

Dodge County - Broadband Workgroup
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Minutes

Call to Order

Jeffry Duchac, Broadband Workgroup Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

Workgroup Roll Call

Ed, Benter	Jeffry Duchac	Joe Marsik
John Nagler	Nate Olson	Matt Powell
Justin Reynolds	Annette Thompson	

Others Present:

Lori Hill	Jim Mielke	Russ Kottke
Ken Baehler	Mark Dodge	Angie Dickison

Public Comment

Annette Thompson presented an article from a Madison newspaper which was published on May 19, 2019. The article mentioned the lack of broadband in counties surrounding Dane County, which included Dodge County.

Review, Consider, Take Action: Broadband Workgroup Minutes

Motion by Ed Benter, seconded by Annette Thompson to approve the May 1, 2019 minutes. Motion carried.

State Purpose and Goals of the Dodge County Broadband Workgroup

The workgroup discussed the overall purpose/goal of the group. It was decided that the workgroup should adopt a formal purpose statement. Additionally, the purpose statement should include a measurable outcome of the workgroup. The group drafted a purpose/goal statement for the Dodge County Broadband Workgroup. The draft statement is to "Identify viable solutions to close digital divide in Dodge County and make recommendations to the Dodge County Board". The draft purpose/goal statement will be formally adopted at the next meeting.

Presentation by Angie Dickison of Wisconsin Broadband Office

Angie Dickison, State Broadband Director of Wisconsin Broadband Office, provided a presentation explaining the programs offered through the Wisconsin Broadband Office. Three programs are offered through that office which include the Broadband Expansion Grants Program, Broadband Forward, and Telecommunicator Forward. Angie Dickison provided information on each of the programs and the resources available at the state agency.

Discuss and Review the PSC Broadband Grant Program Presentation

The workgroup had questions for Angie Dickison that mainly focused on the grant funding available and how to successfully obtain grant funds. Angie asked Mark Dodge of Bertram Internet to explain the process used for obtaining a grant for Oconto County and asked Ken Baehler of Netwurx to explain the process used for obtaining a grant for the Town of Watertown.

Discuss Emerging Broadband Technologies / White Band Technology

Joe Marsik discussed what the white band technology was and if/how Dodge County should look into that technology. Other members of the workgroup and public discussed the white band technology.

Future Meeting Agenda Items

The group discussed a few items that should be placed on the next agenda. These items include but are not limited to: the adoption of the drafted purpose/goal; creating an action plan along with a timeline for the workgroup; and investigating the use of Request for Proposal (RFP) to determine if other companies are interested in working with Dodge County.

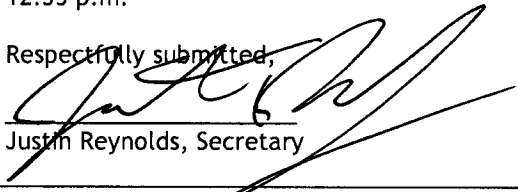
Set Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, June 12, 2019 - 1:00 p.m. - Administration Building (Rooms 1H/1I)
Wednesday, June 26, 2019 - 1:00 p.m. - Administration Building (Rooms 1H/1I)

Adjourn

Motion by Nate Olson, seconded by Jeffry Duchac to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Justin Reynolds, Secretary