



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, July 15, 2021
8:00 – 9:00 A.M.

I. Call to Order

Chair Fuller called the meeting to order at 8:00 am

Members Present:

Diane O’Connell

Belynda Domas

Cal Messing

Karen Nolte

Valisa Bristle

Elaine Bater

Gary Munce

Lisa Moutinho

LJ Walter

Gary Pirkola

Alec Jerome

Amanda Nimke Ballard

John Kingsley

Ann Arbor Township

Augusta Township

Bridgewater Township

Dexter Township

Freedom Township

Lima Township

Lyndon Township

Manchester Township

Northfield Township

Saline Township

Scio Township

Sylvan Township

Webster Township

Jason Maciejewski

Shannon Beeman

Kyle Mazurek

Barb Fuller

Ben Fineman

Commissioner District 1

Commissioner District 3

Comcast

Chair

Vice Chair

Others Present:

Paul Schissler

Justin Heinze

Chris Scharrer

II. Approval of the Agenda

Chair Fuller moved the agenda, adding

4C - CMIC 2.0 Award Announcement

4D - Update from the Chair

Kingsley motioned support as amended, seconded by Munce

Unanimous Approval

III. Approval of June 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes
Motion to approve as presented, Munce. Seconded by Beeman
Unanimous approval

IV. Updates

A. Washtenaw Board of County Commissioners

American Rescue Plan allocation

to fund broadband gap-filling initiative

Commissioner Maciejewski discussed the upcoming conversation at the Board of Commissioners table about allocating American Rescue Plan Act funds sufficient to close the digital divide in Washtenaw County

- A decision is forthcoming – discussion at August 4 BOC Meeting
 - Ways & Means & possibly Board meetings
- Washtenaw County is receiving \$71m
- Broadband is an encouraged use of the funds
- Encouraged residents to complete BOC survey
- Townships will be hearing from County Administration regarding a contribution (cost sharing) from the townships own ARPA funding

Commissioner Beeman added:

- She will be holding two town hall meetings to discuss ARPA options with residents.
 - Residents are encouraged to share, link and encourage everyone to share their broadband stories and struggles via survey

B. RFP for Broadband Gap Filling

Ben reported that interviews with RFP respondents have concluded, awards will be dependent on BOC allocation

C. CMIC 2.0 Award Announcement

Kyle shared that Comcast has received a CMIC award for 480 addresses (total) in the following townships: Scio (198), Ann Arbor/Northfield (119) and Lodi (163)

- The CMIC timeline is TBD – although the terms of the grant proposed a completion date of 9/2025

D. Update from the Chair

Survey link is on BBTF page (red box at top of page) – please take the survey, attend town halls and August 4 meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Encourage neighbors, friends and family to do the same.

V. Action Items

None

VI. New Business

None

VII. Old Business

None

VIII. Township Updates

LJ reported that Northfield Township had been approached by National Fiber regarding a buildout. The group presented their plan at the Tuesday Northfield Board meeting – this would be a co-op model. Ben offered a reminder, when you get these solicitations, please refer the company to Ben and Gary Munce, too.

IX. Public Comment

Paul Schissler – ATT customer (1.4d/.03 up) on Trinkle Road in Dexter applauded the efforts of the BBTF, stated his neighbors have access to high speed internet, but has been quoted exorbitant rate to have his home connected. Will take the survey.

X. Announcements

Chair Fuller again reminded the group to attend and participate in the August 4 BOC meeting.

XI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn – Walter, supported by Beeman

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 am

NEXT MEETING: August 19, 2021 @ 8:00-9:00AM – Zoom format