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## **Ad Hoc Broadband Committee Minutes September 16, 2022**

Members present: Char Holtan, Steve Balsiger, Tess Carr, Mike Weyh

Holtan stated Troy Ryan has resigned from the committee. Brad Cook has expressed an interest in serving on the committee.

Also in attendance during all or portions of the meeting: Dave Drews, Sue Moll, Shonna Neary, Joe Ruf

The meeting of the Ad Hoc Broadband Committee was called to order by Chair Holtan at 8:33 a.m. The meeting was properly noticed as required by the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law. The meeting was held at the Administration Building, Meeting Room 113-114, 112 E. Edgewater Street, Portage, WI.

### **Public Input**

None.

### **Approve Agenda**

Motion by Balsiger to approve the agenda as published. Second by Weyh. Motion carried.

### **Elect Committee Vice Chair**

Holtan nominated Carr as Committee Vice Chair. Upon hearing no additional nominations, Carr was elected Committee Vice Chair.

### **Elect Committee Secretary**

Balsiger nominated Weyh as Committee Secretary. Upon hearing no additional nominations, Weyh was elected Committee Secretary.

### **Set Meeting Times**

Future meetings were determined to be set at 12:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month. The next meeting was set for Thursday, October 13 at 12:30 p.m.

### **Invite Guests to the Next Meeting**

Carr will contact Larry Bierke, Iowa County Administrator, to attend the next meeting at 12:30 p.m., in-person or by Zoom. If Bierke cannot attend, Carr will contact Jaron McCallum, State Broadband Office Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, to attend.

Holtan will contact a representative from Marquette Adams to attend the next meeting at 1:30 p.m. and Drews will contact a representative from Spectrum to attend.

## Preliminary Plan

The following goals were set:

- 100% coverage for all homes and businesses
- 100 Mbps Download
- 20 Mbps Upload
- Fiber Optic as first choice
- Affordable

Neary joined the meeting and explained the process to reserve ARPA funds. A pending request of \$500,000 has been set aside for Broadband. Members would like a total of \$2 million set aside. Neary will provide Carr with the ARPA Fund Request form and asked for the completed form to be returned to Accounting by October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Executive Committee will consider the request at the next committee meeting on October 13, if approved, the request would go to the full county board for consideration. All funds must be committed by December 2024 with work completed by December 2026. Members were asked to submit supporting stories to Carr by September 26<sup>th</sup> to be included with the ARPA request and possible grant applications. Ruf will contact Aspirus for stories of support. The Executive Committee and Finance Committee would need to consider any grant application requests.

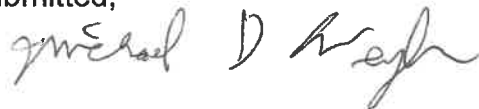
A survey will be sent to municipalities to determine their broadband coverage needs and to see if they could provide shared funding. Carr will draft a letter and survey. Members were asked to submit possible questions for the survey to Carr by September 19<sup>th</sup>. Carr will send the letter and survey to Moll by September 22<sup>nd</sup> to be emailed to municipal clerks and chairs/presidents/mayors.

Members were encouraged to reach out to municipalities regarding broadband needs and possible ARPA funding and contact other counties on their process. Holtan will contact Richland and Dodge Counties.

Holtan will provide Moll with agenda items for the next meeting by October 5<sup>th</sup>.d

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mike Weyh

Ad Hoc Broadband Committee Secretary