

**KANDIYOHI COUNTY AND CITY OF WILLMAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)  
BROADBAND AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
November 4, 2019  
Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building, Willmar**

Present: Mark Boeschen, Dean Bouta, Bruce DeBlicek, Scott Froemming, Roger Imdieke, Michelle Marotzke, Rollie Nissen, Glenn Otteson, Ramsey Schaffnit and David Sisser

Excused: Donna Boonstra, Brian Mort, Les Nelson, Gregg Price and Donn Winckler

Guest: Brad Finstad, State Director, USDA Rural Development

Staff: Connie Schmoll, Business Development Manager

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

Chairperson Mark Boeschen called the meeting to order at approximately 12:03 p.m. followed by self introductions.

**AGENDA—**

IT WAS MOVED BY Roger Imdieke, SECONDED BY Michelle Marotzke to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

**MINUTES—**The following corrections were noted for the October 7, 2019 Minutes: Mark Boeschen and Roger Imdieke should be noted as absent and on page 2, second to the last line of the second paragraph, change \$2 billion to \$2 million.

IT WAS MOVED BY Rollie Nissen, SECONDED BY Roger Imdieke, to approve the Minutes of the October 7, 2019 meeting with the noted corrections. MOTION CARRIED.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**USDA Rural Development programs.** Connie Schmoll introduced Brad Finstad, State Director, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development, who is here in follow up of Rollie Nissen's visit to Washington, D.C. Finstad provided his work history and information on Rural Development loan programs, grants and utilities. Rural Development is marketing broadband expansion as to its funds available through the ReConnect Program, which is a mixture of loans and grants. As its program is directed toward areas with no service, Congress set the speeds at 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload. Finstad spoke about the "Broadband in the Bootheel" project in Missouri with SEMO Electric Cooperative that used Rural Development programs. Finstad provided information on the Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program and Community Connect Grant Program. Finstad noted broadband is now an essential service and one of the top

three issues for people under 40 when looking to purchase a home. Rural Development also has Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants, which have helped rural hospitals. Most programs are tailored to providers. For the ReConnect Program, the applicant needs to show they have expertise in providing service. Finstad stated the ReConnect Program allows donut holes and different areas may be submitted in one application, which is different from the state's program. Finstad's office has staff who can assist with answering any questions and offered their assistance, if and when needed by this committee.

[Finstad was excused from the meeting.]

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Township projects.** Schmoll noted Compass Consultants has been responsive to changes to its survey. Committee members had the following comments to the draft survey (see attached):

- questioned the reason for asking about television service and recommended removing question 3, unless Compass Consultants has a reason for asking it.
- Keep question 4.
- For the speed test in question 5, do a shorter URL.
- As to question 11, it was recommended a range of prices be suggested with check boxes and ask Compass Consultants what would be a minimum amount.
- For question 12, it was recommended that
  - remove television service
  - add telemedicine
  - change security system to smart home.

## **REPORTS**

**Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition.** No report.

Schmoll reported she and Donna Boonstra will report next month on the conferences they have attended, including the Blandin Innovation Conference and meetings with Minnesota congressional office staff in Washington, D.C.

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:55 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**—The next committee meeting is **12 noon, Monday, December 2, 2019** at the Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building, Willmar.

# Let's Talk About Broadband!



Compass Consultants along with The Kandiyohi County Economic Development Commission would like your input regarding broadband in your township. We are preparing an assessment of the current broadband status and determining future needs. Broadband allows users to originate and receive high-quality voice, data, and video services. Broadband is currently defined by the FCC as at least 25Mbps download and 3Mbps upload speed.



Please take a few minutes to complete and return this short survey. You can also complete the survey at [www.website.com](http://www.website.com)

1. What type(s) of telephone services do you currently have?

- Landline
- Cellular
- VOIP
- None

2. Who is your internet, telephone, and television service provider? (Check all that apply.)

- CenturyLink
- TDS Telecom
- LTD Broadband
- Charter Communications
- MVTV
- HughesNet
- ViaSat
- Skycasters
- At&T
- Verizon
- Sprint
- T-Mobile
- DirecTV
- Dish Network
- Other (please specify)

3. What types of devices do you use to watch television content?

- TV
- Mobile Device (Phone or tablet)
- Laptop or Computer

4. Please select which television content providers you currently use

- Satellite
- Cable TV provider
- Internet (Netflix, Sling, Hulu)
- Antenna
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- None

5. What is the speed of your current internet or broadband service? You can check your speed at <https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/checkspeedmn/>

Download Speed \_\_\_\_\_

Upload Speed \_\_\_\_\_

6. How satisfied are you with your current internet service speed?

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
*Not Satisfied*      .      .      .      .      .      .      .      .      *Very Satisfied*

7. How satisfied are you with the quality of your current internet service connection?

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
*Not Satisfied*      .      .      .      .      .      .      .      .      *Very Satisfied*

8. How satisfied are you with your internet provider's customer service?

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
*Not Satisfied*      .      .      .      .      .      .      .      .      *Very Satisfied*

9. How many devices in your home are connected to the internet? (Computers, phones, tablets, cameras, TV's, Thermostats, Alexa)

- None
- 1-2
- 3-5
- 5-9
- 10+

10. If High Speed Broadband would be offered in your area, how likely would you be to subscribe to the service.

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
*Not Likely*      .      .      .      .      .      .      .      .      *Very Likely*

11. What would you be willing to pay per month for a reliable high-speed broadband connection?

\_\_\_\_\_

12. What activity is most important to your broadband experience?

- Streaming TV and Movies
- Television Service
- Telecommute (Work at Home)
- Video calling (Facetime, Skype)
- Schoolwork
- Running a business from home
- Gaming
- Social Media
- General Internet surfing
- Security System
- Other

\_\_\_\_\_

13. If you had broadband, would your employer allow you to work from home?

- Yes, everyday
- Yes, occasionally
- No
- Not employed
- Retired

14. Please tell us how many people in your household fall into each age group

Under 18 \_\_\_\_\_      45-54 \_\_\_\_\_  
18-24 \_\_\_\_\_      55-64 \_\_\_\_\_  
25-34 \_\_\_\_\_      65+ \_\_\_\_\_  
35-44 \_\_\_\_\_



**This project is supported by the Kandiyohi County Broadband Committee**