



Minutes - June 6, 2023

Call to Order: Chair Bostwick called the hybrid meeting of the Ad Hoc Broadband Committee to order at 3:03 P.M. in conference room N1/N2.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Bostwick, Beaver, Wilson, Sutterlin, Sweeney, Winter, and Mawhinney (3:23 P.M.)

Committee Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Randy Terronez, Assistant to the Administrator.

Others Present: Sheila Williams; Mitch Olson, Bug Tussel; Russ Berg, Nokomis Networking.

Approve Agenda: Due to technical difficulties, Chair Bostwick turned the meeting over to Supervisor Wilson to chair this meeting. Supervisor Wilson accepted and lead the meeting.

Supervisor Sutterlin moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Sweeney.
ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: No public comment.

Approval of Minutes:

May 3, 2023 Minutes: Supervisor Sutterlin moved approval of the May 3, 2023 minutes, second by Supervisor Sweeney. ADOPTED.

Review, Discussion and Possible Action:

Reserving Broadband Bonding Commission Guarantee Payments for Broadband Project and Amending the 2023 Budget: Supervisor Sweeney moved approval of the above resolution, second by Supervisor Sutterlin.

Randy Terronez spoke to this resolution.

ADOPTED.

BEAD Planning Grant Request for Proposals - Review of Bids: Randy Terronez provided background on this item. An RFP was created and sent out per committee direction. One bid was received. He added that James Otterstein expressed his support for this proposal. Randy asked the

committee if they would like to interview the firm next week or take action today.

Supervisor Sweeney asked for more details from this firm on their rural resident outreach strategies.

Russ Berg let the committee know that the state is working with a marketing company, the Boston Communication Group, to do a more state-wide approach. He advised the committee to ask the firm how they plan to contact community members that do not already have internet.

Supervisor Sweeney moved to approve the bid, second by Supervisor Bostwick. ADOPTED.

BEAD Planning Grant - June 19, 2023 Deliverables: Randy Terronez explained that part of the BEAD Planning Grant we are required to submit a response to their questions. This is included in the packet. Any updates or suggestions can be sent to Randy.

(Supervisor Mawhinney joined the meeting at 3:23 P.M.)

Director/Staff Reports:

Funding Options Bug Tussel Wireless Project: Randy explained that we are looking into additional funding options.

Bug Tussel Wireless - Rock County Project Status - Drawdown Activity: Randy explained that the drawdown requests are included in the packet. Mitch Olson, Bug Tussel, explained that the drawdowns are due to construction season starting. Construction should start no later than July 1 in the northeast corner of the County.

Status of Bug Tussel Wireless (BTW) ARPA Repayment Agreement: Randy stated that a draft has been received from Bug Tussel's attorney that we are reviewing. This is currently being worked on.

Nokomis Networking - Russ Berg:

Current Market Assessment: No updates.

County Needs/Wants: No updates.

Technology Options: No updates.

Funding Options: Russ stated that there was a middle mile program put out in September 2022, but there have been no award updates. He was unaware if there were any applications from Rock County.

Partnerships: Russ Berg stated that stakeholders received an email from the PSC letting them know that the state has contact with the Boston Consulting group to help with outreach. They will work to encourage people to complete speed tests. The state will be asking for landowner lists. Russ will send

any additional information he receives to Randy for distribution.

Intergovernmental Activities: No updates.

Communications & County Webpage: Randy let the committee know that he receives many questions from County residents that have heard of the program. They inquire about wireless going up near them. The information on our website has been a good source for residents to refer to.

Discussion of Next Steps: The meeting for June 13 is no longer needed. A future meeting time will be determined.

Next meeting date and time::

2:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 13, Conf. Rm. N1: June 13 meeting is cancelled. Next meeting TBD.

Adjournment: Supervisor Sweeney moved to adjourn at 3:45 P.M., second by Supervisor Sutterlin. ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Haley Thompson
Office Coordinator

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.