



Minutes - June 7, 2022

Call to Order: Chair Bostwick called the hybrid meeting of the Ad Hoc Broadband Committee meeting to order in Conference Room N1 at 4:10 P.M. on Tuesday, June 7, 2022.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Bostwick, Wilson, Sutterlin, Beaver, Winter, and Mawhinney.

Committee Members Absent: Supervisor Sweeney.

Staff Members Present: Richard Greenlee, Corporation Counsel; Randy Terronez, Assistant to the Administrator; Josh Smith, County Administrator; James Otterstein, Economic Development Manager; Kayne Cushman, Network Support Administrator; Patrick Singer, Data Services Manager.

Others Present: Supervisors Whitledge, Zoril, Towns; Mitchel Olson, Bug Tussel; Russel Berg, Nokomis Networking; Tim Tollefson, Town of Harmony.

Approve Agenda: Supervisor Wilson moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Sutterlin. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: No public comment was submitted.

Supervisor Zoril asked why there are wireless towers in this plan. He stated that he spoke with an attorney that could advise the Board on problems associated with the towers. Supervisor Zoril asked what other counties had done to assess Bug Tussel's finances. He asked how the committee felt about using part of the funds on the CAN project. Supervisor Zoril asked if there are studies on speed in Bug Tussel's service areas. He also asked if they could retain ownership of this fiber and lease it out to other companies. Supervisor Zoril asked why Bug Tussel thought that the county's odds were not good for getting the \$2 million grant.

Supervisor Whitledge handed out a sheet on the locations of the proposed cell towers (attached). She indicated that she lost connection in some of the areas, but not in all of them. She asked if the county was being paid back the ARPA funds from Bug Tussel. Supervisor Whitledge indicated that she talked to constituents in these areas. She asked if this was the best use of these ARPA funds. Supervisor Whitledge asked why the specific locations were picked.

Approval of Minutes:

May 17, 2022: Supervisor Mawhinney moved approval of the May 17, 2022 minutes, second by Supervisor Wilson. ADOPTED.

Review, Discussion and Possible Action:

Follow Up - Initial Resolution Approving Revenue Bond Financing for Bug Tussel,1, LLC and Notice of Intent to Obtain a Municipal Revenue Bond (Job Impact):

Fond Du Lac County Bonding Timeline: Mitch Olson explained that Bug Tussel met with Fond Du Lac County today. They would need a resolution passed by the Rock County Board by July 21. Mitch indicated that this may or may not be the last time to participate. An additional round of bonding might occur in the fall. Mitch stated that Bug Tussel has not had any issues obtaining fiber for projects.

Credit Risk Analysis Report: Randy explained that other counties have received Bug Tussel's financials, but has not sent them to another agency to be analyzed. He asked if the committee would like to have a credit risk analysis done with Bug Tussel.

Supervisor Sutterlin moved to request a credit risk analysis report, second by Supervisor Sweeney.

Supervisor Winter asked if our broadband consultant, Nokomis Networking, has done an analysis. Russ Berg indicated that he has not performed any financial analysis. He let the new committee members know that he brought multiple providers to the committee to hear their proposals.

Supervisor Beaver asked what the cost of this would be how long it would take. Randy responded that the cost and time needed is unknown. Rich Greenlee added that this would most likely need to be done by a major financial institution. This would take a substantial amount of time to find a firm to do this and it would take a substantial amount of time for this firm to complete this.

Supervisor Zoril indicated that the scope of this credit risk analysis should be narrowed to Bug Tussel, 1, LLC.

Russ Berg added that a credit risk analysis report is just a snapshot in time, and by the time the project begins, the snapshot may not be the same.

Mitch Olson stated that Bug Tussel, 1, LLC was started to separate the funds with the Fond du Lac bonding. Hilbert Communications is whom the credit risk analysis would need to be completed on -- the parent company of Bug Tussel, 1, LLC.

