

**KANDIYOHI COUNTY AND CITY OF WILLMAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)
BROADBAND AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

October 3, 2016

Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building, Willmar

Present: Mark Boesch, Travis Bonnema, Donna Boonstra, Dean Bouta, Kathy Dillon, Larry Handlin, Linda Kacher, Larry Kleindl, Michelle Marotzke, Les Nelson, David Sisser and Donn Winckler

Absent: Bruce DeBlicke and Scott Froemming

Guests: Nate Erickson and Ben Larson

EDC Staff: Connie Schmoll, Business Development Specialist

Secretarial: Diane Beck, Legal & Administrative Assistants, Inc. (LAA)

Chairperson Dean Bouta called the meeting to order at approximately 12:03 p.m.

MINUTES—

IT WAS MOVED BY Les Nelson, SECONDED BY Linda Kacher, to approve the minutes of the August 29, 2016 meeting as emailed. MOTION CARRIED.

REPORTS

Blandin Hack₂0 grant. Larry Handlin introduced guests, Nate Erickson and Ben Larson from Ridgewater College. Erickson distributed a flyer and shared that Hack₂0 will be held on October 14-16, 2016 (see attached). The hackathon will begin at Green Mill on Friday, October 12, and continue at WORKUP on October 15 and 16. The purpose of the hackathon is for attendees to collaborate, introduce and develop new apps. They are hoping for 50 attendees. The hackathon is open to professionals and students. Non-technical attendees are welcome to attend and work on design, etc. There is no charge for attending and complimentary food is provided. Prizes will be awarded, including a grand prize of a Raspberry Pi (a miniature computer). Two apps were developed at the 2015 Hack₂0: Willmar Yellow Bikes and AquaHunter. They are currently looking for additional app ideas and prefer to start with four to five. Erickson mentioned an app idea for a disc golf map. Handlin complimented this year's leaders on the great work they have done. Sponsors of the Hack₂0 are WORKUP, EDC, Ridgewater College, Blandin Foundation, MinnWest Technology Foundation, Fast Global Solutions and BusinessWare Solutions. Sponsors are still being accepted. Blandin Foundation grant dollars left from 2015 and sponsor donations are being used to fund the 2016 hackathon. Sponsor dollars from this year can be carried over to 2017; however, the Blandin grant dollars need to be disbursed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Border-to-Border Grant application. Connie Schmoll shared the grant application is complete. Seventy-one letters of support and seven video taped messages of support were submitted with the grant application. Letters of support were received from individuals, as well as businesses and placed in categories with several offering evidence of economic impact. Schmoll shared the letters and thanked the committee for their support and hard work in obtaining the letters of support. There are a total of 1,613 possible drops in the proposed service area with a project cost totaling \$ 9.9 million. Sections of the original map were moved or dropped from the original plan to keep the project in the \$10 million cost. Schmoll explained the funding process which includes bonding from Kandiyohi County to finance a portion of the project. Schmoll distributed a map of the proposed service area (see attached) and has a list of businesses and farms included in the project. Schmoll showed a PowerPoint presentation she will send to committee members (see attached) . The grant will be submitted to the State of Minnesota today. The outcome of the grant should be known by the end of the year.

Schmoll shared that some community members received a letter from TDS stating it may file for one or more state broadband grants. There would be a good share of overlap of its proposed service areas with the area proposed by Kandiyohi County's Border-to-Border Grant application. The service TDS is proposing is 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload for 75% of the locations and at least 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload for the remaining locations. Schmoll stated Frontier Communications is also putting together a grant application for a portion of Kandiyohi County. Frontier Communications has asked for a letter of support from the EDC. The grant would bring the following areas up to the 25/3 Mbps to make them scalable: Kandiyohi, Atwater, Lake Lillian, Prinsburg, Svea, Roseland, Fahlun, Diamond Lake and Blomkest. Schmoll talked with Joe Buttweiler, who feels only one grant will be given in a geographic area. In the past, incumbents were not able to apply for grants, only contest certain areas of a grant; however, due to legislative changes, that is no longer the case. Kleindl stated verbiage was included in a letter of support that Kandiyohi County has been working on this grant for three years. Mark Boeschen inquired if something can be done during the waiting period. Schmoll commented there is a broadband alliance that is working on a statement to the state office. She will share the draft statement with committee members. It was known that Kandiyohi County's grant application would cause competition. Handlin stated comments can be made; however, would need to be done in St. Paul.

IT WAS MOVED BY David Sisser, SECONDED BY Michelle Marotzke, that the Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar Economic Development Commission's Broadband and Advanced Technology Committee will not submit a letter of support for Frontier Communications for its Border-to-Border Grant application. MOTION CARRIED.

Chair Bouta thanked Kleindl, Schmoll and Handlin for their efforts in putting the grant application together. The committee also recognized Chair Bouta for his hard work on the grant project. Schmoll complimented Les Nelson and Donn Winckler for their assistance with the demographic data, as well as narrative on the goals and partnerships with Mid-Minnesota Development Commission and Vision 2040 for the grant application.

Adoption projects. Handlin reported on work being done with local high schools to attain a higher level of broadband use. They are working on outreach to minority populations to get them more involved in technology. The committee would need to go out and continue interactions to promote technology. They are also promoting the use of Raspberry Pis which are typically a learning tool. A computer club at Ridgewater College is showing individuals how to use the devices and how they can interact with broadband. Handlin would like to bring back PC's for People that refurbishes computers and distributes them to various groups. A grant from the Department of Labor will be completed in a year.

NEW BUSINESS

Schmoll inquired about agenda topics for future committee meetings. Kleindl suggested inviting TDS and Frontier Communications to the next meeting and the committee concurred with Kleindl's suggestion. Schmoll will extend the invitation.

