon a successful award from the PSC.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Human Resources, Finance, and Property Committee, the Marathon County Executive Committee, and the Marathon County Board authorize county officials to make available low interest loans available to PSC grant applicants whose proposed use of grant funds will benefit Marathon County for the non-PSC and non-county share of these projects under the terms and conditions as defined by the Marathon County Broadband Task Force.

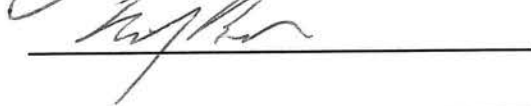
NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these recommended loans are authorized through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, an allowable use of funds pursuant to ARPA expenditure categories 5.16 and 5.17 and Section 602(c)(1)(D) of the Social Security Act as amended.

March 15, 2022

HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

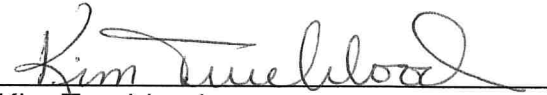
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Fiscal Impact: This resolution would have no immediate fiscal impact; however, it would authorize county officials to utilize American Rescue Plan Act funding to authorize per unit loans to PSC grant applicants whose projects benefit Marathon County. Provisions of loans under this resolution would have an impact on ARPA funds dependent on the number of applicants and the amounts approved.

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)SS.
COUNTY OF MARATHON)

I, Kim Trueblood, County Clerk in and for Marathon County, Wisconsin, hereby certify that the attached Resolution #R-21-22 was enacted by the Marathon County Board of Supervisors at the Adjourned Annual Meeting which was held on March 15, 2022.

SEAL



Kim Trueblood
Marathon County Clerk