Supervisor Sutterlin and Supervisor Sweeney withdrew their original motion to request a credit risk analysis report.

Supervisor Sweeney moved to accept the County of Fond du Lac and other counties' credit analysis of Bug Tussel and request Bug Tussel submit a business plan for the project, second by Supervisor Winter. ADOPTED.

Update on ARPA Funding: Randy spoke to this. In the initial executive summary, it was indicated that Bug Tussel was going to reimburse the county for ARPA costs. At a later meeting, Bug Tussel has

indicated that ARPA would not be reimbursed due to staff interpretations of ARPA rules. It now appears that we can be reimbursed from ARPA under lost revenue (\$4.8 million).

Mitch, Bug Tussel, indicated that the ARPA funds would be paid back.

Nokomis Networking - Russ Berg:

Current Market Assessment: Russ asked if the committee if they would like Charter Spectrum to give an update at the next meeting. The committee indicated that they would like an update from Charter Spectrum.

County Needs/Wants: No updates.

Technology Options:

Star Link System: Russ was asked to reach out to Eau Claire County on their Star Link proof of concept project. He provided a handout in the packet with his notes on his discussion with Eau Claire. He summarized the remarks in his notes.

Supervisor Wilson asked if Star Link was more of a supplement versus a replacement for fiber. Russ stated that there is definitely a place for a service like this -- especially in very remote areas.

Funding Options: We are in holding pattern for PSC grant. The State will be allocating \$125 million. At the federal level is a \$980 million grant program for middle-mile fiber construction; there are many requirements for this program. There is also a federal \$42 billion infrastructure grant.

Partnerships: No updates.

Intergovernmental Activities: Tim Tollefson, Town of Harmony, stated that he asked others to let him know if there are any projects happening in other towns at the Towns Association meeting. He has not heard anything from any town clerks.

CAN Project Background: The original focus was to connect urban facilities as opposed to expanding broadband into the rural areas.

Randy will follow up with a report on the CAN.

(Supervisor Wilson left at 5:55 P.M.)

Communication to Local Units of Government - Speed Test and Project Map: Randy mentioned that communication went out to all of the towns that are impacted by this project. He has received follow-up questions from towns and some clarifications will be going out.

James Otterstein presented a map of the broadband speed test data that was included in the PSC grant application.

Supervisor Zoril asked if fixed wireless is a supplement to fiber. Mitch explained that fixed wireless is an interim option until fiber is available.

Status of County Webpage Development: Randy stated that he has been working with IT on a webpage on our website on broadband. This should be available in the next few weeks.

Discussion of Next Steps: Supervisor Winter asked if Russ Berg would be available to answer questions at the next County Board meeting. Russ stated that if they would like him at the meeting, he would attend.

Chair Bostwick asked Supervisor Zoril to speak to the law firm that he spoke about under citizen participation. Supervisor Zoril explained that this lawyer works with municipalities and putting in cell towers. He requested that this lawyer come and speak with this committee. Chair Bostwick asked the committee if they would like this lawyer to come and speak at their next committee meeting. A few committee members stated that this would not be necessary. Chair Bostwick suggested that Supervisor Zoril draft some questions for Rock County Corporation Counsel.

The committee discussed the need to postpone the initial bonding resolution until June 23 in order to allow time for Bug Tussel to get a business plan together and to give Russ Berg more time to prepare to attend the County Board meeting.

Next meeting date and time: To be determined.

