



**Kewaunee County
BROADBAND STUDY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

January 9, 2020 1:00 p.m.

Kewaunee County Administration Center, 810 Lincoln Street, Kewaunee, WI 54216
Human Services Training Room

Call to Order: Chair Weidner called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present – Robert Weidner, Tom Cretney, Mary Ellen Dobbins, Virginia Haske, Tom Romdenne, Scott Feldt, Steve Hanson, Jeff Wisnicky, Richard Baker, Kim Larson, Frank Madzarevic, Jason Melotte, August Neverman, April Fuhr, Jay Wendt.

Approval of January 9, 2020 Agenda: Weidner moved and Larson seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of November 8, 2019 Minutes: Haske moved and Dobbins seconded to approve the November 8, 2019 minutes. Motion carried.

PSC Grant Update: Jay Wendt, Director of Real Estate Acquisition for Bug Tussel gave a short update as to the application process. The application to the Public Service Commission (PSC) was submitted December 19, 2019. A public comment period is provided until the end of January 2020 and then applications are reviewed and scored. Grant awards will be announced around March. A question was raised as to the importance of letters of support. Wendt and Fuhr explained the support letters are very important in applying for the grant. Wendt expressed his admiration regarding the large number of support emails and letters. Fuhr also spoke about Bug Tussel University and its public education and outreach efforts. She is willing to speak almost anywhere.

Discussion of Next Steps: Feldt spoke that while the PSC grant has been submitted there is still items that the group can discuss and make possible recommendations.

-- **Broadband Forward Ordinance:** Feldt introduced the idea of the county and local governments adopting a Broadband Forward ordinance that helps to clarify procedures for siting towers and installing fiber. Discussion followed as to what authority local governments have regarding tower siting. Wendt indicated state statute 66.0404 have taken away some of that local control. Administrative review is allowed for towns. It was suggested that a meeting with local zoning administrators be put together to discuss the issue. The members agreed that the ordinance should be reviewed and a recommendation be forwarded to the Executive Committee.

-- **Dig Once Ordinance:** Feldt spoke of the idea of a "dig once" ordinance that would require that when roadwork is being performed, buildings and homes are being constructed that the builder be required to lay conduit to assist in future installation of fiber optic cable. A question was raised as to what impact this would truly have. Neverman indicated that there are dozens of communities that are doing this. This initiative will take years to connect all the various areas with fiber but doing this work in advance makes the connection of areas to fiber more attainable. Local government



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approval would be necessary. Therefore, a meeting of town and local officials should be scheduled. Fuhr suggested contacting the City of Platteville for their experience with this. – **Other Grant Opportunities:** Feldt asked the group what other types of grants they may want to explore. There are a number of grants that the county could pursue. A question was raised as to what the current fiber network is in the county. The county has looked at permits from the Highway department to determine what fiber may have been installed along county roads. Still there is no document that identifies all of the fiber currently in the county. Discussion followed regarding a countywide fiber network and the challenges and advantages of such a network. There was also discussion about the advantages of owning fiber versus leasing fiber. Neverman spoke about identifying various buildings that the committee may want to be connected to a fiber network. Hanson will put together a map of various sites (schools, businesses and government buildings) that could be part of such a network.

Next Meeting: February 20, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Baker moved and Cretney seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Feldt