



# MARATHON COUNTY BROADBAND TASK FORCE - BROADBAND PROJECT EVALUATION WORK GROUP SUBCOMMITTEE

## MINUTES

Friday, November 6, 2020 at 12:00 PM  
Conference Room 5, 212 River Drive, Wausau, WI

### Attendance:

#### Present

M. Osterberg

#### Absent

### Also Present:

#### VIA Web or Phone:

N. Anderson  
R. Barrett, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
E. Budleski  
V. Carrillo  
K. Gibbs  
G. Klein  
L. Leonhard  
E. McBride  
J. Robinson  
P. Weinschenk, Record Review

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair J. Robinson at 12:00 pm. All participants welcomed.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

### 3. REVIEW OF PROPOSED CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING BROADBAND PROJECTS IN MARATHON COUNTY

J. Robinson gave a summary of what Marathon County has done, and where we are now, to date, in the pursuit of expanding broadband access to meet the needs of the unserved and underserved areas. The county's Broadband Task Force is moving forward with Public Service Commission grants and other opportunities. There are four (4) parties that have expressed an interest in working with the county and the task force has developed criteria based on the Public Service Commission grant process. M. Osterberg shared the document she created which is based on that criteria and encouraged the group to come up with additional ideas to evaluate the proposals. The level of service will be added for "extra points" as well as providing broadband service to priority locations that currently cannot call 911 for services. Members agreed to request, in the cost section of the evaluation, the cost per connection for business or residence. Negative points will be assigned for data caps.

### 4. EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL GRANT REQUESTS

Because of the due date of December 1 for the Public Service Commission grant application, we have 3 weeks to put together a partnership and a proposal. A resolution will be brought before the county board at the Nov. 10, 2020 meeting that will authorize appropriate county board officials to partner with one or more Internet Service Providers to provide services consistent with our recommended criteria.

M. Osterberg recommended that once the task force members develop and finalize the scoring sheet, we can send the same to each Internet Service Provider and inform them that this is how we will be assessing their final proposals. We will also ask for clarification on coverage, technology, level of service, and their expectation from Marathon County. E. Budleski suggested a field trip to the location(s) to test the service they offer would be very beneficial.

**5. DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNTY PARTICIPATION IN BROADBAND GRANT APPLICATIONS**

J. Robinson and M. Osterberg will revise the evaluation and score card based on discussions today and will reach out to the Internet Service Providers requesting the information required by the task force to assess each proposal. We anticipate receiving that information by Wednesday of next week.

**6. NEXT MEETING LOGISTICS AND TOPICS**

**7. NEXT STEPS**

We will meet again next Friday, November 13th at noon, and make our recommendation based on the assessments. From there we will prepare our letters of support.

**8. ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.

Notes Prepared by:

Nancy M. Anderson