

**KANDIYOHI COUNTY AND CITY OF WILLMAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)  
BROADBAND AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
November 6, 2017  
Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building, Willmar**

Present: Mark Boeschen, Travis Bonnema, Donna Boonstra (via teleconference), Bruce DeBlieck, Scott Froemming, Larry Kleindl, Michelle Marotzke, Brian Mort, Les Nelson, David Sisser and Donn Winckler

Excused: Dean Bouta, Kathy Dillon and Ramsey Schaffnit

Guest: Steve Ahmann, Kandiyohi County Commissioner

Staff: Connie Schmoll, Business Development Specialist

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

Connie Schmoll called the meeting to order at approximately 12:03 p.m.

**MINUTES—**

IT WAS MOVED BY Donn Winckler, SECONDED BY Michelle Marotzke, to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2017 meeting as emailed. MOTION CARRIED.

**AGENDA—** Schmoll added an agenda item under New Business: Broadband Public Policy Efforts from Bill Coleman, Community Technology Advisors

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2017 Border to Border Broadband Conference.** Schmoll and Donna Boonstra attended the 2017 Border to Border Broadband Conference on October 25 and 26, 2017. Schmoll shared highlights of the conference and the breakout sessions she attended. The conference focused on approaches rural communities (partnerships) have developed to expand broadband's impact and how to leverage investments to bridge the digital divide. Broadband is a world-wide issue and fiber is important in order to be competitive in the business world.

[Donna Boonstra joined the meeting via teleconference at 12:45 p.m.]

Boonstra reported on two breakout sessions she attended: 1) A representative of Palmer Wireless shared the importance for industrial parks to be buried in fiber and shared two success stories. The city of Becker first reached out to businesses and sold the process prior to burying the fiber. Big Lake

developed an industrial park and visited with businesses to inquire of their broadband needs. 2) Rock County reached out to Alliance Communications (a cooperative) that provides Internet, cable TV and telephone services to portions of South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa through a fiber network. Boonstra suggested inviting a representative to a future Broadband Committee meeting to present their success stories. Their website is: [www.alliancecom.net](http://www.alliancecom.net). Winckler feels it is important to have fiber in the industrial park. Schmoll shared that fiber comes up to the Willmar Industrial Park, but businesses pay to bring it to their lot.

**Broadband maps of Kandiyohi County.** The committee discussed at length the broadband map by the Minnesota Office of Broadband showing unserved areas in Kandiyohi County, CTC's map, TDS 2017-2018 plans to upgrade its service areas, Google Earth map showing pockets of broadband service providers and the map of LTD Broadband's coverage map (see attached).

**Broadband Public Policy Efforts.** Schmoll shared a memo from Bill Coleman of Community Technology Advisors Corporation. Coleman and Mark Erickson of the Winthrop EDA are working together to coordinate efforts to raise \$15,000 to be prospectively matched with Blandin Foundation funds to raise public awareness of the importance of broadband in Greater Minnesota. The funds would be used to coordinate a Broadband Day at the Capital and ongoing communication efforts. They are requesting contributions ranging from \$1000 to \$3,000 with a minimum \$500 contribution. Dave Sisser inquired if this is the only group in the state promoting broadband. Schmoll stated the Broadband Alliance conducts meetings in the Shakopee area. Schmoll suggested this committee become a member of the group, proposed by Coleman and Erickson, if the contribution can be made after January 1, 2018. The EDC Joint Operations Board would need to approve the recommendation. Schmoll will check if the fee is an annual contribution.

IT WAS MOVED BY Donna Boonstra, SECONDED BY Dave Sisser, to a pledge \$1,000 in 2018 for financial partnership in the broadband public policy effort by Community Technical Advisors, pending approval by the Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar Economic Development Commission Joint Operations Board. MOTION CARRIED.

**Next Steps.** Schmoll suggested inviting a representative of Alliance Communications and Hiawatha to consider Kandiyohi County and attend a future Broadband and Advanced Technology Committee meeting. Schmoll will make contact with Hiawatha. Boonstra will contact Alliance Communications.

**ADJOURNMENT**—There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:03 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**—The next meeting is **12 noon, December 4, 2017**, Room 2057, at the Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building, Willmar.

