



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, September 16, 2021
8:00 – 9:00 A.M.

- I. Call to Order | Introductions / Roll Call
The meeting was called to order by Chair Fuller at 8:00 am

Present:

Ann Arbor Township
Augusta Township
Bridgewater Township
Dexter Township
Freedom Township
Lyndon Township
Manchester Township
Northfield Township
Saline Township
Scio Township
Sharon Township
Sylvan Township
Webster Township

Diane O’Connell
Belynda Domas
Don Stein
Diane Nolte
Valisa Bristle
Gary Munce
Lisa Moutinho
LJ Walter
Gary Pirkola
Alec Jerome
Barb Fuller
Amanda Nimke-Ballard
John Kingsley

Commissioner Shannon Beeman
Commissioner Jason Maciejewski

Kyle Mazurek Comcast
Melanie Bell Plymouth District Library
Ben Fineman Vice Chair of the Broadband Task Force
Barb Fuller Chair of the Broadband Task Force

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Vicki
Kim Rickett
Chris Scharrer
Joe Kelly
Lucas Larson

- II. Approval of the Agenda
Motion to approve agenda as presented, Jerome. Supported by Kingsley.
Unanimous approval.

- III. Approval of August 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes
Motion to approve minutes of August 19, 2021 as presented, Stein. Supported by Jerome.
Unanimous approval.

- IV. Update
Chair Fuller opened her comments by thanking the group for answering the call, and for encouraging residents of your townships to do the same. Our request for countywide broadband gap-filling funds was unanimously approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Maciejewski added, ‘We did it – we got our funding’ through the continued work of the group, their time and relentless letters, emails and conversations. Next step is to close out the RFP and get agreements (contracts with vendors) signed. He added that 3 Ann Arbor Commissioners were with us all along and supportive of our efforts.

Commissioner Beeman echoed the sentiment of Chair Fuller and Commissioner Maciejewski- it is the work of the Broadband Task Force that got us to where we are, fully funded for countywide broadband equity. She thanked the group.

Vice-Chair Fineman also thanked the group, recognizing the work of Jason, Shannon, Barb, Lisa and the RFP Committee. He also pointed out the misinformation that had been shared at the previous evenings Board of Commissioners meeting, regarding the percentage of the population who would benefit from this initiative. 30% of the funding will benefit the west side of the county, 32%, the east side, and 38% in the central portion of the county.

- V. Action Items
None

- VI. New Business
None at this time

- VII. Old Business
None

- VIII. Township Updates
Lyndon Townships Gary Munce thanked the group for their efforts and stated that equity has always been a part of the mission of the Broadband Task Force. The group will continue to be mindful of it as they move forward to the next phase of the work.

Webster Township’s John Kingsley asked about the process for contract awards. Chair Fuller stated that awards will go out by the end of the month. 5 day challenge period, with immediate contract negotiations thereafter. Complete buildout is expected to take 1-5 years.

- IX. Public Comment
None

X. Announcements

Chair Fuller announced that Comcast has amended their Internet Essentials program to include eligibility for Pell Grant recipients - \$9.95 monthly or less.

She also stated a press release announcing the funding for countywide broadband equity would be forthcoming.

XI. Adjournment

9

Motion to adjourn made by Kingsley. Supported by Walter.

Unanimous approval

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 am

NEXT MEETING: Oct 21, 2021 @ 8:00-9:00AM – Zoom format