

# ROCK COUNTY, WISCONSIN



**NOTE: This is a Teleconference**

**AD HOC BROADBAND COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021 – 4:00 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM N-1 – FIFTH FLOOR  
ROCK COUNTY COURTHOUSE-EAST  
OR  
CALL: 1-312-626-6799  
MEETING ID: 880 9857 9945  
PASSCODE: 046249**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88098579945?pwd=VmNIY3FxdUxvbnVdybWhLRUFYUGFXUT09>

Meeting ID: 880 9857 9945

Passcode: 046249

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,88098579945#,,,,\*046249# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,88098579945#,,,,\*046249# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 880 9857 9945

Passcode: 046249

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbNXQtMPvc>

**If you are interested in providing public comments on items on this agenda, you must submit your comments by noon on Tuesday, October 19, 2021. To submit a public comment, use the following email: [countyadmin@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:countyadmin@co.rock.wi.us).**

## **Join from a telephone:**

- On your phone, dial the phone number provided above
- Enter the meeting ID number when prompted, using your dial-pad.
- Please note that long-distance charges may apply. This is not a toll-free number.
  
- Please identify yourself by name
- **Please mute your phone when you are not speaking to minimize background noises**

Instructions for the hearing impaired –

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/207279736-Getting-started-with-closed-captioning>

Please contact Haley at (608)757-5510 if you are going to be late or if you will not be able to attend the meeting.

**AD HOC BROADBAND COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021 – 4:00 P.M.**

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Approve Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes – August 25, 2021 and September 22, 2021
4. Sonic Spectrum – A. J. Becker (30 Minutes)
5. Discussion Items - Nokomis Networking – Russell Berg
  - a. Current Market Assessment
  - b. County Needs/Wants
  - c. Technology Options – Current/Future
  - d. Partnerships
  - e. Funding Options
    - i. Resolutions for Grant Eligibility
6. Towns Association Update – Harmony Town Clerk, Tim Tollefson
7. Discussion on Next Steps
8. Set next meeting time and place
9. Adjournment

The County of Rock will provide reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities. Please contact us at 608-757-5510 or e-mail [countyadmin@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:countyadmin@co.rock.wi.us) at least 48 hours prior to a public meeting to discuss any accommodations that may be necessary.

Please contact Haley at (608)757-5510 if you are going to be late or if you will not be able to attend the meeting.



## **AD HOC BROADBAND COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes – August 25, 2021**

**Call to Order.** Chair Bostwick called the meeting of the Ad Hoc Broadband Committee to order at 1:00 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; Sherry Oja, Finance Director; and Rich Greenlee, Corporation Counsel.

**Others Present:** Mitch Olson, Bug Tussel; Tim Tollefson, Town of Harmony; and Russell Berg, Nokomis Networking.

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

#### **Approval of August 10, 2021 Minutes**

Supervisor Mawhinney moved approval of the August 10, 2021 minutes, second by Supervisor Homan. ADOPTED.

#### **Discussion Items – Nokomis Networking – Russell Berg**

##### **Current Market Assessment**

Russell Berg asked about areas in the County that are less like to need broadband. Russ indicated he needed to get familiar with the county and current providers.

##### **County Needs/Wants**

Russ indicated that he wanted to have a discussion regarding County facilities that need to be factored into the plan for fiber connectivity. Russ asked to let him know of other County contacts that he should speak with.

##### **Technology Options – Current/Future**

Russ talked about middle-mile and final-mile fiber as options for the County. Bug Tussel brings AT&T cellular and wireless on towers.

##### **Partnerships**

James Otterstein shared that Alliant and REC would like to be a partner. Supervisor Wilson also suggested getting connected to school districts and healthcare providers. The committee talked about the need to get buy-in from the towns and town clerks.

**Funding Options**

Russ highlighted some funding options for broadband project. He discussed RDOF, ARPA funds, and PSC expansion grant options.

**Discussion on next steps**

Russ asked that James introduce him to Alliant and REC contacts. Russ also will follow up and get contact for schools and healthcare providers.

**Set Next Meeting Time and Place**

The next Ad Hoc Broadband Committee meeting is set for September 22, 2021 at 1:00 P.M. to occur over as a hybrid meeting.

**Adjournment.**

Supervisor Mawhinney moved adjournment at 2:12 P.M., second by Supervisor Sweeney. ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Haley Hoffman  
Office Coordinator

**NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.**



## **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.**