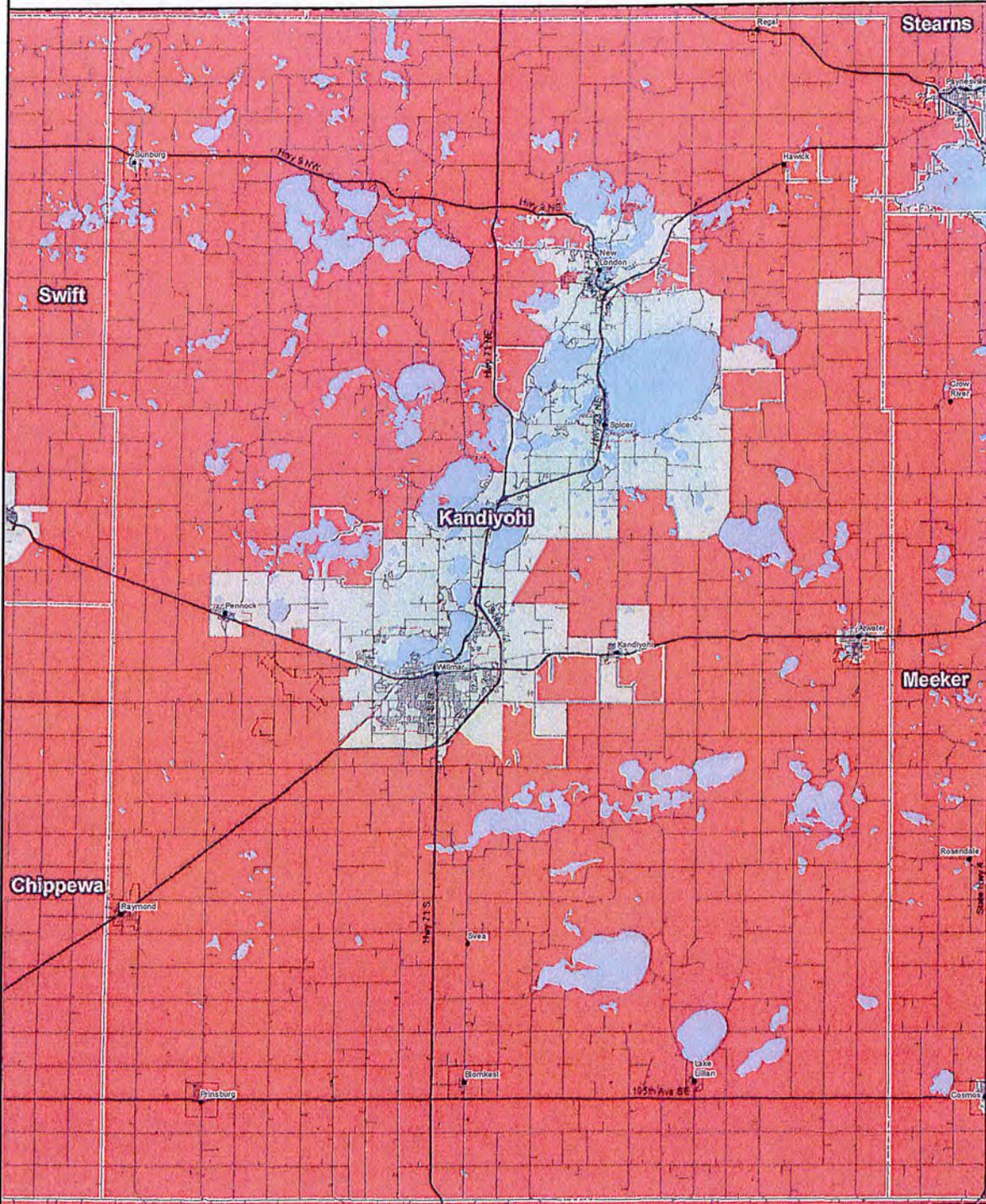
# Broadband Service Inventory

Kandiyohi County  
Minnesota

*Minnesota*  
Department of Employment and Economic Development  
OFFICE OF BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT

