

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

December 4, 2017

Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building, Willmar

Present: Mark Boeschen, Travis Bonnema, Donna Boonstra, Scott Froemming, Michelle Marotzke, Les Nelson, David Sisser, Ramsey Schaffnit and Donn Winckler

Excused: Bruce DeBlieck, Kathy Dillon, Larry Kleindl, Brian Mort and Connie Schmoll

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

Chairperson Dean Bouta called the meeting to order at approximately 12:04 p.m.

AGENDA—Chair Bouta added an agenda item under New Business: Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Office of Broadband Development; Border to Border Grant 2017 Funding Summary

MINUTES—

IT WAS MOVED BY David Sisser, SECONDED BY Mark Boeschen to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2017 meeting as emailed. MOTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Broadband Provider Outreach:

Alliance Communications. Donna Boonstra reported she recently spoke with a representative of Alliance Communications and was told if there is an opportunity for solutions/information for Kandiyohi County, he will contact Boonstra. Boonstra shared information on the Rock County successful fiber project. Alliance Communications received a majority of buy-in from customers prior to digging and went to the community to promote the project, attended fairs, etc. Michele Marotzke commented if Kandiyohi County secures another fiber partner, it is important the company share and sell its project to the community.

Hiawatha Broadband Communications (HBC). Chair Bouta reported Connie Schmoll has been in contact with Dan Pacarina, HBC Executive Director, who has requested information to help them decide about doing a fiber project in southern Kandiyohi County. HBC would not apply for Border-to-Border funds, but would pursue an investment by Kandiyohi County. It currently has fiber lines approximately three miles south of the Kandiyohi County border in Renville County. Schmoll has invited HBC to a future Broadband and Advanced Technology Committee meeting. She also emailed them the broadband feasibility study and maps.

WildFire5G. Schmoll is currently in communications WildFire5G for a possible build in Kandiyohi County—specifically the CTC project area. It worked on a fund-raising campaign and now have asked if Kandiyohi County would provide a portion of the funding. Schmoll conveyed Kandiyohi County’s goal is fiber and would work to find funding options only for fiber projects in the rural areas of Kandiyohi County. A representative of WildFire5G may attend a future Broadband Committee meeting. Travis Bonnema will bring information on the WildFire5G project to the next Broadband Committee meeting. Marotzke shared she has Entel maps and reported Entel has less than 100 customers in Willmar. She is hoping to obtain a copy of the franchise as it is a public document and will contact Schmoll if she can assist in obtaining a copy.

NEW BUSINESS

BroadbandUSA November 15, 2017 Webinar. Marotzke provided highlights of the Broadband USA webinar entitled “Electric Co-ops Bringing Fiber to Rural America”, including the three speakers from Utilities Technology Council, OzarksGo and North Georgia Network that made their case for investment and creating new opportunities for economic prosperity. Electric cooperatives are capitalizing on existing infrastructure and deep community roots to bring gigabit communications to rural communities, and the results can be transformational. Just as rural electrification energized the country in the early 20th century, high-capacity broadband connections are necessary for thriving communities in the 21st century. Ramsey Schaffnit mentioned two things he took away from the webinar: 1) scale is very important; and 2) don’t go for short-term solutions.

Border to Border Grant 2017 Funding Summary. Chair Bouta shared the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development’s (DEED) award of two-year grants totaling \$25,475,556 to 39 projects. State grant dollars are matched by \$34,247,590 in local funds, for a total investment in broadband infrastructure of \$60,723,146. Chair Bouta highlighted a few of the grant recipients:

- * Hanson—Minnewaska Area FTTP, \$4.9M, a fiber-to-the premise project will serve unserved and underserved locations in Pope County. Broadband service levels will improve for rural subscribers in the Starbuck Exchange and the Lake Minnewaska area.
- * Woodstock Telephone Company—Balaton FTTP, \$413,009. The last mile project will serve 305 underserved households, 28 underserved businesses and 6 underserved community anchor institutions in the city of Balaton in Lyon County.
- * Woodstock Telephone Company—Pipestone County Wireless, \$363,851. The middle mile project expands the reach of fixed wireless service to serve 135 unserved households, 540 unserved businesses and 1 unserved community anchor institution in rural Pipestone County.

