



## 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, March 18, 2021

8:00 – 9:00 A.M.

- I. Call to Order | Introductions / Roll Call  
Chair Fuller called the virtual meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Present:

- Barb Fuller – Chair
- Ben Fineman – Vice Chair
- Commissioner Jason Maciejewski
- Kyle Mazurek – Comcast
- Melanie Bell – Library
- Ann Arbor Township – Diane O’Connell
- Augusta Township – Belynda Domas
- Bridgewater Township – Don Stein
- Dexter Township- Karen Nolte
- Freedom Township- Valisa Bristle
- Lyndon Township – Gary Munce
- Manchester Township – Lisa Moutinho
- Northfield Township – LJ Walter
- Saline Township – Gary Pirkola
- Scio Township – Alec Jerome
- Sharon Township – Barb Fuller
- Sylvan Township – Amanda Nimke Ballard
- Webster Township – John Kingsley

Members of the public:

- Chris Scharf – DCS Technologies
- Lamar Weir – Congresswoman Dingell’s Office

- II. Approval of the Agenda  
Agenda unanimously approved as presented
- III. Approval of February 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes  
February 18 Meeting Minutes approved as presented  
Motion- Stein, Second – O’Connell
- IV. Updates  
None
- V. Action Items

None

## VI. New Business

### A. RFI for Broadband Gap Filling

Ben reported on the gap filling RFI – issued by the County on 3/18.

- 3307 households will not receive coverage via RDOF or CMIC grants
- Need to see if we can get those areas covered
- RFI issued to ask for cost associated with each township's unserved areas
- Information at a township level is in RFI – page 7
- Contiguous providers are expected to respond
- Funding is TBD
  - o NTIA grant
    - Rules will be announced very soon
    - Match may be required
      - Cost sharing conversations will have to happen
  - o American Rescue Plan funding
    - One approved use of the funds is broadband expansion
    - Suggest municipalities set aside funds to match, just in case
- RFP may follow – depending in information received from RFI
  - o RFI is due April 9

## VII. Old Business

None

## VIII. Township Updates

None

## IX. Public Comment

None

## X. Announcements

- ### A. "An Initial Award Recommendation" for Comcast's CMIC 2.0 "Washtenaw County" application, encompassing pockets of Ann Arbor, Scio and Lodi Township
- CMIC 2.0 Links (*same information in two different formats*)

-- [https://www.michigan.gov/dtmb/0,5552,7-358-82547\\_56345\\_91154\\_102790\\_102811---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/dtmb/0,5552,7-358-82547_56345_91154_102790_102811---,00.html)

-- [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dtmb/Comcast - Washtenaw - CMIC 718267 7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dtmb/Comcast_-_Washtenaw_-_CMIC_718267_7.pdf)

Kyle shared an update on CMIC funding –

- Comcast received initial grant award consideration on 3/5 for parts of Ann Arbor Township, Scio Township and Lodi Township
  - o This now advances to comment period, through 5/5
  - o Comments of support from these municipalities/BBTF members would be welcomed/appreciated
  - o Formal announcement of awards expected in June, no dollars have been assigned at this time
- CMIC 1.5 in Manchester Township was withdrawn due to the areas RDOF award

Barb reminded everyone of the Comcast Essentials program – information on BBTF webpage, economic (internet access) program for areas with service

Kyle added that [www.everyone.org](http://www.everyone.org) is a website that will allow you to enter your zip-code and then advise you if internet economic, internet access programs are available in your area.

Barb has been working with the Community Observer on broadband efforts in Washtenaw County – an article will be published in April – will send BBTF members link when it is available.

Commissioner Maciejewski advised the group that the Board of Commissioners has approved remote meetings for the county's public bodies (including this one) through 12/31/21.

- XI. Adjournment  
The meeting adjourned at 8:45 am

**NEXT MEETING:** April 15, 2021 @ 8:00-9:00AM – Zoom format