



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, November 18, 2021
8:00 – 9:00 A.M.

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

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

Present:

Ann Arbor Township
Bridgewater Township
Dexter Township
Freedom Township
Lima Township
Lyndon Township
Manchester Township
Northfield Township
Saline Township
Scio Township
Sharon Township
Sylvan Township
Webster Township
District 1 Commissioner
District 3 Commissioner
Incumbent Carriers
Vice Chair
Chair

Diane O’Connell
Don Stein
Karen Nolte
Valisa Bristle
Elaine Bader
Gary Munce
Lisa Moutinho
L.J. Walter
Gary Pirkola
Alec Jerome
Barb Fuller
Amanda Nimke-Ballard
John Kingsley
Jason Maciejewski
Shannon Beeman
Kyle Mazurek – Comcast
Ben Fineman
Barb Fuller

Washtenaw County Administrator
Washtenaw County Staff

Gregory Dill
Michelle Billard – Corp Counsel
Kelly Belknap – ARPA Compliance
Andrew DeLeeuw – Strategic Plan

Members of the Public

Lucas Larsen
Chris Scharrer
Jared Mauch
Joe Kelly
Justin Heinze

II. Approval of the Agenda

Motioned by Kingsley, supported by Nimke-Ballard
Unanimous approval of agenda as presented

- III. Approval of Oct 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes
Motioned by Jerome, supported by Stein
Unanimous approval of minutes as presented
- IV. Update - Broadband Gap-Fill Initiative
Gregory Dill, Washtenaw County Administrator
Administrator Dill assured the group that his office was working to keep the process moving and then asked Kelly Belknap to offer additional updates.

Ms. Belknap shared that:

- Contracts with ISP's are in progress – timeline for completion is unknown
- Will be in compliance with ARPA rules
- Project manager contract is awaiting approval from the Administrator

Administrator Dill will work to increase the pace and get these contracts done. He thanked the group for their patience and involvement and will be scheduling a meeting with Barb and others to keep the momentum going.

- V. Action Items
None – Chair Fuller asked everyone to read the update she provided.
- VI. New Business
- VII. Old Business
- VIII. Township Updates
Gary and Ben attended the Michigan Moonshot conference on 11/9 in Traverse City- Ben was a presenter and shared information to help municipalities begin their broadband efforts. Washtenaw County is generally regarded as a leader on this issue and has the attention of the entire state. Ben appreciates the leadership and vision of this group.

Barb shared that commissioner districts were recently redrawn (as they are every 10 years in alignment with census), Commissioner Maciejewski lost a portion of Dexter, Commissioner Beeman's district remained mostly the same.

Remember, you were provided updates for tax bills, newsletters.

Dexter has identified 80 addresses for gap filling verification. Ben working on it.

If one of the gap-filling awardees has a Metro-Act agreement with your township, please send it to Barb, Ben and Lisa.

No update from Northfield Township on their own broadband efforts. Waiting on more info.

- IX. Public Comment
None

X. Announcements

County's State of Emergency (that allows us to meet remotely) expires on 12/31. We will likely resume meeting at the Chelsea District Library. Will keep the group updated.

XI. Adjournment

Chair Fuller adjourned the meeting at 8:35 am

NEXT MEETING Dec 16, 2021 @ 8:00-9:00AM – Zoom format