Donn Winckler shared the next round of grant applications will begin February 20, 2018 and stated it will come down to what the forecast is for a budget surplus. It is important to be in contact with the Legislative Committee. Chair Bouta commented on Magnum Trucking located in the Willmar Industrial Park. It is working with providers to bring fiber to its premise. Fiber comes up to the Industrial Park, but companies must pay to bring it to their lot.

Change January 1 meeting date. Due to the January Broadband and Technology Committee meeting falling on a holiday, the committee concurred to reschedule the meeting to Monday, January 8, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT—There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING—The next meeting is **12 noon, January 8, 2018**, Room 2057, at the Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building, Willmar.

BORDER TO BORDER BROADBAND GRANT 2017 FUNDING SUMMARY

# of Projects Recommended for funding:	39
Total Grant \$ Recommendations:	\$26,475,556 (\$20M appropriation + return on past rounds)
# of Passings:	12,202

APPLICANT - PROJECT TITLE	Total Grant Recommendation
Acentek - Rushford Village/Rural Rushford Fiber Build	\$2,011,628
Advantenon - Rural Grant, Stevens and Wilkin Counties, MN	\$316,554
Albany - Two Rivers Area	\$616,743
Arvig - Pelican Rapids rural non-ACAM	\$633,642
Benton - Rice Ramey	\$765,015
BEVCOMM - Delavan SE Rural Project	\$220,350
BEVCOMM - Freeborn Southwest Rural Final	\$122,460
BEVCOMM - Granada Rural Final	\$202,410
Carlton County w/ Frontier - Phase I: Cromwell/Kettle River	\$569,058
CenturyLink - Fish Lake Township FTTH Project	\$1,833,724
CenturyLink - Fredenberg Township FTTH Project	\$1,809,312
Farmers - City of Watson and SW Lac Qui Parle County FTTP	\$760,501
Fond du Lac - Brookston Project	\$258,265
Garden Vallley - Bejou	\$1,304,421
Gardonville - Douglas County: Country Estates FTTH Project	\$101,624
Gardonville - Douglas County: Pospisil Drive FTTH Project	\$54,155
Hanson - Minnewaska Area FTTP	\$4,996,791
Jaguar - Sand Creek Township Area Broadband Project	\$192,405
KMTelecom - Rural Kasson Fiber Build	\$606,108
Mediacom - Fountain 2018 Broadband Build	\$202,125
Mediacom - Medina 2018 Broadband Build	\$62,219
Midco - Annandale East	\$537,050
Midco - Wanamingo	\$768,600
MVTC - Milroy Broadband Project	\$742,365
NuTel - Hanska A&D FTTP	\$324,894
NuTel - White Rock Rural East FTTP	\$411,704
Otter Tail - Red Oak Drive	\$173,683
Palmer - Duelm Hwy 95	\$162,814
Palmer - Sherburne County Road 3	\$110,661
Paul Bunyan - North Central Fiber	\$802,620
SCI - Dell Grove Township Broadband Expansion	\$118,248
SCI - Shamrock Township Broadband Expansion	\$148,503

Sjoberg's - NW MN Rural Broadband	\$307,088
WCTA - Northern Todd County	\$902,695
WCTA - Wadena Rural Phase III	\$874,581
Wikstrom - Wikel NW MN Broadband	\$1,307,785
Winthrop - Cornish Township FTTP Project	\$365,895
Woodstock - Balaton FTTP	\$413,009
Woodstock - Pipestone County Wireless	\$363,851

TOTAL

\$26,475,556

2017 Border to Border Broadband Grant Awards	
Number of applications	70
Total amount applied for	\$50M
Amount awarded	\$26.4M
Number of projects awarded	39
Breakdown by region:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Northeast</u>: 6 projects - \$3,448,798* ▪ <u>Northwest</u>: 4 projects - \$3,058,254* ▪ <u>West Central</u>: 7 projects - \$6,801,198* ▪ <u>East Central</u>: 9 projects - \$5,396,782* ▪ <u>Southwest</u>: 4 projects - \$2,279,726 ▪ <u>Southeast</u>: 10 projects - \$5,236,174 ▪ <u>Twin Cities</u>: 2 projects - \$254,624 	
(* projects cross regional boundaries)	
Local/private match	\$34.2M
Total Number of locations served	12,202
Unserved locations	10,144
Underserved locations	2,058
Households to be served	9,973
Businesses to be served	2,169
Community anchor institutions to be served	60