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

Friday, November 13, 2020 at 12:00 PM
Conference Room 5, 212 River Drive, Wausau, WI

Attendance: **Present**   **Absent**
                        M. Osterberg

Also Present:
VIA Web or Phone: N. Anderson
                        E. Budleski
                        V. Carrillo
                        K. Gibbs
                        G. Klein
                        L. Leonhard
                        C. Luebke, Bug Tussel Wireless
                        E. McBride
                        S. Nyman, Wittenberg Telephone/Cirrinity
                        M. Osterman, Northwoods Connect
                        V. Resech, MCDEVCO
                        J. Robinson
                        S. Schneider, Bug Tussel Wireless
                        D. Sweeney, Network Professionals
                        J. Wied, Bug Tussel Wireless

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.   **OVERVIEW OF INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER PROPOSALS TO EXPAND BROADBAND ACCESS**
4.   **APPLICATION OF BROADBAND PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA**
J. Robinson updated attendees that the Marathon County Board has adopted #R-69-20 Authorization to Support Broadband Grant Applications(s) to the Public Service Commission (PSC). All four Internet Service Providers, Bug Tussel, Cirrinity, Northwoods Connect, and Network Professionals all presented their proposed design expanding the broadband access in the unserved and underserved areas of the county. Discussion was held on the levels of service and speed and affordability for packages offered.

5.   **RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNTY PARTNERSHIP IN FUNDING**
Conduit financing was discussed. K. Gibbs reported that the utilization of conduit financing through the Public Finance Authority is a qualified funding option for broadband expansion. Marathon County has experience with the PFA and intergovernmental agreements.

G. Klein felt that all of the vendors are viable and their presentations today demonstrated they will deliver a good product. He stated that some designs overlap, and if we move forward with multiple vendors, we should make sure that each of them are covering different areas. There may be some impact on how the PSC would rate the Cirrinity proposal in that Spectrum serves some of that same route.   The other vendors would need to work out the location of their towers so that they're proportionally spread out. Discussion was held on the benefits of working with multiple vendors in the long term and members felt it could address all the needs in our county, effectively. Bug Tussel, Northwoods Connect and Network Professional all agreed to work together in dividing up

areas. In moving forward, with an MOU in place, a wireless proposal, with all parties agreeing to locations and services, and a fiber proposal could be submitted. J. Robinson asked for a motion to advance this action item and take it to the Broadband Task Force meeting on Monday, 11/16/2020. E. McBride made a motion. K. Gibbs seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

6. **COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN SUPPORT OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION GRANT PROPOSAL**

Efforts have started in preparing the letters of support from individuals, businesses, chambers, school districts and elected officials in support of this work. M. Osterberg requested that a map of the areas proposed for service should be included in the letters. S. Schneider suggested that all three wireless vendors should meet to define and consolidate the maps with proposed coverage/service. G. Klein will coordinate and attend this meeting now scheduled for Monday 11/16/2020 at 10:00 am.

7. **NEXT MEETING LOGISTICS AND TOPICS**

 Per J. Robinson, this subcommittee does not have to meet again.

8. **NEXT STEPS**
- Obtain map(s) from vendors for inclusion to letters of support.
- Firm up costs with vendors.
- Check-in every other day (11/17 and 11/20)
- Letters requesting support should be signed by L. Leonhard, K. Gibbs and J. Robinson
- Letters of support responses will require company logo and asked to be be returned, to the county, electronically, by 11/20/2020.
- M. Osterberg will contact MCDEVCO and Chamber for their support in contacting businesses for letters of support

9. **ADJOURN**
Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Notes Prepared by:
Nancy M. Anderson