



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



VIRTUAL Meeting Agenda

Thursday, October 21, 2021
8:00 – 9:00 A.M.

- I. Call to Order | Introductions / Roll Call
Chair Fuller called the meeting to order 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
Commissioner Shannon Beeman
Commissioner Jason Maciejewski
Comcast
Library Representative
Vice-Chair
Chair

Diane O’Connell
Belynda Domas
Don Stein
Karen Nolte
Valisa Bristle
Gary Munce
Lisa Moutinho
L.J. Walter
Gary Pirkola
Alec Jerome
Barb Fuller
Amanda Nimke Ballard
John Kingsley
District 3
District 1
Kyle Mazurek
Melanie Bell
Ben Fineman
Barbara Fuller

Others Present:

Gregory Dill
Chris Scharrer
Kim Rickett
Joe Kelly
Jared Mauch

Washtenaw County Administrator

- II. Approval of the Agenda
Motion to approve the agenda as presented, G. Munce, supported by J. Kingsley
Unanimous approval

- III. Approval of September 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes
Motion to approve the September 16, 2021 meeting minutes as presented:
J. Kingsley, supported by G. Munce
Unanimous approval
- IV. Update
Broadband Gap-Fill Initiative
Gap filling awards being done on a township by township basis, negotiations underway.

The county has added an attorney specializing in this type of work – Michael Watzka

More info will be provided at next month's meeting.

An RFP has been issued for a project manager (#8215), closes at 10am on Friday, October 22. Purpose is to provide oversight and help the BBTF/County to achieve the goal of countywide broadband in the most economical, expedient way possible. (Note: The project manager is for the gap filling efforts only, not RDOF or CMIC)

Commissioner Maciejewski asked township representatives to encourage their residents utilize the 'Contact Us' on the BBTF page, especially if they're unsure of which funding model will serve them.

G. Munce asked the group to consider ways to share information with residents about the various programs, timelines, etc. Perhaps FAQ's? He added that the Chelsea District Library could work with us to share educational/informational opportunities with their membership.

J. Kingsley suggested a press release, when the time is right.

L.J. Walter agreed – additionally, post flyers in libraries, senior centers, etc.

Chair Fuller suggested a flyer for winter tax bills, Cmsr. Maciejewski, a one pager on the BBTF website. D. O'Connell said they'd be happy to put information in their newsletter.

- V. Action Items
 - A. 2022 Meeting Schedule
 - i. March 17, July 21, Oct 20
- Note: The Broadband Task Force sunsets Dec 31, 2022
- Motion to adopt the 2022 Broadband Task Force meeting schedule as proposed, Stein, supported by Bristle.
Unanimous approval of 2022 BBTF meeting schedule.

- VI. New Business
 - A. Township Video Service Franchise Agreement
 - B. Township Metro Act Permit

Chair Fuller asked townships to research if they have existing agreements, and if so, please advise.

- VII. Old Business
 - None

VIII. Township Updates

Chair Fuller asked L.J. Walter how the Northfield Township broadband build-out plan is going. LJ has nothing new to share, National Fiber has presented and agreement to the township, but it is still in the hands of their attorney. Chair Fuller advised LJ that the BBTF is proceeding with gap filling as if there is a need for it in Northfield Township. LJ agreed, parallel paths is best.

IX. Public Comment

No public comment

X. Announcements

Valisa shared that Freedom Township had to get a remote server in order to conduct daily business, hold elections.

Karen Nolte asked how the BBTF is planning to manage the '1-offs', that is , existing homes that are unintentionally missed or future construction. Ben stated that we are exploring the best way to build contingency into contracts so no homes are missed. Future construction is an issue that will need to be addressed through other avenues.

Commissioner Beeman reinforced the need for a '1 pager' that outlines the various paths our residents will be receiving broadband coverage.

Administrator Dill thanked the group for their work and reminded them how supportive the County is of this initiative. Chair Fuller thanked the Administrator and asked him to extend our thanks to his team, too.

XI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn, Beeman, supported by Walter
The meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

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