

**KANDIYOHI COUNTY AND CITY OF WILLMAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)  
BROADBAND AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
July 6, 2015  
EDC Board Room, Willmar**

Present: Travis Bonnema, Dean Bouta, Wes Hompe, Linda Kacher, Larry Kleindl, Jean Marthaler, Les Nelson, David Sisser and Donn Winckler

Excused: Mark Boesch, Mike Malone and Justin Mattern

Absent: Bruce DeBlieck, Kathy Dillon, Gary Geiger, Leslie Kelly and Jonathan Marchand

EDC Staff: Jean Spaulding, Assistant Director

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

Jean Spaulding called the meeting to order at approximately 12:12 p.m.

#### **MINUTES**

IT WAS MOVED BY Jean Marthaler, SECONDED BY Larry Kleindl, to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2015 meeting as emailed. MOTION CARRIED.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Broadband grants.** Spaulding reported \$10.5 million was allotted to the state border-to-border grant program and it is Rep. Dave Baker's opinion that more funds will be allocated in next year's bonding session. Federated Telephone Cooperative (FTC) will submit a grant application in August for Swift County. It was agreed this committee should do a letter of support to FTC for Swift County's application. Frontier Communications accepted \$27.5 million from the Connect America Fund (CAF) of which Kandiyohi County is projected to receive \$114,635. Jeff McCabe of Frontier will not know until approximately September how those funds will be spent. Other companies can apply for CAF funds, if not all are disbursed. The areas of Kandiyohi County that are not serviced are areas covered by Frontier and TDS. The committee questioned why is Kandiyohi County only receiving \$114,635 through CAF and is Kandiyohi County a priority? Spaulding will followup with Scott Froemming of Kandiyohi Power Cooperative on how this committee can move forward and with whom can we partner to move forward? FTC is partnering with Agralite in some counties. Spaulding will explore who can apply for CAF funds and what the process is. If TDS were to apply for the state grant, it identified western Kandiyohi County north of Pennock as the first area to address. If FTC is a partner, the EDC would focus on the northwest quadrant of the county. FTC will want a feasibility study done—it was questioned if a feasibility study can be done for just one quadrant of the county. What kind of foundational work can be done in the county? FTC has determined half of the funds for infrastructure would come from a grant and the other half would be divided one half to be paid by FTC and one half to be paid by the county. Without a grant, the

county would have to bond and raise real estate taxes. It is expected that FTC would apply for four grants for Kandiyohi County.

**Alumnus Blandin Broadband Community project.** Spaulding reported a grant application was submitted for WiFi hot spots in the Willmar Civic Center, two wireless routers for Central Community Transit, one router for the Growmobile and two routers each for New London/Spicer and Willmar school buses. Wireless routers on a bus are mobile and can be moved, if necessary. We will be informed in August if the grant is awarded.

**Hack<sub>2</sub>0.** Spaulding showed a sample Hack<sub>2</sub>0 logo and flyer (see attached). An application suggested by Linda Kacher is to keep track of Willmar's yellow bikes and Donn Winckler suggested an application for local trails. Wes Hompe mentioned a concierge application was suggested by the Vision 2040 Newcomers group. The Blandin grant received is to complete any project started during the hackathon. Attendance at the hackathon is limited to 50. Kandiyohi County/City of Willmar wants to be known as technology-friendly by outside companies.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**DEED Rural Broadband Day.** Spaulding announced August 4, 2015 is Rural Broadband Day at Farmfest and distributed a schedule (see attached). The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development wants communities to participate in this event. Travis Bonnema noted Jennie-O Turkey Store is looking at networking farms for biosecurity. Spaulding and Jean Marthaler will work on information to relay at Rural Broadband Day as to how important broadband is to farmers and the ag industry. Marthaler will contact a drone company that recently presented information to Heritage Bank.

**Other.** Spaulding announced Dglass3D is a semifinalist for the MN Cup High Tech Division award and was asked whether they would be able to do what they do in a rural location (outside of Spicer) if they did not have high speed internet. Carl Douglass's response was broadband is critical to their success.

**NEXT MEETING**—The next meeting is **12 noon, Monday, August 3, 2015**, in the EDC board room, Willmar.

**ADJOURNMENT**—There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:17 p.m.

# HACK2

a willmar lakes area hackathon



*a relaxed weekend hackathon for beginners to experts headquartered in a coworking cottage on the shores of beautiful willmar lake*

**september 18-20 2015**  
sign up at [www.workup.cc/hack2o](http://www.workup.cc/hack2o)

1601 technology drive ne | willmar mn | [hack2o@workup.cc](mailto:hack2o@workup.cc)

**WORK UP**

**EDC**

**RC RIDGEWATER**

**Blandin Foundation**  
ELEVATING LOCAL MINNESOTA



**keeping people connected**

With or without wires, it's what we do at AT&T



Attend

August 4-6, 2015 | Gilfillan Estate | Redwood County, MN

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Education Schedule\*

*All sessions are held in the Wick Buildings Farmfest Center*



*\*Schedule subject to change. Check back often for updates.*

**Tuesday, August 4 - RURAL BROADBAND DAY**

8:00 a.m. Show Opens

9:00 a.m. **Governor's Rural Broadband Task Force Meeting**

The task force is committed to crafting policies that expand broadband access throughout the state to ensure that all communities, businesses and citizens have access to vital resources.

12:00 p.m. Linder Farm Network Ag Information Hour Focused on Broadband

1:15 p.m. **Rural Broadband: The Future of Agriculture**

**MODERATOR:**

Lynn Ketelsen, Linder Farm Network

**PANEL MEMBERS**

[Event Details](#)

Minnesota Farmfest  
August 4-6, 2015

Address:  
28269 Highway 67  
Morgan, MN 56266  
[Web Map](#)

Show Hours:  
Tuesday, Aug. 4: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, Aug. 5: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Thursday, Aug. 6: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE!  
August 2-4, 2016

[Event Sponsors](#)



Mike Macrie, Senior Vice President & Chief Information Officer, Land O' Lakes  
 Jerry Johnson, Founder & CEO, Superior Edge  
 Jason O'Flanagan, North American Field Marketing & Sales Support Manager for Advanced Technologies Solutions Group, FUSE Technologies



2:30 p.m.

**Rural Broadband as a Rural Development Tool**



**MODERATOR:**

Lynn Ketelson, Linder Farm Network

**PANEL MAMBERS:**

Lisa Hughes, MN Southwest Regional Economic Developer, MN DEED  
 Bryan Lydick, CEO, Redwood Area Hospital  
 Kevin Wald, CEO, RVI/SpecSys



Rural Broadband Day is sponsored by:



5:00 p.m. Show Closes

Wednesday, August 5

8:00 a.m. Show Opens

8:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast  
 Sponsored by:



9:00 a.m. **Grain & Livestock Market Update**

Presented by:  
 Mark Schultz, North Star Commodities

10:30 a.m. **Addressing Key Ag Policy Issues Beyond the Farm Bill**