Schmoll shared information on the Broadband Conference in Duluth. The conference was scaled down due to the upcoming Broadband Communities Conference on October 18-20, 2016 in Minneapolis. Schmoll will send the conference information to committee members.

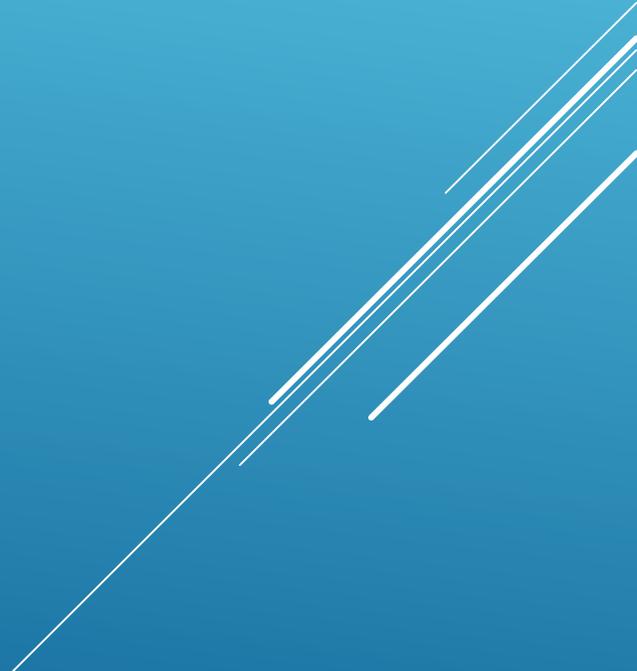
ADJOURNMENT—There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m.

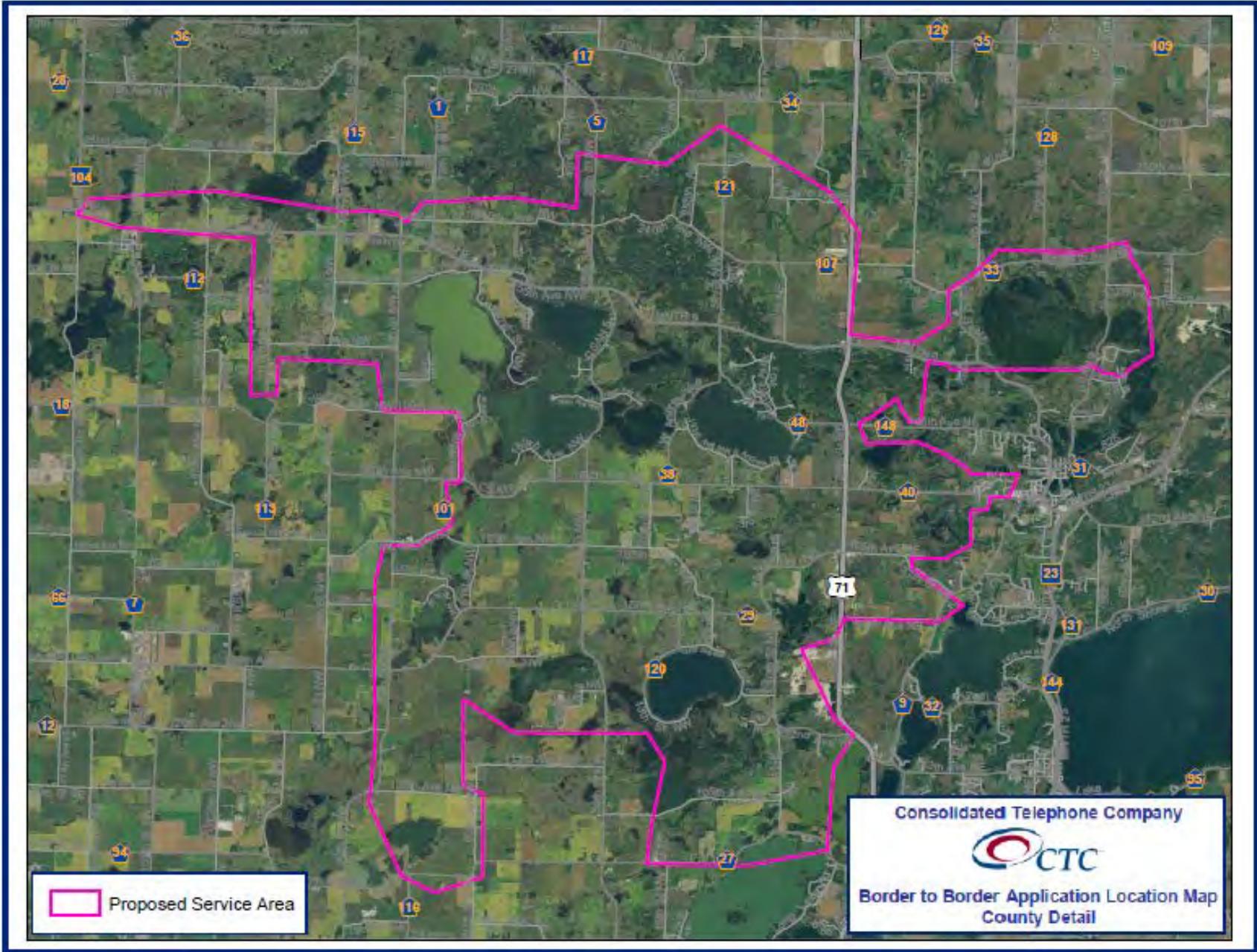
NEXT MEETING—The next meeting is **12 noon, November 7, 2016**, Room 2057, Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building, Willmar. If TDS or Frontier are unable to attend, the meeting will be cancelled.