Areas Unserved by Wireline  
Broadband at 25 Mbps  
Download/3 Mbps Upload

Data is current as of  
February 28, 2015



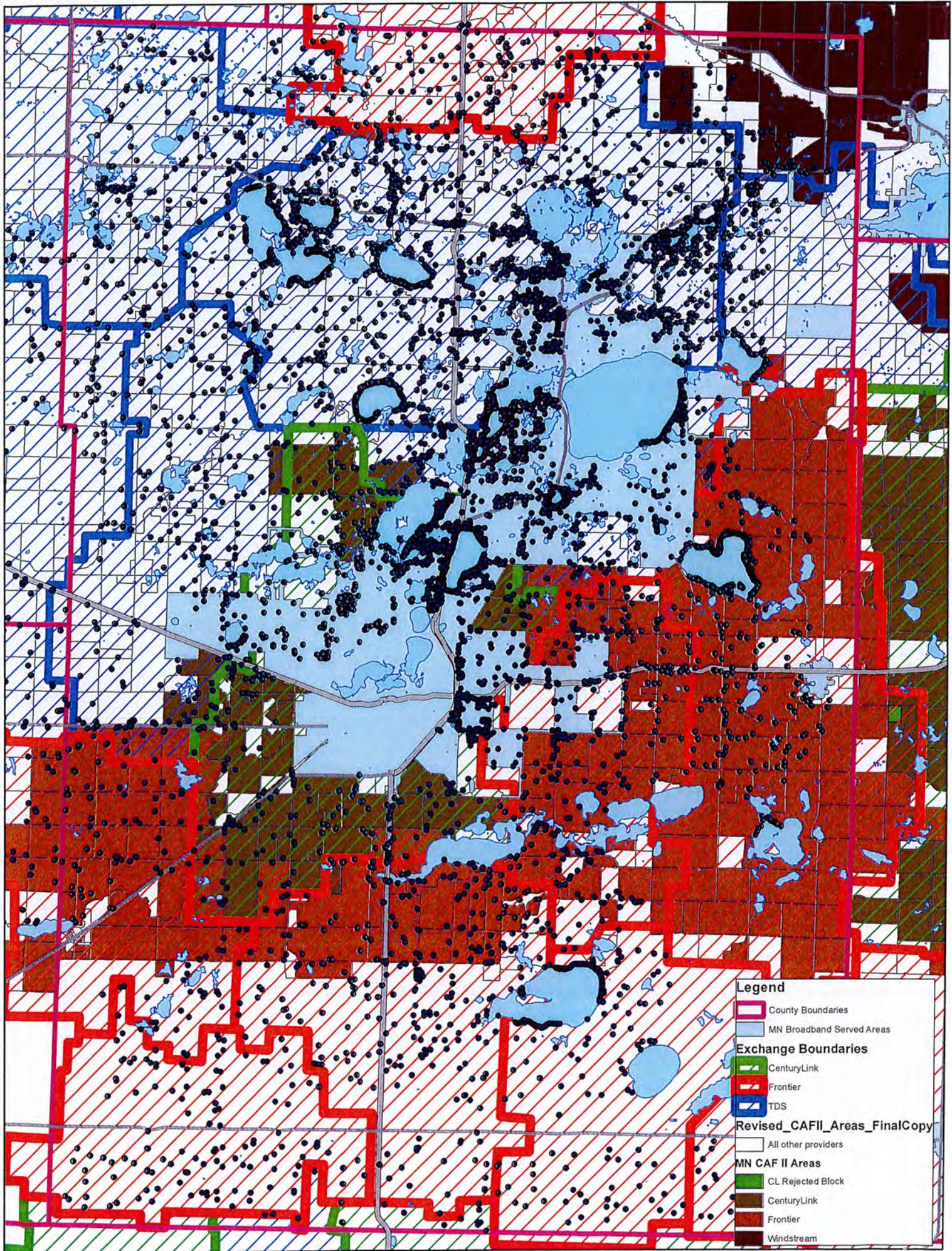
- Interstate
- US Road
- Local Road
- - - Municipal Boundary
- - - County Boundary
- Water
- Wireline Broadband of at Least 10M/5M
- Underserved Area (Wireline Broadband of At Least 25M/3M but Less Than 10M/5M)
- Unserved Area (No Wireline Broadband of At Least 25M/3M)



The map was prepared by Connected Nation under contract with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. The map represents areas of broadband service availability based on provider data submitted to and analyzed by Connected Nation and modified based on validation tools. While not reflected on the map, wireless broadband services may also be available.

Additional maps and data are available at <http://mn.gov/eed/programs-services/ broadband/maps-lets>. Upon request, this information can be made available in alternate formats for people with disabilities by contacting the DEED Office of Broadband Development at 651-259-7610.

Submit questions or recommended changes to [DEED.broadband@state.mn.us](mailto:DEED.broadband@state.mn.us)



- Legend**
- County Boundaries
  - MN Broadband Served Areas
  - Exchange Boundaries**
  - CenturyLink
  - Frontier
  - TDS
  - Revised\_CAFIL\_Areas\_FinalCopy**
  - All other providers
  - MN CAF II Areas**
  - CL Rejected Block
  - CenturyLink
  - Frontier
  - Windstream

TDS 2017 1018 Plans in BlueAreas

Will 2200 locations in same area

Upgrades throughout the service area.

