

**KANDIYOHI COUNTY AND CITY OF WILLMAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)  
BROADBAND AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
August 3, 2020  
Via ZOOM Video Conference**

Present: Mark Boesch, Dean Bouta, Bruce DeBlic, Tim Furr, Roger Imdieke, Michelle Marotzke, Rollie Nissen, Glenn Otteson, Gregg Price, Ramsey Schaffnit and David Sisser

Excused: Jason Hulstein and Les Nelson

Absent: Donna Boonstra

Staff: Connie Schmoll, Business Development Manager

Secretarial: Nancy Birkeland, Legal & Administrative Assistants, Inc. (LAA)

Chairperson Mark Boesch called the meeting to order at approximately 12:02 p.m.

**AGENDA**—There were no changes to the Agenda.

**MINUTES**—

IT WAS MOVED BY Rollie Nissen, SECONDED BY Ramsey Schaffnit, to approve the Minutes of the July 6, 2020 meeting as emailed. MOTION CARRIED.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Final broadband survey results.** Connie Schmoll noted that Lindsey Donner, who assisted with the broadband survey, is no longer working for REDstar Creative, and she has not had a chance to review the results further or prepare a new summary. Additional responses were received after the previous summary. Chair Boesch requested the final survey summary be sent to the committee prior to next meeting.

**Conversations with Federated.** Schmoll reported Kevin Beyer of Federated Telephone Cooperative is interested in considering a broadband project for the three townships previously considered by Arvig. Federated may invest 25% of the cost dependent upon the Market Study and Engineering Analysis done by Compass Consultants, which were forwarded to Federated last week. Additional funding would be needed from possibly Kandiyohi County, Kandiyohi Power Cooperative and other places. The townships are willing to contribute some funds, if other funding is obtained. Schmoll announced that the state Border-to-Border Grant Program is now open, however, it was felt it may not be possible to have an application ready for this year. It was hoped that additional funds would come from a bonding bill, but one has

not been passed after two special sessions. The EDC is currently working with CARES Act funding for all governmental entities in the county. The townships Schmoll has met with have commented on their bad internet connections. The survey results includes additional information from the townships that will make a proposal stronger, but individual stories from citizens are needed to submit with a grant application. Chair Boeschen commented he has been reading Ann Treacy's articles on what other counties are doing, but he has not looked into them in detail. He will read her stories for additional information. Roger Imdieke noted he forwarded a *Star Tribune* article from yesterday's paper about people wanting to work from home and broadband is affecting the sale of homes in northern Minnesota to Senator Lang, Rep. Miller and Rep. Baker.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**September meeting date.** Chair Boeschen noted the September meeting date is on Labor Day so he is proposing to meet on the second Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, at 12 noon via ZOOM.

## **REPORTS**

**Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition.** Schmoll noted the only thing relative to the Broadband Coalition are the trainings being held by Bill Coleman.

**Other.** Glenn Otteson stated he will reach out to Hanson Communications about any potential project in Kandiyohi County. Tim Furr reported he is now at St. Cloud Technical Community College and asked to be removed from this committee; his replacement has not yet been hired at Ridgewater College, but he can suggest to Ridgewater College that his replacement join this committee.

**ADJOURNMENT**—There being no further business,

IT WAS MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:20 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**—The next committee meeting is **12 noon, Monday, September 14, 2020** via ZOOM video conference.