



# Dane County

## Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

### Dane County Broadband Task Force

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Thursday, November 2, 2023

9:00 AM This is a Hybrid Meeting: Attend in person at City-County  
Building, Room 354, 210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd;  
Attend virtually via Zoom.

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See below for additional instructions on how to attend the meeting and provide public  
testimony.

#### A. Call To Order

*Staff: Jaron McCallum, Majid Allen, Cass Hill, and Lauren Kuhl*

Chair RATCLIFF called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

**Present** 12 - KATE MCGINNITY, TODD VIOLANTE, RENEE LAUBER, MELISSA RATCLIFF,  
BOB WIPPERFURTH, BILL DICKMEYER, DEANA ZENTNER, JOYCE TIKALSKY,  
PETER WEIL, JEFF GLAZER, SARAH EDGERTON, and DAVID DIGIOVANNI

**Excused** 3 - MICHELLE JENSEN, ANDREW HOYOS, and SARAH GHEE

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

[2023](#)  
[MIN-362](#) Minutes of the October 5, 2023 Dane County Broadband Task Force Meeting

**Attachments:** [2023 MIN-362](#)

A motion was made by WIPPERFURTH, seconded by GLAZER, that the Minutes be  
approved. The motion carried by a voice vote.

#### C. Action Items

#### D. Presentations

#### E. Reports to Committee

## 1. Report on Activities from Dane County Broadband Coordinator

*Jaron McCallum, Dane County Broadband Coordinator presented on what he has been working on since starting.*

### **OUTREACH TO COMMUNITIES**

*Has been to town and village meetings and has met with several people in communities. Went to Towns Association meeting.*

*When doing outreach, stresses importance of broadband, why people should care, lack of regulation in broadband industry, as well as economics of situation (how providers decide to expand to different areas), what current providers are in the area, what funding opportunities exist. Inquire about what community has done to try to improve broadband. Moved AECOM Report Status to beginning of the meeting*

*Staff have been working with AECOM to produce final copy of report. Final edits are expected to be delivered to Planning by November 6th.*

### **OUTREACH TO ISP'S**

*Have talked with approximately 20 ISP's since starting.*

*Have met with ISP's both proactively and have been contacted by some as well to meet. Ratcliff inquired if the visits with ISP have been well received, and Jaron indicated that they have.*

*McGinnity inquired about the number of Towns that Jaron met with, Jaron estimated 10, but has had communication with a majority.*

*Weil inquired if the topic of interacting with ISP's and towns have come up. Jaron indicated that most ISP's are willing to talk with communities that are interested. Weil noted that if conversations are going to be had with ISP's, the questions should be asked as to why some ISP's are not interested in meeting with communities.*

*Have had conversations with Alliant Energy, and where the AECOM report fits in.*

*Wipperfurth left at 9:21am*

*Glazer asked about more detail regarding Alliant Energy.*

*Jaron indicated that they are open to some synergies if they do not need to do any route changes. His impression is that it is more limited than he originally thought when going in. They also spoke about the challenges of negotiating with an ISP to tap into their infrastructure.*

*Glazer asked if Jaron had the sense that it's an infrastructure problem. Jaron indicated they've put fiber where it makes sense from a business standpoint, but they're not an ISP.*

*Glazer inquired if the county could play a role bridging the gap between ISP's and Alliant. Jaron indicated that it could be a potential role.*

*Ratcliff inquired if Alliant could play a role similar to MUFN, Jaron indicated they are not really in that kind of a business.*

*Glazer asked if there is a sense that there are other private providers that may be interested in something similar to Alliant Energy. Jaron indicated there may be more to discuss middle mile.*

### **PSC BEAD PROPOSAL**

*Jaron and Task Force leadership provided input as to how the PSC will establish community anchor institutions for funding. Comments submitted include bringing opportunities into alignment, funding mechanisms, increase state challenge process timeline. The comments are public and available to see.*

*The PSC is meeting on Friday, 11/3, and the BEAD proposal is on their agenda.*

### **PSC CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND**

*Talking with ISP's and municipalities to get application in by November 7. Have worked with one municipality to get an application to be submitted.*

**OTHER PROJECTS**

*Working with AECOM, went to UW Extension Broadband training in October and met with state, federal, local contacts.*

*Ratcliff asked about next steps for Jaron noting that his role as the middle person is advantageous.*

**2. Discussion of Task Force Next Steps**

*Jaron indicated that next steps the Task Force may be involved in is what role the county may have financially in grant applications. Jaron indicated that having a funding match on the table, the ISP may be more likely to add the municipality to the top of their priority list.*

*Find a way to strategically meet with municipalities, where they are to meet their needs. Is it regional meetings, a broadband workshop in one spot in the county – what is the best way to do this*

*Can a website be developed to provide resources at disposal.*

*Is there a way regarding permitting to keep better tabs of where ISP's are doing work.*

*Look at ways in the future to streamline or understand the process for permitting.*

*A few items from the AECOM report could go in the "maybe" bucket for the Task Force to work on and need further research. Renee indicated she can work with Jaron on contacting the 32 towns – there are 7 regions that the Towns Association uses.*

*McGinnity indicated that Supervisors that represent towns could be part of connecting the towns as well.*

*Edgerton indicated the City of Madison is also dealing with this. Have a contact sheet as a point of reference for someone to talk to try to help with ISP's putting in fiber with not much communication.*

*Ratcliff noted the interest in advocacy with the state to change state statute. The need to continue to bring up the importance of broadband to the state.*

**3. AECOM Report Status**

*Staff are working on remaining items with AECOM*

**F. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

*December 7th, 2023 at 9:00am*

**G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda**

**H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law**

**I. Adjourn**

**A motion was made by GLAZER, seconded by MCGINNITY, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:58am.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lauren Kuhl, pending Task Force approval