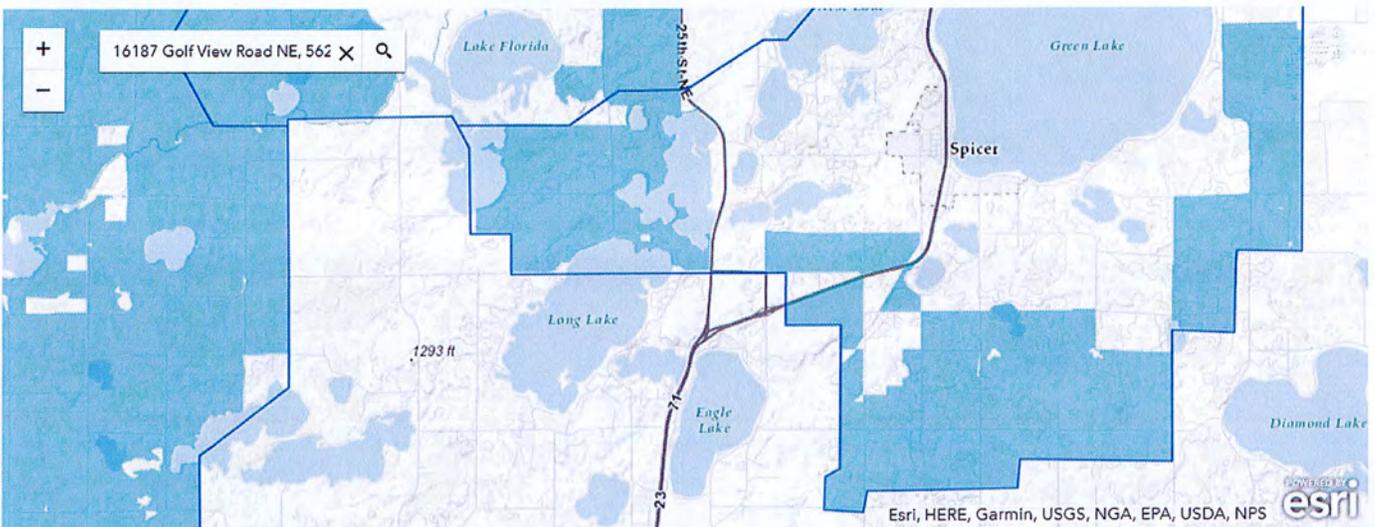
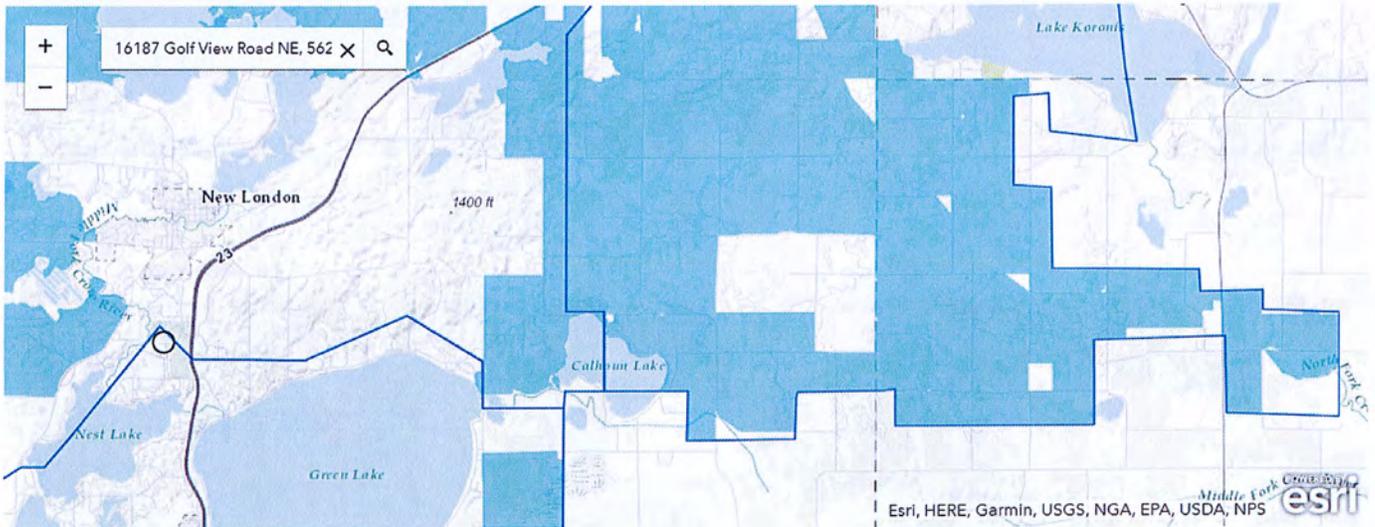
The federal rules state 25 upload and 3 download necessary for 75% of those eligible