KANDIYOHI COUNTY BROADBAND

2016 Project

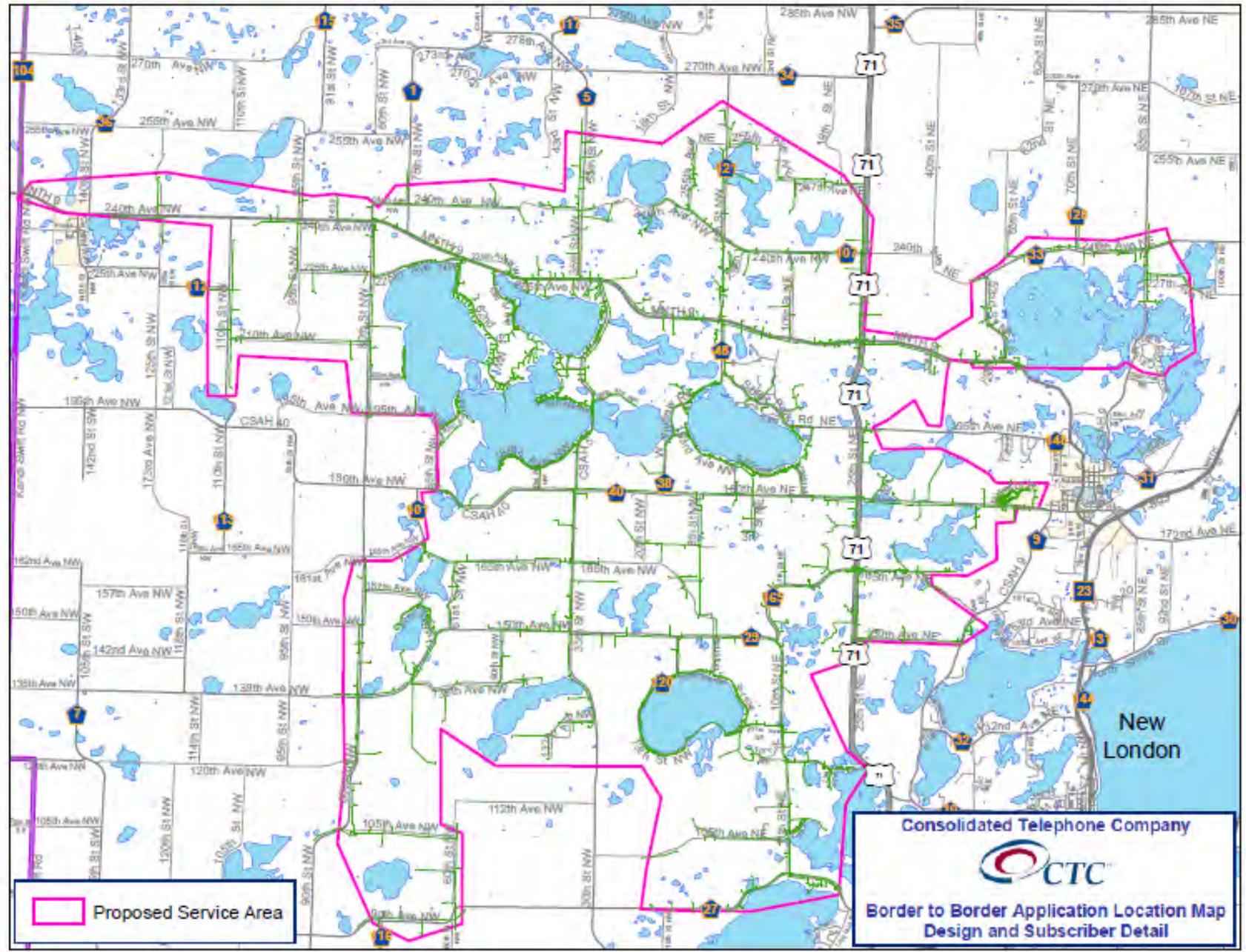


- ▶ **Border-to-Border Grant Submitted**
 - ▶ 71 Letters of support
 - ▶ 7 people video-taped
 - ▶ County resolution passed to bond for financing
- 



1,613
Subscribers

Cost
\$9,999,993



Proposed Service Area

Consolidated Telephone Company

Border to Border Application Location Map
Design and Subscriber Detail

New London



August 16, 2016

To: Joe Buttweiler, CTC (via email: joe@connectctc.com)

RE: TDS Telecom Response – Current Broadband Coverage for Kandiyohi County, Minnesota

