

Dodge County - Broadband Workgroup

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Minutes

Call to Order

Jeffrey Duchac, Broadband Workgroup Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Workgroup Roll Call

Ed Benter	Jeffrey Duchac	Becky Glewen
David Guckenberger	Nicki Johnson	Joe Marsik
John Nagler	Nate Olson	Annette Thompson

Others Present:

Lori Hill	Russ Kottke	Bill Ehlenbeck
Marie Witzel	Ken Baehler	

Public Comment

Nate Olson introduced workgroup member Nicki Johnson of Mayville Engineering Company.

Review, Consider, Take Action: Broadband Workgroup Minutes

Motion by Joe Marsik, seconded by Annette Thompson to approve the June 12, 2019 minutes. Motion carried.

Update on Broadband Forward Certification

Nate Olson reported on discussions with the Dodge County Manager of Code Administration, per the required changes to meet the Broadband Forward Certification requirements. Such changes would require the creation of an Overlay District in the Dodge County Land Use Code. Nate reviewed this with staff from the PSC Broadband office, it was advised that changing the Land Use Code may not be in Dodge County's best interest. Also, the certification is not required for the PSC Broadband Expansion Grant. The workgroup decided not to go forward with this certification.

Review and Approve the Request for Interest (RFI) Document to be sent to all Service Providers in Dodge County

Justin Reynolds and Nate Olson created a draft Request for Interest (RFI) document for review. The workgroup recommended adding a cover letter and a reply date of July 15, 2019. Motion by Becky Glewen, seconded by Ed Benter to approve the Request for Interest Document with the listed changes to be sent to all internet providers operating in Dodge County. Motion carried.

Review and Approve a Template Letter of Support Document that could be used by any Public and Private Entity that is interested in supporting Dodge County's PSC grant application

Nate Olson presented a draft Template Letter of Support for review. The workgroup discussed the option of adding statistics and two or three examples of someone without service to personalize the letter. David Guckenberger recommended changing "broadband" in the third paragraph to "high speed internet access" to let people know what broadband means. David Guckenberger will draft a resolution to go along with the letter and send to Nate Olson. Motion by Becky Glewen, seconded by John Nagler to approve the Template Letter of Support Document with changes. Motion carried.

Review and Recommend Approval of the Telecommuter Forward Certification Resolution

The workgroup reviewed the Telecommuter Forward Certification Resolution. Motion by John Nager, seconded by Joe Marsik to approve the Telecommuter Forward Certification Resolution and send to the Executive Committee for their next meeting. Motion carried.

Review and Discuss the Dodge County Broadband Workgroup Action Plan, update if needed

The action items were updated and discussion was held on who to contact in the business community. Workgroup members will contact MBA, Chambers of Commerce, and the SHRM organization.

Discuss methods to provide education opportunities to public and private entities about the Dodge County's Broadband initiative

The workgroup discussed budgeting needs for potential projects and the need for Dodge County to budget for the PSC Broadband Expansion grant. It was further discussed to obtain support for the grant by communities contributing financially to the project (pledge). This financial commitment can be addressed at the Towns Association Meeting, Mayors Consortium, and Village meetings. It was recommended to ask for commitment of \$1,000 per community. The group also discussed the option of sending a survey out with every tax bill to determine broadband needs across the county.

Discuss Jefferson County's Broadband initiative and what the Jefferson County Broadband Committee is currently working on

Jefferson County is working with two companies to apply for PSC Broadband Expansion Grant funding, Bertram and Netwurx. They are currently working on an agreement and potential projects.

Future Meeting Agenda Items

The workgroup discussed items that could be placed on the next agenda: updates from outreach meetings/presentations, review RFI submittals, review and approve Resolution to accompany Letter of Support Document, review outcome of Telecommuter Forward Certification Resolution from County Board Meeting and Executive Committee Meeting, discuss options to survey broadband needs throughout Dodge County, and review/update the Broadband Workgroup Action Plan.

Set Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, August 6, 2019 - 1:00 p.m. - Administration Building (Rooms 1H/1I)

Adjourn

Motion by Joe Marsik, seconded by John Nagler to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Justin Reynolds, Secretary