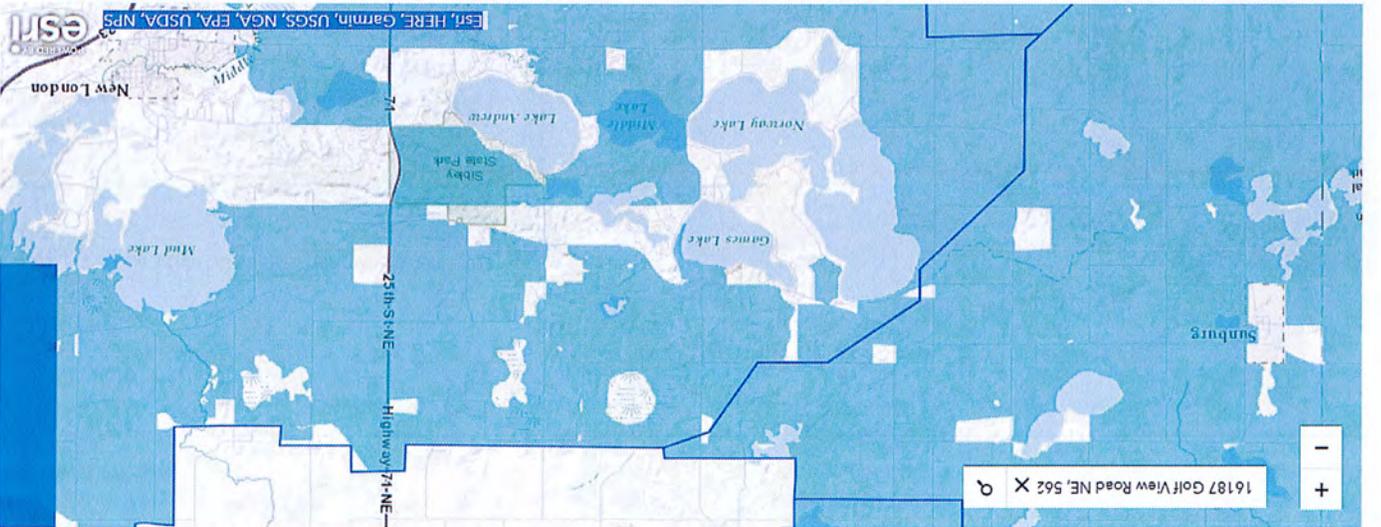
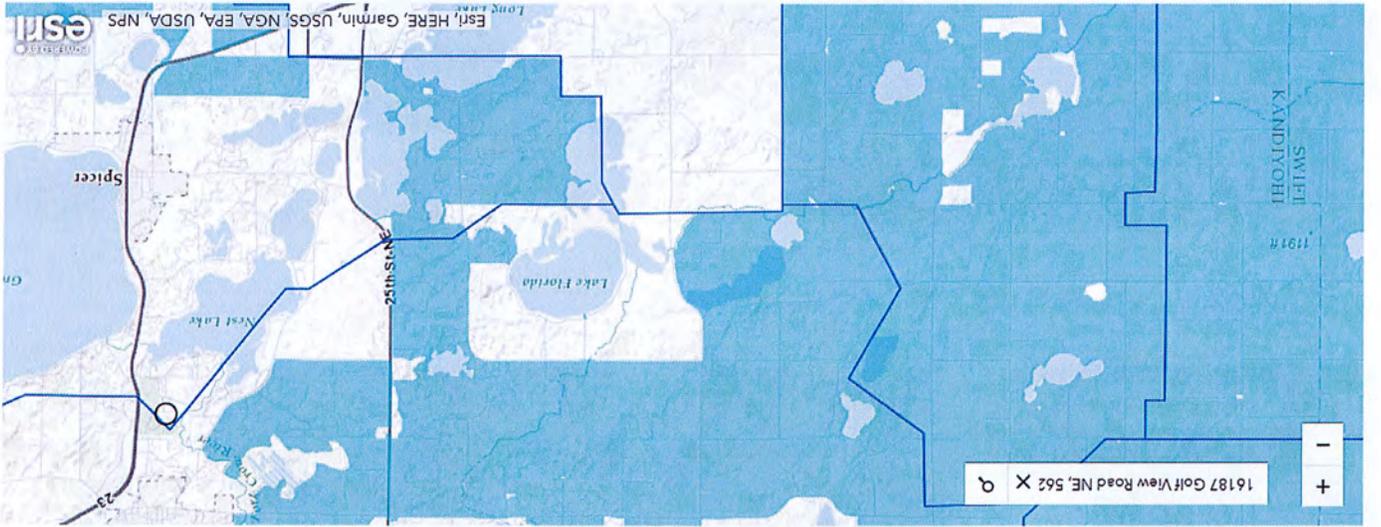
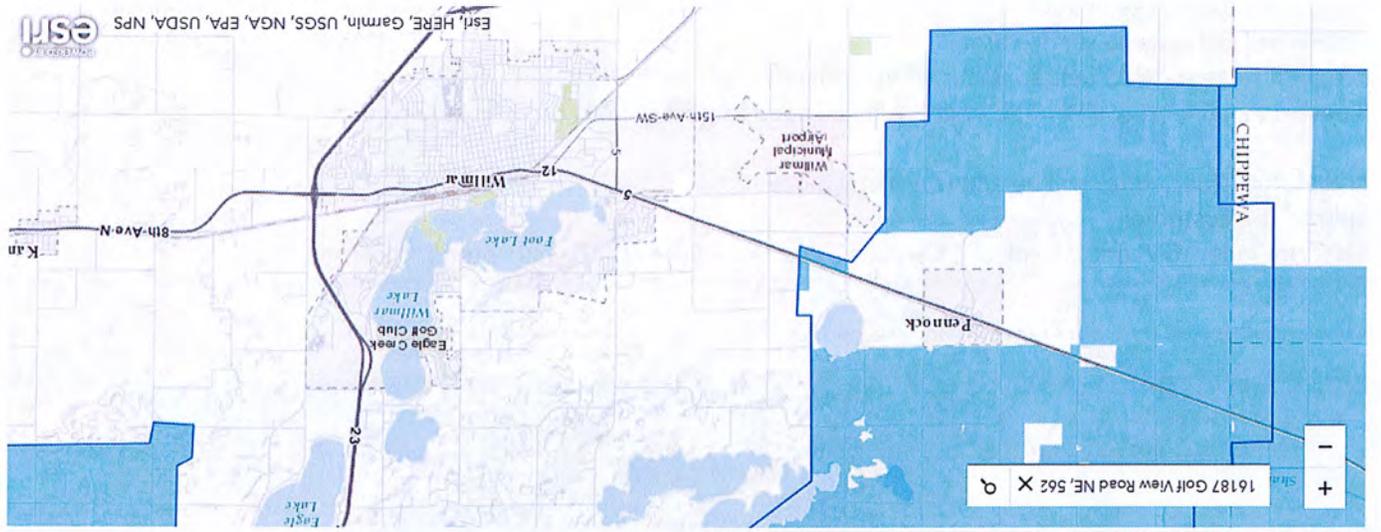
Will base on engineering and hope to get as high speed as possible out there to subscribers