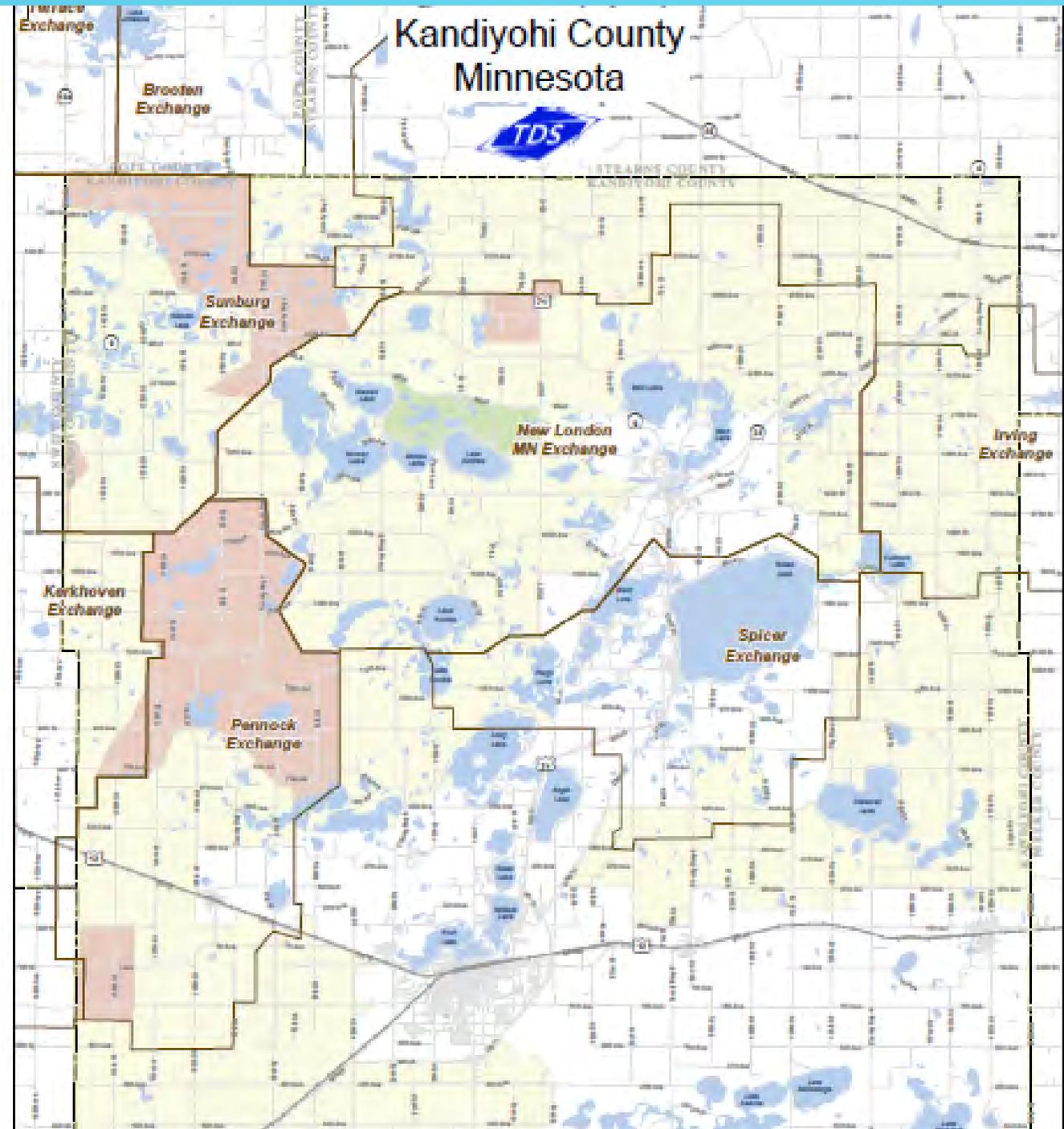
TDS provides broadband service in all or a portion of the area associated with this project at speeds. Depending on location, we currently offer download speeds ranging from 768 Kbps to 100 Kbps and upload speeds of 768 Kbps. Our records show that we provide service to approximately 2,293 locations in the proposed project area, with no service available to 250 locations. Please see the attached map showing areas that are served and unserved.

TDS is currently reviewing the FCC's August 3, 2016 Public Notice for rate of return carriers in order to determine whether it will have its universal service support and buildout obligations determined by the FCC's Alternative Connect America Cost Model (ACAM) or a revised rate of return mechanism by November 1, 2016. If we select model-based support, at a minimum, we would anticipate improving broadband service in Minnesota within the 10 year timeframe specified by the ACAM model. The broadband service speeds that will be provided after that date will be at least 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream for 75% of the locations and at least 10 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream for the remaining locations. A map showing the speeds that will be available by location is not yet available as network designs are not finalized.

TDS is also considering filing for one or more state broadband grant applications and may be able to upgrade some or all of these locations more quickly if state broadband grant funds are awarded to us.

Name and contact information for person completing this form:

Kandiyohi County Minnesota

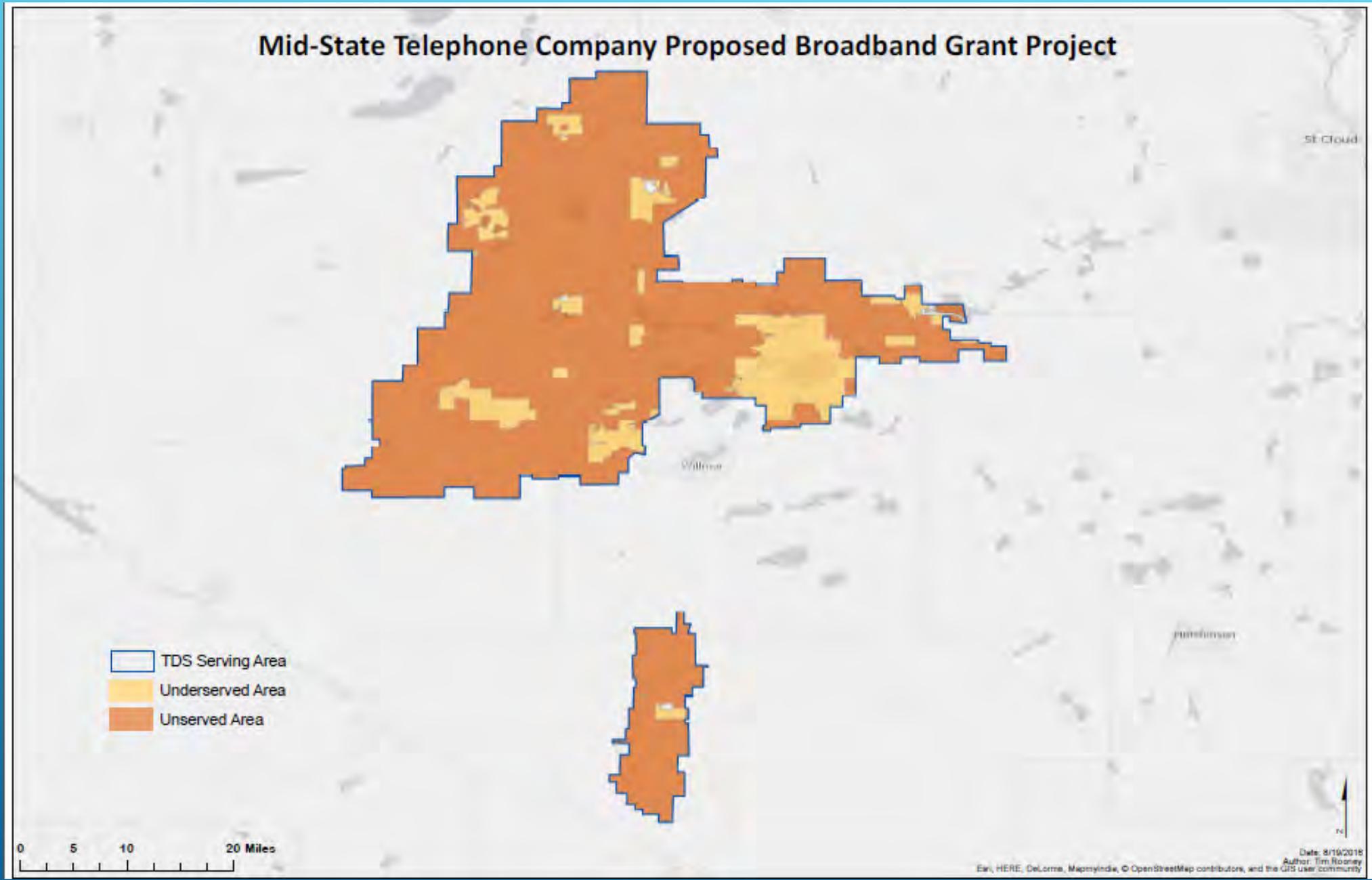


TDS will seek a grant from the State of Minnesota's Border to Border Broadband Development program for the unserved areas within Mid-State Telephone Company's service territory. Please see the dark orange areas of the attached map for a high level depiction of the unserved areas that are included in the application.

We are still working on finalizing our applications for two separate projects within Mid-State's service area. For the first application, we expect to request approximately \$4M from the state for 50% of the total project cost of \$8M, to install new and upgraded network facilities to approximately 2,000 locations in the unserved areas of Danube, New London, Spicer, Sunburg, Terrace, Brooten, and Irving exchanges in Kandiyohi, Renville, Swift, Chippewa, Pope, Meeker, and Stearns counties.

The second application will request approximately \$2.2M from the state for 50% of the total project cost of \$4.5M, to install new and upgraded network facilities to approximately 650 locations in the unserved areas of Kerkhoven, Murdock, and Pennock exchanges, primarily in Kandiyohi and Swift counties. Each of these projects will enable the provision of higher broadband speeds of 25 Mbps down and 3 Mbps up to these locations, and will allow us to leverage our network to provide improved speeds to additional locations beyond these unserved locations.

Mid-State Telephone Company Proposed Broadband Grant Project



10 E. Doty Street
Suite 800
Madison, WI 53703
608 441 5730

August 18 2016

To: Joe Buttweiler
Consolidated Telecommunications Company
Via email

Re: Minnesota Border to Border Notification – Wilmar

Dear Mr. Buttweiler:

Thank you for contacting CenturyLink regarding your interest in a possible Minnesota Border-to-Border Broadband grant through the Office of Broadband. CenturyLink appreciates the opportunity to comment on its broadband deployment plans in this area.

As you may know, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) established the Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF II) to provide financial support to bring broadband to rural locations that lack broadband service. By participating in the FCC's program, CenturyLink accepted \$54 million per year for six years in Minnesota. In return, CenturyLink's committed to bring broadband to more than 114,000 unserved households by the end of the program and to meet 40% of its build commitment by the end 2017.

The maps that were submitted with the proposed broadband build overlap with the CAF II eligible areas in Minnesota where CenturyLink plans to deploy to broadband consistent with the rules associated with the CAF II program. CenturyLink intends to have completed engineering and construction of this area by 2016. Broadband speeds in CAF II eligible area will vary based on the customer's distance from our facilities and the maximum speed available will 80 Mbps down and 40 Mbps.