Adjournment: Supervisor Winter moved to adjourn at 6:25 P.M., second by Supervisor Sweeney.
ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Haley Hoffman
Office Coordinator

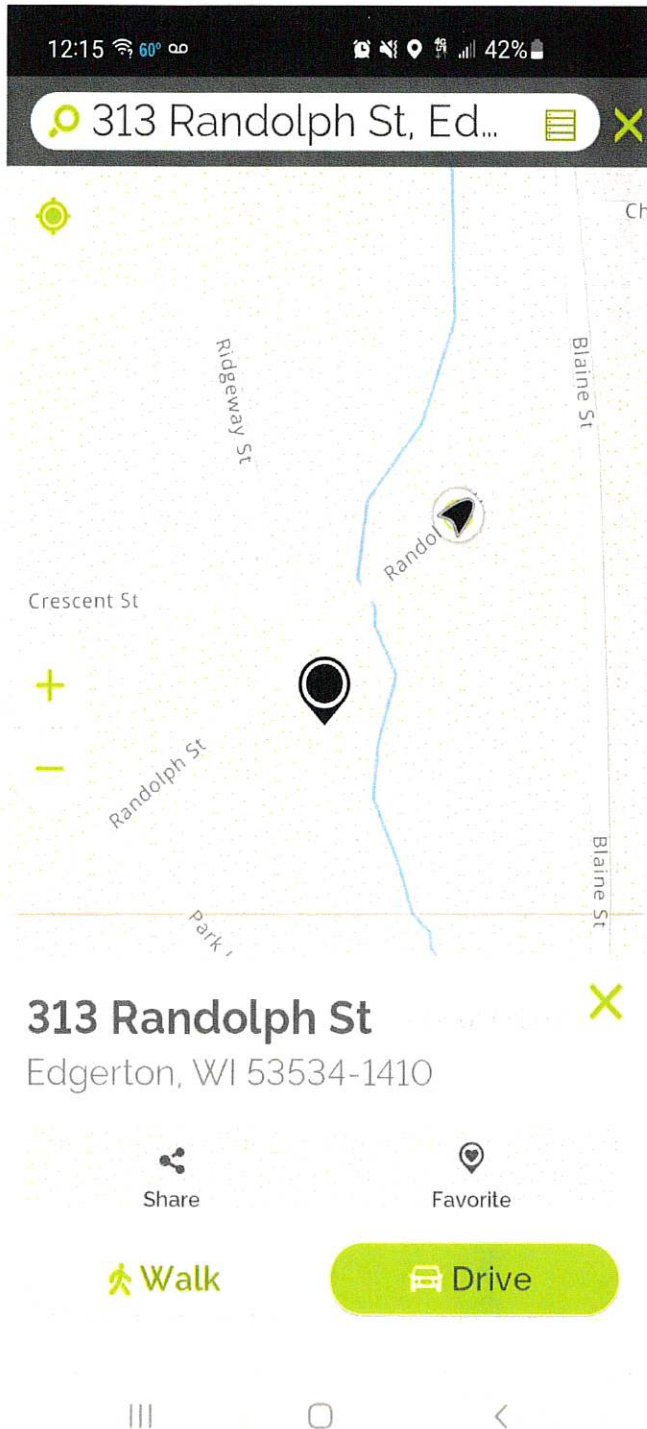
NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

Bug Tussle Findings:

- Cell towers – from my understanding is only used for Cell phone use this will not get you any broadband
- Broadband – used with DSL cables, Fiber Optic, Wireless, Satellite, and Broadband powerlines
- I know you can set the cell towers to give broadband but in the case of the Bug Tussle proposal this is not the case