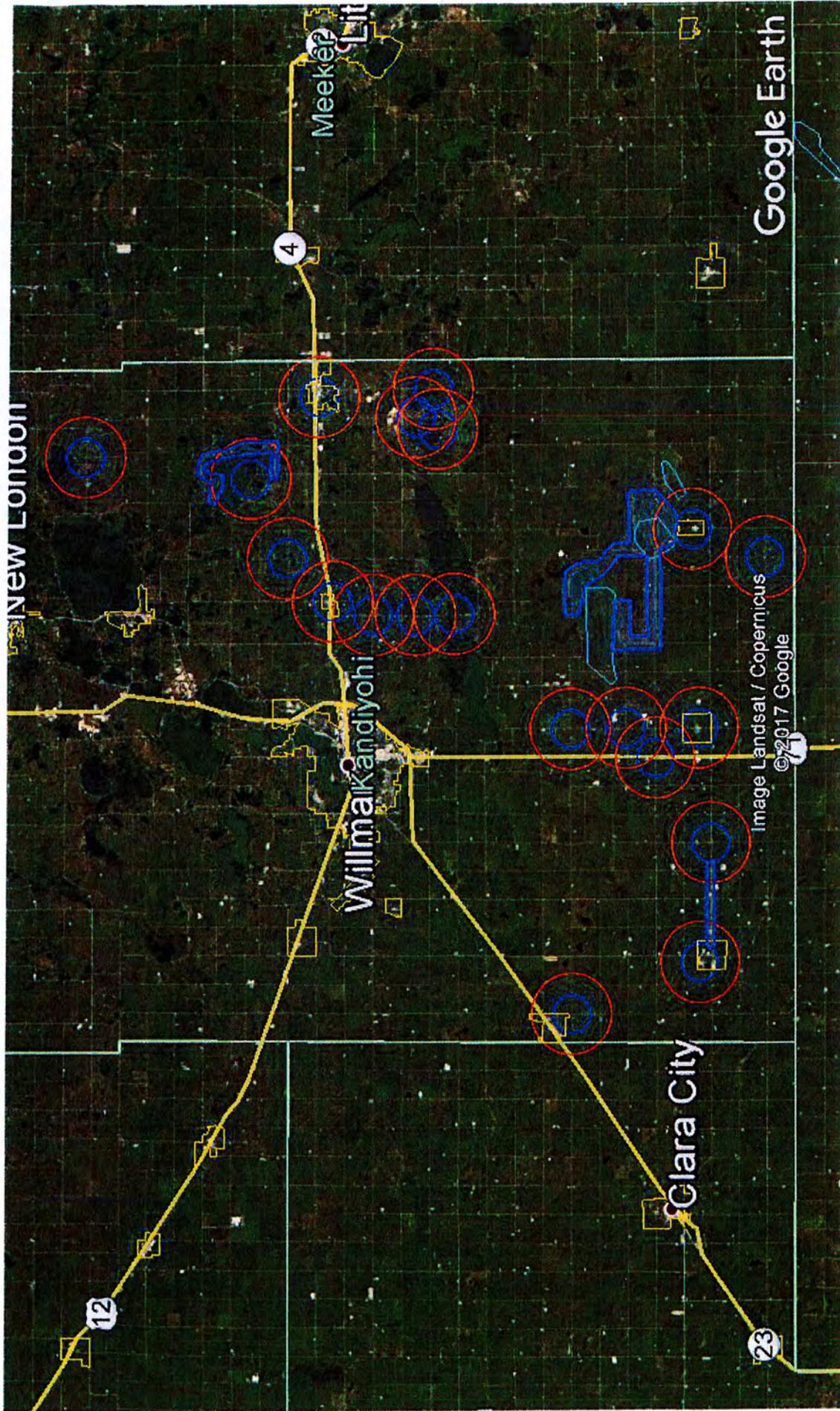
Hybrid system fiber nodes will be added – many more