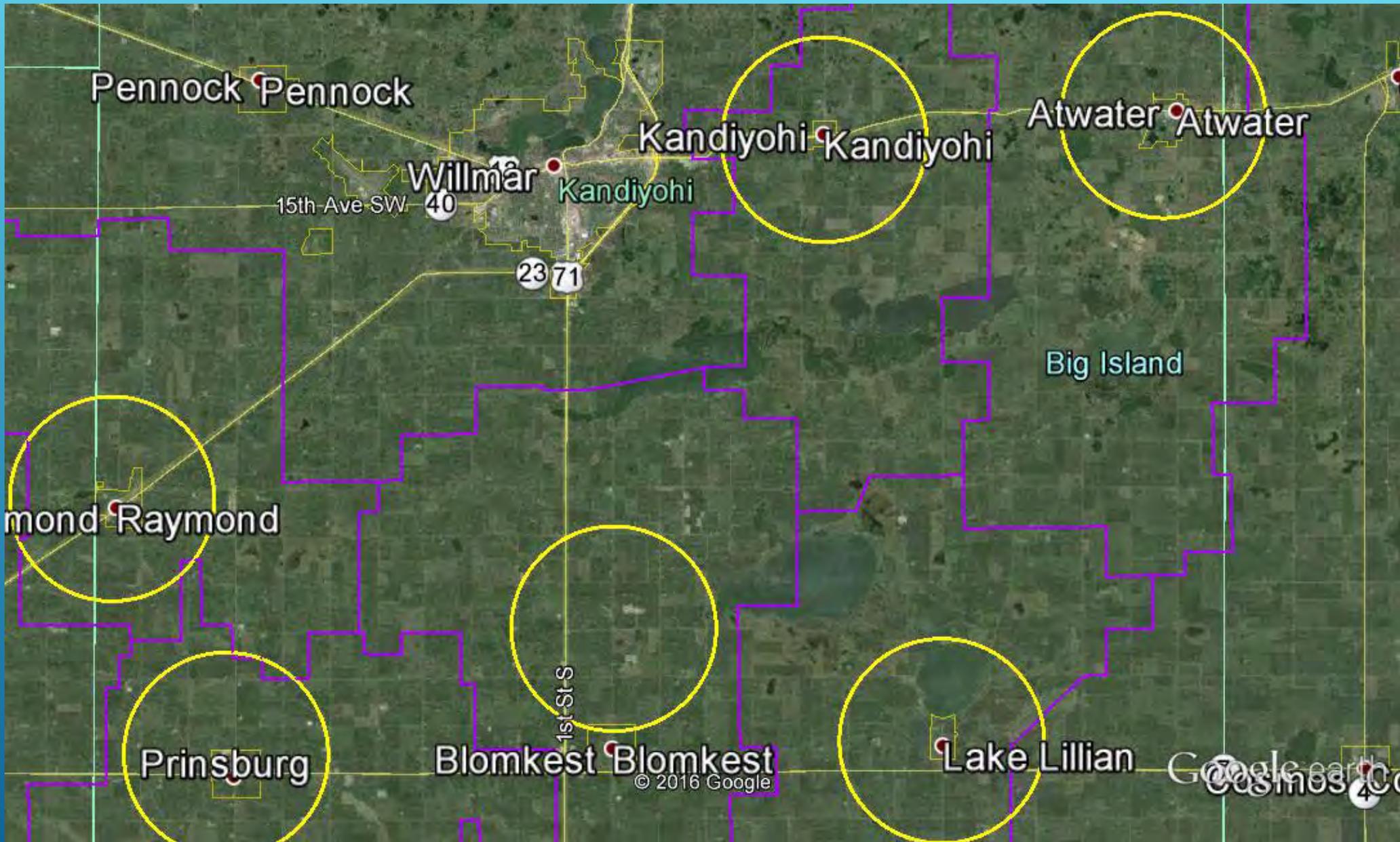
Due to the overlap of CAF II eligible locations contained in your proposed grant application, CenturyLink will object to the use of state broadband funds being used to overbuild areas being built with federal funds within the same timeframe.

Frontier Response

RE: Broadband Coverage for Consolidated Telecommunications – Kandiyohi County

Information on current broadband coverage:

X We do provide broadband service in the area associated with this project. Broadband service at speeds of 42 Meg download and 6 Meg upload is available throughout the city limits of the cities of Atwater, Kandiyohi, Lake Lillian, Svea, Prinsburg, and Raymond. In addition, we can provide broadband speeds of 115 Meg download in certain locations within the cities of Atwater, Kandiyohi, and Raymond. As shown on the attached map (“6MegService.pdf”), speeds of at least 6 Meg download are available within the area circumscribed by the yellow circles. Slower broadband speeds are available outside the yellow circles.



Pennock Pennock

Willmar

Kandiyohi Kandiyohi

Atwater Atwater

15th Ave SW

40

23 71

Kandiyohi

Big Island

Raymond Raymond

Prinsburg

Blomkest Blomkest

1st St S

Lake Lillian

Google earth
Cosmos

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Frontier Response

Information on planned improvements to broadband coverage:

X We do have plans to improve the broadband service in the project area by June 30, 2019. The broadband service speeds that will be provided after that date will be at least