Fulton T4 R12 – Debi Towns district 3

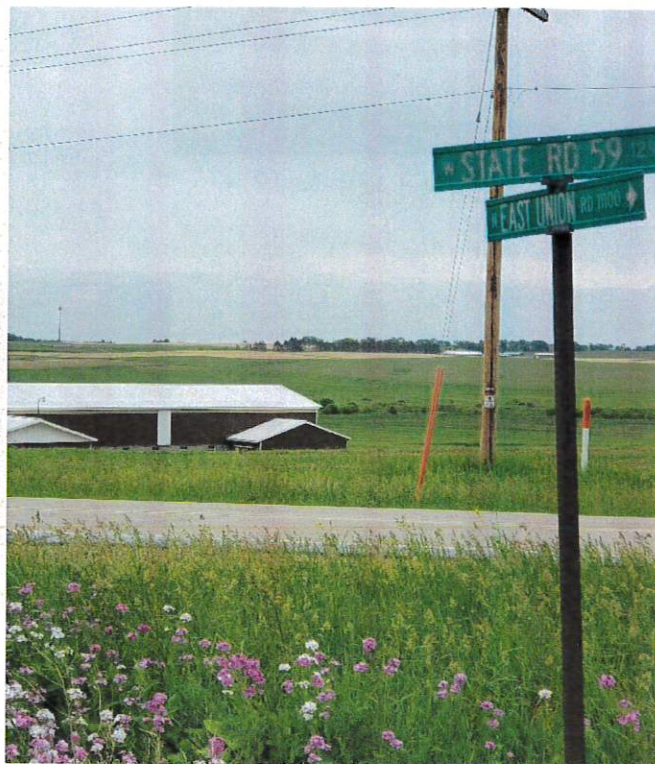
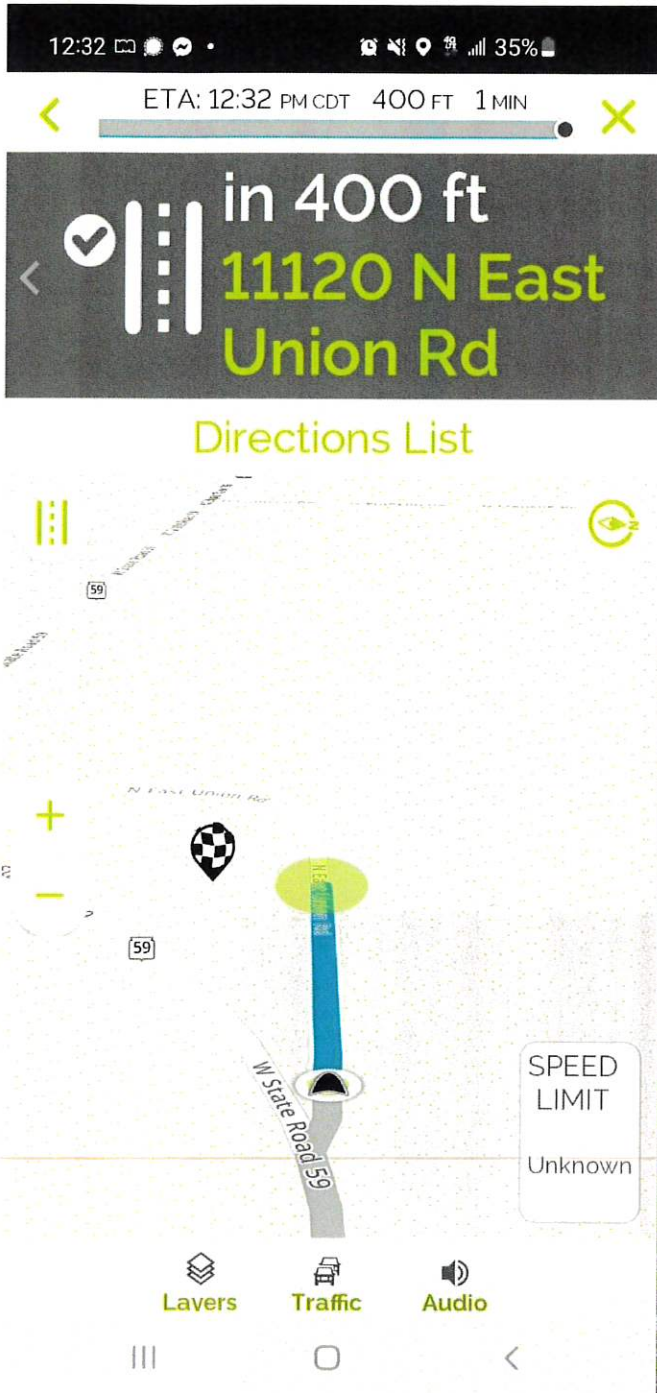
Edgerton - tower by **313 Randolph** St We currently have two towers 1872 Tower Dr, and 621 Main St



