



AD HOC BROADBAND COMMITTEE

Minutes – September 22, 2021

Call to Order. Chair Bostwick called the meeting of the Ad Hoc Broadband Committee to order at 1:02 P.M. via hybrid meeting.

Committee Members Present via phone: Supervisors Mawhinney, Beaver, Wilson, Richard Bostwick, Homan, Sweeney, and Davis.

Committee Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present via Phone: Randy Terronez, Assistant to County Administrator; James Otterstein, Economic Development Manager; and Kathleen Holford, Computer Network Engineer.

Others Present: Tim Tollefson, Town of Harmony; Randy Wolfgram, Charter; Celeste Flynn, Charter; Mike Hill, Charter; and Russell Berg, Nokomis Networking.

Approval of Agenda. Supervisor Sweeney moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Mawhinney. ADOPTED.

Charter Communications Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Rock County Project – Celeste Flynn (60 minutes)

Celeste introduced herself and her team. Celeste presented a PowerPoint presentation to the committee. She covered RDOF funding and general plans.

Discussion Items

Current Market Assessment

Russell Berg talked with Sonic Spectrum and discussed their intentions with Rock County.

County Needs/Wants

Russ met with James Otterstein and Kathleen Holford to talk about County government wants and needs.

Technology Options – Current/Future

Russ highlighted why fiber was the best option for Rock County broadband expansion.

Partnerships

James shared that he was on a multi-county meeting where they discussed broadband, and specially the pros/cons of the current Bug Tussel proposal. Russ stated that he met with electric utility companies and they stated that they do not want to provide broadband to the home, but they would be ok with connecting between towns. The electric utility companies are willing to be a partner.

Funding Options

Russ informed the committee that Charter and Sonic Spectrum have grants available.

Towns Association Update – Harmony Town Clerk, Tim Tollefson

Tim Tollefson informed the committee that the Towns Association briefly talked about this at their last meeting, but would be covering it more extensively at their next meeting.

Discussion on next steps

Russ indicated that he would contact MC&E to see what information they can share with him and the committee. Russ will monitor PSC grant process. Russ will also do a market assessment. He informed the committee that he anticipated more money to come from the infrastructure bill, so that may be available.

Set Next Meeting Time and Place

The next Ad Hoc Broadband Committee meeting is set for October 20, 2021 at 4:00 P.M. to occur over as a hybrid meeting.

Adjournment.

Supervisor Beaver moved adjournment at 2:55 P.M., second by Supervisor Wilson.
ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Haley Hoffman
Office Coordinator

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.