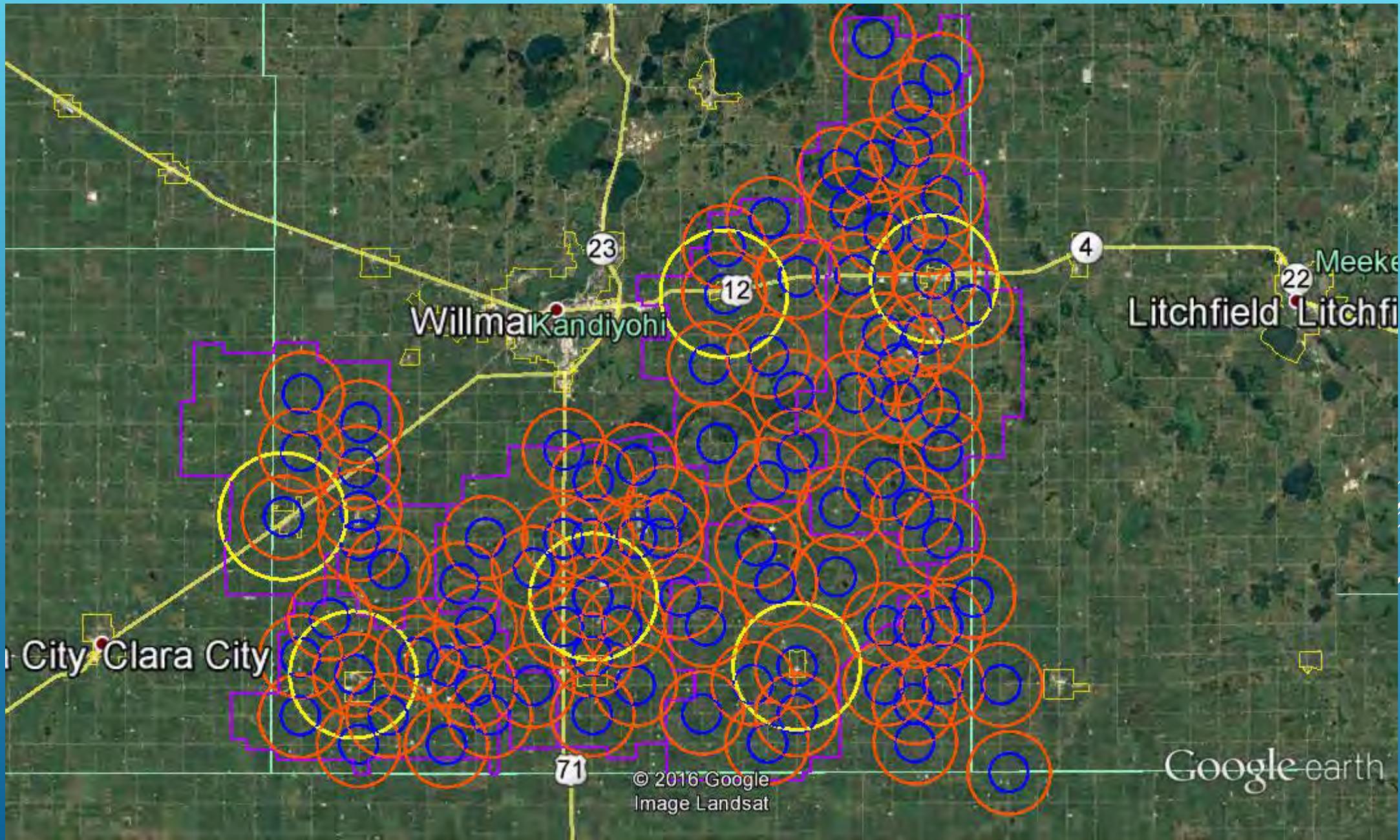
10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload.

Attached is a map (“Kandi with CAF II.pdf”) showing planned expansion. Without any

additional line-specific equipment, the area inside the blue circles will have speeds of at

least 25 Meg down and 3 Meg upload and the area inside the orange circles will have

speeds of at least 10 Meg download and 1 Meg upload. Electronic mapping files in Google Earth format are also attached.



City Clara City

WillmaKandiyohi

Litchfield Litchfi

Meeka

23

12

4

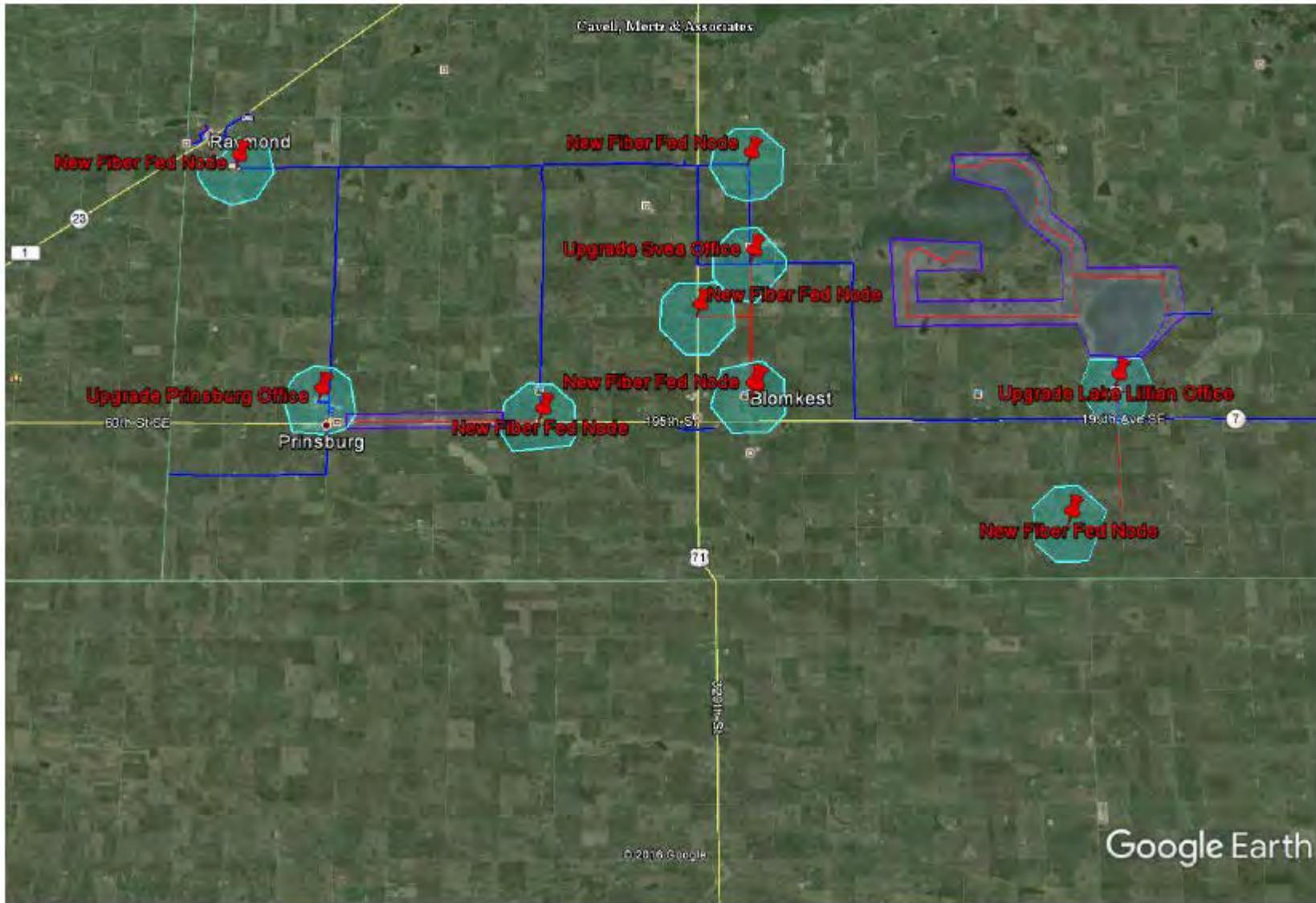
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Image Landsat