We will be adding Fiber optic to Randolph

Porter T4 R11 – Alan Sweeney district 2

Evansville – 11120 NE Union Rd



No fiber will be added to this cell tower, my cell phone had bars as seen in photos below also a very visible cell tower already exists in the area see photo

Magnolia T3 R10 – Brian Knudson district 10

Evansville – 9001 N Marsh Rd, 18347 W Finnerman Rd

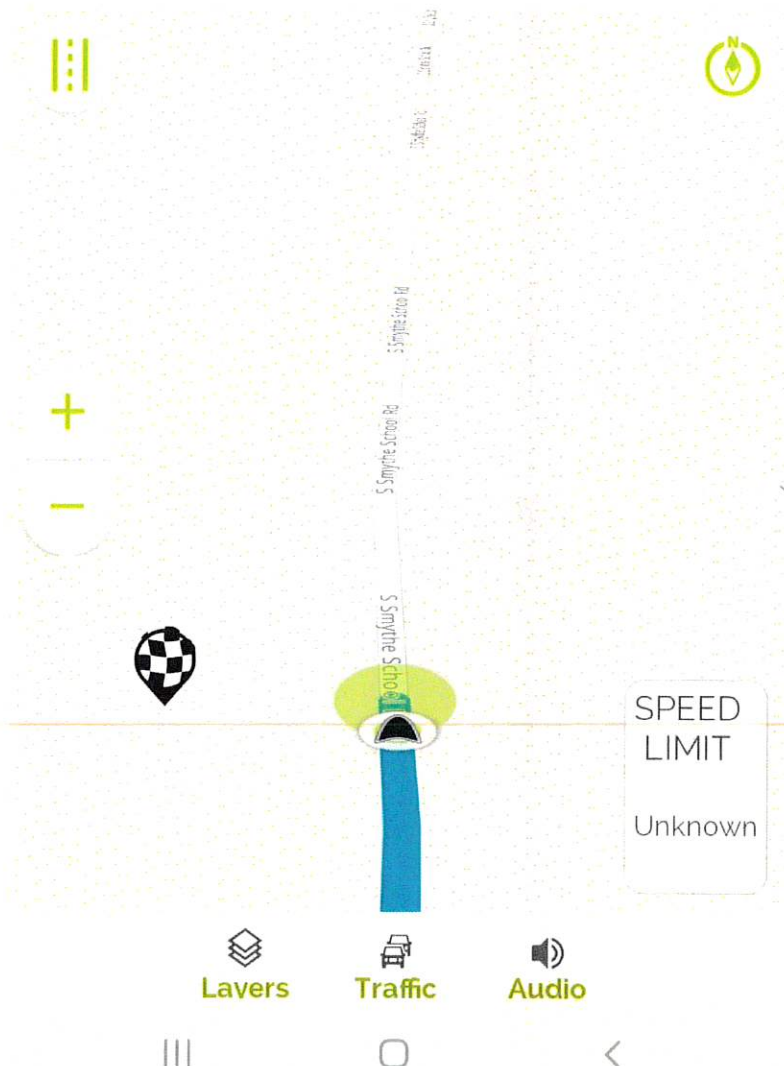
I did not get out to this area – but fiber will be added to Finnerman Rd

ETA: 4:10 PM CDT 40 FT 1 MIN

in 40 ft

10646 S Smythe School Rd

Directions List



None of the towers will be getting fiber or give broadband

Plymouth T2 R11 – Alan Sweeney district 2

Orfordville – 8746 W Stuart Rd

I did not get to this area – but fiber will be added

