

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

**September 9, 2019**

**Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building, Willmar**

Present: Mark Boesch, Donna Boonstra, Dean Bouta, Scott Froemming, Roger Imdieke, Michelle Marotzke, Les Nelson, Rollie Nissen, Glenn Otteson, Gregg Price, Ramsey Schaffnit, David Sisser and Donn Winckler

Excused: Bruce DeBlieck and Brian Mort

Staff: Connie Schmoll, Business Development Manager

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

Chairperson Mark Boesch called the meeting to order at approximately 12:06 p.m.

**AGENDA**—Added to the Agenda under New Business was TDS.

**MINUTES**—

IT WAS MOVED BY Donn Winckler, SECONDED BY Michelle Marotzke, to approve the Minutes of the August 5, 2019 meeting as emailed. MOTION CARRIED.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Township projects/Engineering study.** Connie Schmoll reported she has been working with Compass Consultants on the engineering study. Compass Consultants has completed identifying structures in the three townships. Schmoll will ask Compass Consultants if the EDC can notify area residents via a letter or postcard that it will be in the area doing a study. If approved, the postcard or letter could also be sent to the townships to send to their residents. As Arvig requested the engineering study be done by Compass Consultants, the study is geared toward Arvig.

**MIDCO letter of support.** Schmoll reported she sent a letter to the Office of Broadband Development in support of Midco's state Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant application to bring broadband to the cities of Blomkest, Lake Lillian and Prinsburg.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**TDS.** Schmoll reported TDS requested a letter of support from Rep. Dave Baker for a state border-to-border application for a project in Kerkhoven, Murdock and Pennock. Schmoll informed Rep. Baker that residents are not happy with the upgrades done by TDS and Baker has challenged

Jean Paulek of TDS. Discussion was held on the CAF upgrades already done by TDS. Glenn Otteson stated TDS would need to upgrade its equipment to meet the requirements of the state border-to-border application.

**Washington, D.C. trip.** Schmoll reported Rollie Nissen had opportunities to speak about broadband during his trip to Washington, D.C. and brought with him the speed tests from the Lake Andrew area and presented the letter from Schmoll (see attached).

## REPORTS

**Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition.** Schmoll reported on the updates given at the August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- Danna Mackenzie, the director of the Office of Broadband Development is on an extended leave of absence and Angie Dickison, has been hired as interim director.
- State grant applications are due September 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Approximately 30 individuals have applied to be on the Governor's 15-member Broadband Task Force.

Roger Imdieke recommended the committee write a letter of support for Rollie Nissen to be on the Governor's Task Force. Schmoll will check into whether Nissen is interested and if he can still apply.

- The Coalition will request an increase in funding for 2020.
- The Blandin Broadband Conference will be held October 8-10 at Grandview Lodge in Niswaga.
- A Growing Innovation Conference will be held on September 12<sup>th</sup> in Winthrop.
- Discussed a contract with Nathan Zacharias for lobbying.
- Fundraising plan for 2020.

**Intelligent Community Forum.** Donna Boonstra reported she attended the Intelligent Community Forum in Appleton. The differences between an Intelligent Community and a Smart Community were given; communities can apply to be an Intelligent Community. Bill Coleman, through the Blandin Foundation, will help assess a community. Dr. Craig Johnson and Aaron Backman also attended the Forum and believe an assessment of Kandiyohi County should be done.

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:35 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**—The next committee meeting is **12 noon, Monday, October 7, 2019** at the Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building, Willmar.