Google earth

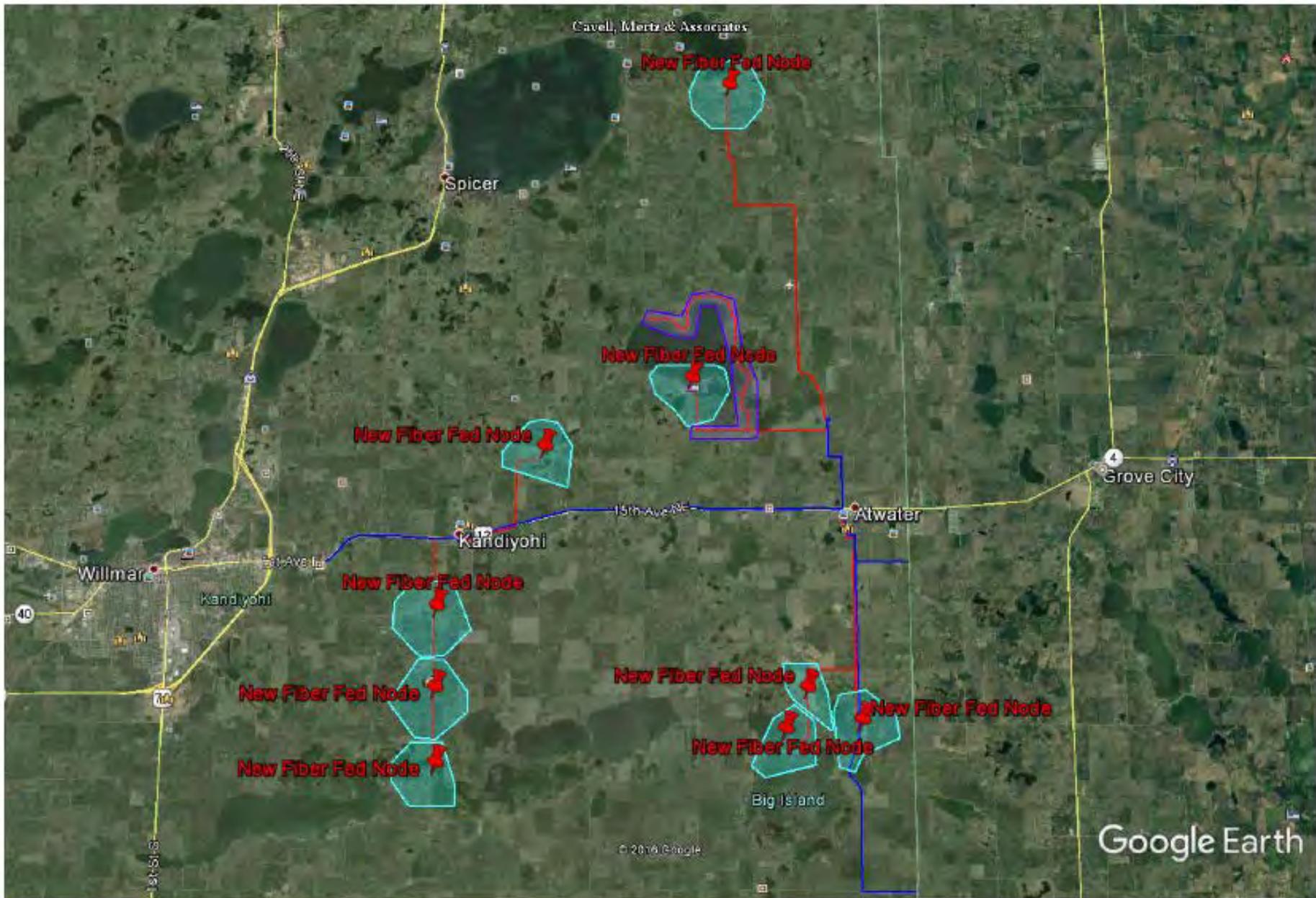
Due to last minute changes, Frontier is putting together a grant application for the portion of Kandiyohi that we currently serve. The deadline to deliver the application is Monday by 4PM. I am hoping that you could write a basic letter of support for our grant application. We are asking for a grant to bring the following areas up to the 25/3 meg offering to make them scalable and served areas for Broadband; Kandiyohi, Atwater, Lake Lillian, Prinsburg, Svea, Roseland, Fahlun, Diamond Lake, and Blomkest.



PROPOSED
BY FRONTIER
FOR STATE
GRANT
**LAKE LILLIAN
SVEA
BLOMKEST
RAYMOND
AREA**

Google Earth





PROPOSED
BY FRONTIER
FOR STATE
GRANT

ATWATER
KANDIYOHI
AREA

Google Earth



▶ Thank You Committee Members!

