



Washtenaw County Broadband Task Force
Established by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners
Working to Achieve Countywide Broadband Equity by 2022



VIRTUAL Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 18, 2021
8:00 – 9:00 A.M.

- I. Call to Order | Introductions / Roll Call
Chair Fuller called the meeting to order at 8:01 am
Present:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Barb Fuller | Chair of the Broadband Task Force |
| Ben Fineman | Vice Chair of the Broadband Task Force |
| Kyle Mazurek | Comcast |
| Commissioner Shannon Beeman | District 3 |
| Commissioner Jason Maciejewski | District 1 |
| Gary Munce | Implementation |
| Diane O’Connell | Ann Arbor Township |
| LJ Walter | Northfield Township (alternate) |
| Duane Luick | Lima Township |
| John Kingsley | Webster Township |
| Amanda Nimke-Ballard | Sylvan Township |
| Karen Nolte | Dexter Township |
| Don Stein | Bridgewater Township |
| Alec Jerome | Scio Township |
| Valisa Bristle | Freedom Township |
| Belynda Domas | Augusta Township |
| Gary Pirkola | Saline Township |
| Lisa Moutinho | Manchester Township |

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Members of the public | Lamar Weir (Congresswoman Dingell) |
| | Cal Messing |
| | Scott Wooster |
| | Chris Scharrer |

- II. Approval of the Agenda
Approval of agenda as presented motioned by Munce, seconded by Kingsley
Unanimous approval

- III. Approval of December 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes
Note: January 2021 meeting was cancelled
Approval of minutes as presented motioned by Munce, seconded by Nimke-Ballard
Chair Fuller asked for December 2021 meeting information to be updated to include date of meeting
Unanimous approval

IV. Welcome and Review

Level setting for our new and returning BBTF members

Gary Munce reviewed document that outlines historic activity and actions of group, including highlights of milestones and a timeline. Reminded members the BBTF website is also a good resource for information

V. Updates

A. RDOF Award (Rural Digital Opportunity Fund)

2 award winners in Washtenaw County. Midwest Energy and Mercury Wireless
6691 locations awarded, 4804 will be fiber connectivity
(currently we have 8,000 locations unserved)
RDOF Funding is operational, \$3.7 million over 10 years

Ziggy Fish from CTC then offered a presentation that gave an overview of opportunities to cover those areas/locations that remain unserved through RDOF, options and strategies that could serve to provide coverage, including the consideration of a new grant (NTIA) that has been discussed as a result of COVID. He will be working with BBTF Leadership to outline a plan.

He also reminded the group that patience is the key with RDOF – some areas may be 6 years before receiving service. We don't yet know the build schedule and/or priority of the carriers, and they are working in multiple communities.

The Broadband Task Force has posted a map of the areas awarded RDOF funding.

B. Back to School Hotspots

Gary Munce updated on the status of hotspots. 9 townships are now connected or will be very soon, providing wifi in the parking lots of township halls. Ann Arbor, Augusta, Bridgewater, Freedom, Lodi, Northfield, Scio. Sharon, and Sylvan pending.

VI. Action Items

None

VII. New Business

None

VIII. Old Business

None

IX. Township Updates

None

X. Public Comment

Lamar Weir from Congresswoman Dingell's office stated that the south side of the City of Ypsilanti is having some challenges with digital connectivity and asked about the hotspot program that could help children with timely submission of homework assignments. Chair Fuller and Vice Chair Fineman offered some resources (Toyota/WISD grant) and advised Mr. Weir they'd follow up with an email that provided additional information.

XI. Announcements

None

XII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Stein, seconded by Beeman

Unanimous approval

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 am

NEXT MEETING: March 18, 2021 @ 8:00-9:00AM – Zoom format