Copper to the customer

Cabinet upgrades to eventually place fiber to the customer (at least 10 years out for that).







New London

12

4

Meeker

Willmar

Clara City

23

Google Earth

Image Landsat / Copernicus  
©2017 Google

Google Earth

miles  
km

30  
50



## Connie Schmoll

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**m:** Corey Hauer <coreyhauer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 05, 2017 8:27 PM  
**To:** Connie Schmoll  
**Subject:** LTD Broadband coverage map

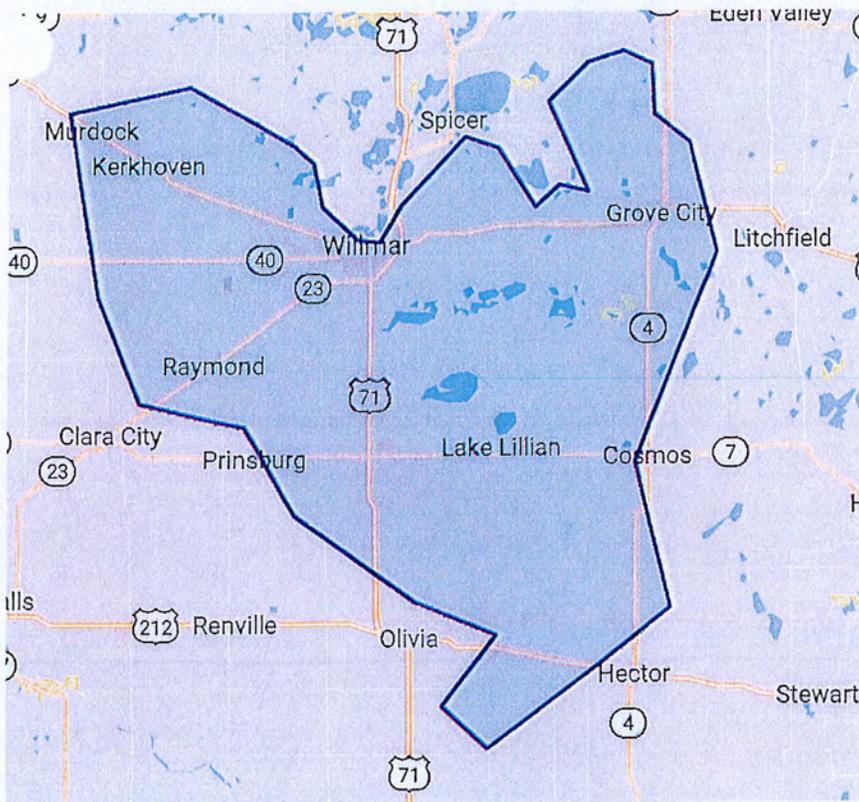
Hi Connie,

It was great meeting with you this week. As promised, attached is our current coverage map in your area. I had a very successful Friday acquiring new sites, so there will be a number of additions to our coverage in the coming weeks. I also found a number of sites in the areas you and I discussed.

I did meet the stepson of the owner of the 1st Ave grain leg, but so far I have not heard back.

I look forward to being a part of the broadband solution for Kandiyohi County. I am confident we'll be able to service most if not all residents with reliable, fast broadband at reasonable pricing.

Corey Hauer  
LTD Broadband  
507-318-0143 mobile



## EDC Administrative Support

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ject:

FW: Broadband Public Policy Efforts

**From:** Bill Coleman <[bill@communitytechnologyadvisors.com](mailto:bill@communitytechnologyadvisors.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2017 1:55 PM

**To:** Mark Erickson; Bill Coleman

**Subject:** Broadband Public Policy Efforts

Hello,

Over the past several years, broadband has become an essential service for rural economic development and community vitality. Through the Border to Border Broadband Grant Program, DEED has awarded \$65 million dollars in grant funds to support rural broadband projects. While the Governor's Broadband Task Force recommended \$100 million in broadband funding for the biennium, only \$20 million was appropriated. It is anticipated that all of these funds will be awarded in this grant cycle as DEED Office of Broadband staff works to sort through more than \$50 million in grant requests. In addition, there are multiple county and regional broadband planning initiatives underway working to develop feasible broadband projects throughout the state.

Rural advocacy groups recognize the importance of broadband to their mission - the promotion of agriculture, education, economic development, energy, health care, arts, tourism, manufacturing and beyond. Yet each of these groups have their own core priorities beyond broadband. A unified voice for broadband is required to keep the issue at the forefront and help coordinate the many voices that support broadband deployment in our rural areas.

Mark Erickson of the Winthrop EDA and I are working together to coordinate efforts to raise \$15,000 to be prospectively matched with Blandin Foundation funds to raise public awareness of the importance of broadband in greater Minnesota. These funds would be used to coordinate a Broadband Day at the Capital and some ongoing communications. With more funds, we can intensify our efforts.

You should have previously received a draft RFP for Professional Services as well as a draft governance document for the coalition partners that help support this effort. If you need me to resend these documents, please let me know. The final scope of work will be finalized by the governing body; to be a part of that group requires a minimum contribution of \$500. The Winthrop EDA has offered to be the fiscal agent for these funds. The governing body is free to select another organization if they choose; that organization must be a unit of government or a 501c3.

We hope that we can have many entities contributing and demonstrate the breadth of support for rural broadband deployment. We are hoping for contributions ranging from \$1000 to \$3000. As noted above, a contribution of \$500 or more earns a seat of the governing body. At present, we expect this to be an ad hoc group.

Please let us know by November 10th if you can commit to this financial partnership. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your consideration!

Bill

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Bill Coleman

[bill@communitytechnologyadvisors.com](mailto:bill@communitytechnologyadvisors.com)

651-491-2551

[www.communitytechnologyadvisors.com](http://www.communitytechnologyadvisors.com)



## Community Technology Advisors

[www.communitytechnologyadvisors.com](http://www.communitytechnologyadvisors.com)

Leads community-wide economic development efforts by bringing community led collaborative projects to ...