Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Dane County Broadband Task Force

Thursday, September 2, 2021 **9:00 AM** **Virtual Zoom Meeting: See top of agenda for instructions on how to join the webinar or call in by phone.**

Remote meeting: Please see top of agenda for instructions on how to join the meeting.

A. Call To Order

Staff present: Josh Schroeder, Lindsay Menard, Majid Allan, Sharon Lezberg, Carrie Spring, Alyssa Kenney PSC, Jaron McCallum

Present 14 - MELISSA RATCLIFF, DAVE RIPP, KATE MCGINNITY, TODD VIOLANTE, RENEE LAUBER, BOB WIPPERFURTH, BILL DICKMEYER, MICHELLE JENSEN, DEANA ZENTNER, JOYCE TIKALSKY, JAMES DANKY, PETER WEIL, CATHY SUTTER, and SARAH GHEE

Excused 1 - ANDREW HOYOS

B. Consideration of Minutes

2021 MIN-239 Minutes of the August 5, 2021 Broadband Task Force Meeting

Attachments: 2021 MIN-239

A motion was made by LAUBER, seconded by MCGINNITY, that the Minutes be approved as amended. The motion carried by a voice vote.

C. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

None

D. Action Items

None

E. Presentations

None

F. Reports to Committee

1. 2021 RPT-382 Grant Funding Opportunities

Attachments: SpringerMemo
National Association of Counties Broadband Task Force Report
Governors Task Force on Broadband Access
RDOF Funding
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
ARPA Broadband Access Grant Eligibility Guidance
Announcement of the ARPA Broadband Access Grants

Presenter: Carrie Springer, Dane County Legislative Lobbyist

Tentative federal Infrastructure bill which will provided additional funding of 65 billion dollars to broadband expansion. 42.5 billion provided to states through the National Telecommunication Informations Administrations(NTIA). Structure to this funding will be created within six months. 14 billion dollar allocated for permanent subsidies. 1 billion dollar provided to middle mile network also included in the Federal infrastructure bill with application directly through NTIA.

Dane County currently benefiting from funds released from FCC through the RDOF expansion. Charter Communications and LTD Broadband currently expanding broadband within Dane County using this RDOF funding. Funding also included to update FCC maps. Discussion of contacting ISPs to gather the data they used to apply for this funding.

Discussion of other potential sources of information including John Hallick from the Town of Vermont broadband expansion, local schools, and families who participated in remote learning over the last year.

Additional links provided.

Current DPI Survey
https://dpi.wi.gov/broadband/internet-access-home-survey

Data Portal
https://dpi.wi.gov/broadband/public-portal

Town of Vermont 2018 PSC grant summary info
https://psc.wi.gov/Documents/broadband/RptGrantSummary_2018-1.pdf

More info about Vermont
<href a
"https://www.vermonttownship.com/Documents/Citizen%20Outreach/Final%20Broadband%20Update%20September%202018.pdf">

Map of areas eligible for RDOF funding
https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/maps/auction-904-updated-jun20-eligible-areas/

2. Survey protocol and questions to consider

Presented by Sharon Lezberg

Summary of interview with John Stevenson from UW-Madison Survey Research Center.
How would Dane County do a survey?
What are the considerations?
What are the processes of doing a survey and what is the methodology options?
What we need to know?

Discussion ensued about methodology for the survey and how the task force can include a survey within municipality mailings like tax bills or newsletters. Discussion also included grant usage for survey mailings.

2021 RPT-432 SURVEY RESEARCH INTRODUCTION

Attachments: 2021 RPT-432

3. Presentation Regarding Grant Requirements

Presented by Alyssa Kenney and Jaron McCallum of the PSC

Rules and guidance for each grant depends of the source of the funds. State funding for broadband expansion passed earlier this year. McCallum discussed setting up a general plans for grants before they become available. McCallum also discussed requirements, information that needs to be included for grant application, and the evaluation of the grant applications.

State grants requirements are set by Wisconsin statute §196.5.4.

Kenney reviewed the Emergency Broadband Benefit program and American Rescue Plan Act funding, and federal infrastructure bill.

Link to distributed funds from ARPA
https://www.revenue.wi.gov/Pages/SLF/ARPA.aspx

Taskforce discussed grants and how to get all municipalities engaged.

2021 RPT-428 WBO PRESENTATION - 090221

Attachments: 2021 RPT-428

4. 2021 DISC-030 Discuss Survey Ideas

Attachments: Wisconsin Internet Self Report Survey

Taskforce discussed potential survey ideas and reviewed examples of different survey including the WISER survey. Discussion also included what information the taskforce plans to get out of the survey.

WISER survey
https://arcg.is/1SSzr50

5. Discussion regarding communication with municipalities about using ARPA funding for broadband expansion

Taskforce discussed requesting municipalities set aside funding for broadband expansion.

Dane County Towns Associations voted to join in on setting aside funding ARPA funding for broadband expansion in last meeting. Discussion about including different entities in letter to municipalities about broadband funds.

Draft initial letter, related to communicating to municipalities about ARPA funding for broadband use with input from Renee Lauber of the Dane County Towns Association and Bob Wipperfurth of the Dane County Cities and Villages Association, to be brought back to the task force during the October meeting.

A motion was made by MCGINNITY, seconded by DANKY, that the motion be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Discuss speed test results

Discussion of speed test results ensued for 5 minutes.

2021 RPT-434 DANE COUNTY TASKFORCE MEMBERS INTERNET SPEED TEST

Attachments: 2021 RPT-434

Present 12 - MELISSA RATCLIFF, DAVE RIPP, KATE MCGINNITY, TODD VIOLANTE, RENEE LAUBER, BILL DICKMEYER, MICHELLE JENSEN, DEANA ZENTNER, JAMES DANKY, PETER WEIL, CATHY SUTTER, and SARAH GHEE

Excused 3 - BOB WIPPERFURTH, JOYCE TIKALSKY, and ANDREW HOYOS

G. Future Meeting Items and Dates

October 7, 2021 at 9:00am

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

None

I. Adjourn

A motion was made by LAUBER, seconded by JENSEN, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Josh Schroeder, pending Taskforce approval