

GREEN COUNTY COMMITTEE MINUTES

COMMITTEE: Broadband Ad Hoc Committee **TIME:** 1:30 pm
DATE: Wednesday, April 20, 2022
LOCATION: Green County Historic Courthouse
County Boardroom
2016 16th Avenue, Monroe, WI 53566

Members Present:

Ryan Camron
Rob Sommers
Steve Engles
Kathy Pennington
Bill Peterson
Jane Curran-Meuli
Jody Hoesly

Others Present:

Siggi Eckhardt
Sue Nelson

Meeting was called to order by Camron, chair.

Motion by Pennington, second by Engles to accept the minutes of the March 2, 2022, meeting. Motion carried on a voice vote.

It was shared that the policy was approved by the full County Board, and feedback was complimentary. The ARPA ad-hoc also borrowed from the policy for scoring/template.

At the time of the meeting, Green County enjoys a 2.6% household participation rate for the speed test mapping initiative (as compared to a 10% goal). This is ahead of most counties in the area, and includes 405 unique locations.

Committee members/attendees representing towns gave updates on their efforts at the local level. The committee discussed ways the speed test initiative can be promoted- upcoming events/concerts, QR code, 4H. Peterson mentioned the possibility of incorporating speed data from other sources.

The BEAD Grant Program is federal and must be applied for through the State (PSC). The program is for last mile infrastructure, but also general planning and data collection. 25% of spending should be for rural development. Camron is inquiring on the status in Wisconsin.

The committee studied the requirements of "Broadband Forward!" certification which definitely has appeal. The committee focused on the need for a single contact person, and a 60 day turn-around on approvals. There seems to be possibility both for the County to pass the required ordinance, and for individual municipalities within Green County; but whether the County truly can or cannot will depend on the comfortableness of candidate contact persons and board members. It was discussed how the ad-hoc committee will meet at least once more, but will be disbanding in the near future with the topic of broadband being covered by the new IT Oversight Committee.

Camron requested \$2 million in ARPA funds to be applied to broadband expansion efforts. Sommers requested \$20,500 in ARPA funds for LiDAR-derived datasets which could relate

to broadband planning/design efforts, and could perhaps fold into the larger ARPA request.

Camron provided update on conversations with US Cellular (5G), and Sonic Spectrum, Inc of Durand, IL (fiber in Town of Spring Grove). The government partners would pay for the spooled fiber in the case of Sonic. Frontier, TDS and Charter are also being pursued.

The current proprietary reality concerning infrastructure locations was discussed briefly.

Other happenings discussed in the meeting included; changes in approach by the FCC for applications without service provider partner, and updating of maps; NACo advice/resources concerning BIL Funding (Infrastructure); and “Wisconsin’s Playbook for Broadband Progress” (by PSC).

Motion by Hoesly, second by Sommers to adjourn. Motion carried on a voice vote.