



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.