

GREEN COUNTY COMMITTEE MINUTES

COMMITTEE: Broadband Ad Hoc Committee **TIME:** 1:30 pm
DATE: Wednesday, March 2, 2022
LOCATION: Green County Historic Courthouse
 County Boardroom
 2016 16th Avenue, Monroe, WI 53566

Members Present:

Ryan Camron
Rob Sommers
Steve Engles
Kathy Pennington
Bill Peterson
Jane Curran-Meuli

Others Present:

Siggi Eckhardt

Meeting was called to order by Camron, chair.

Motion by Pennington, second by Sommers to accept the minutes of the February 16, 2022, meeting with one amendment, strike the word(s), “Addendum...” Motion carried on a voice vote.

Some feedback from the Finance Committee was relayed by Camron. The policy received a relatively positive review, and Finance voted to approve. The policy will now/next be considered by the full Green County Board.

The committee learned that there has been an uptick in participation regarding speed tests. The committee discussed a couple of the more significant “gaps” remaining on the map and how some of these areas do not have a lot of infrastructure/population generally.

Eckhardt shared some happenings in his area, Town of Exeter. Interestingly, he learned from TDS that TDS has a federal-funds related obligation to provide fiber connects to customers with landline service by 2028, in the event said customers have maintained service for at least two years. The committee voiced interest/possibility for seeing this federal “mandate” “in writing.” A general statement made by a TDS representative was shared; if the county or other partner is willing to pay 70% of the build cost, TDS will always proceed to build (it was also stated that fiber costs about \$17,000 per mile). Eckhardt also described how fixed wireless towers being built in the county typically have cellular service equipment attached/installed, providing a signal boost which he has personally observed.

The committee discussed the idea of Green County obtaining PSC “Broadband Forward!” community certification, as well as the idea of joining “Connect Americans Now” (CAN). Those who spoke expressed approval, but it was felt that the committee should fully review the specific requirements first (such as the ordinance requirement), before taking any action.

The committee reviewed/discussed meeting frequency and scheduling. **Motion by Engles, second by Sommers to adjust the frequency of meetings to once per month, with the meeting time being the same 1:30 but occurring on the third Wednesday of each month. The committee would forgo another March meeting and next meet on April 20. Motion carried on a voice vote.**

Motion by Pennington, second by Sommers to adjourn. Motion carried on a voice vote.