

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

MINUTES

August 5, 2019

Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building, Willmar

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

Excused: Roger Imdieke

Absent: Brian Mort

Staff: Connie Schmoll, Business Development Manager

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

Chairperson Mark Boeschen called the meeting to order at approximately 12:05 p.m.

AGENDA—Added to the Agenda under New Business was an Intergovernmental Relations meeting in Washington, D.C.

MINUTES—

IT WAS MOVED BY Rollie Nissen, SECONDED BY Ramsey Schaffnit, to approve the Minutes of the July 1, 2019 meeting as emailed. MOTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Township projects/Engineering study. Connie Schmoll reported a contract was signed with Compass Consultants, Inc. to do the engineering survey for Dovre, Mamre and St. Johns Townships. The survey will begin next week and will include input by this committee at some point. An application for the state Border-to-Border Grant will be done in 2020. Arvig Enterprises, Inc. requested the study, but it will not be specific to Arvig and it will be owned by the townships.

Midco's request for support. Schmoll has been speaking with Midco about a project in Kandiyohi County. Midco would like the EDC's help with key contacts for the cities of Blomkest, Lake Lillian and Prinsburg and it would like a letter of support from this committee. Glenn Otteson reported he investigated some of Midco's technologies and Midco's service will

not go without line of site, similar to existing cell service. MVTV Wireless provides service in those areas, but the speeds are unknown; it has obtained grants for backhaul only. Frontier Communications also provides services in that area. Otteson recommended getting clarification from Midco if it is doing fiber to the home or a fiber network. Committee members spoke in favor of service upgrades and provider competition being a good thing for the county's residents. Other members were opposed to "cherry picking cities" by providers and leaving rural areas without service.

IT WAS MOVED BY Michelle Marotzke, SECONDED BY Dave Sisser, to provide Midco with a letter of support for a state Border-to-Border grant for the communities of Prinsburg, Lake Lillian and Blomkest and include language encouraging Midco to expand services to the rural areas around those communities. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

Intelligent Community Forum. Schmoll noted the Blandin Foundation is holding Intelligent Community Forums on August 12 in Red Wing, August 13 in Brainerd, August 14 in Bemidji and August 19 in Appleton. Donna Boonstra and Les Nelson will attend the Forum in Appleton. If anyone else is interested in attending one of the forums, they should contact Schmoll.

Innovation: Putting Broadband to Work conference. Schmoll announced the Innovation: Putting Broadband to Work conference will be held October 8-10, 2019 at Grand View Lodge in Nisswa. Schmoll will be attending and stated the EDC will pay the registration and travel expenses for anyone else interested in attending.

September meeting date. Due to Labor Day, Chair Boeschon suggested changing the September meeting date to September 9th. The committee agreed to the change.

Intergovernmental Relations meetings. Nissen stated President Trump has invited county commissioners to the White House for an Intergovernmental Relations meeting. Nissen will be attending to specifically speak about broadband. Nissen provided the broadband speeds he obtained from residents in the Lake Andrew area and asked for additional speed tests from any county resident. He will redact the names from the information he has. Nissen will explain the situation Kandiyohi County is in and that TDS has not provided services it said it would. Each commissioner will have a half hour to speak. Otteson stated TDS stated it was bringing fiber, but not fiber to the home. Schmoll suggested Nissen tell them to stop giving federal funds to small projects and that the federal limits of 10/1 should be increased.

IT WAS MOVED BY Mark Boeschon, SECONDED BY Michelle Marotzke, to prepare a letter of support with the committee's message to put residents ahead of service providers for Rollie Nissen to present in Washington, D.C. MOTION CARRIED.

Schmoll will write the letter for Nissen and indicated she has some neighbors who could give information.

REPORTS

Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition. Chair Boeschen reported the Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition will be holding a meeting August 8th, which Schmoll will attend via teleconference.

ADJOURNMENT—There being no further business,

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:52 p.m.

NEXT MEETING—The next committee meeting is **12 noon, Monday, September 9, 2019** at the Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building, Willmar.