

**KANDIYOHI COUNTY AND CITY OF WILLMAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)
BROADBAND AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
April 11, 2022
Via ZOOM Video Conference**

Present: Mark Boeschen, Donna Boonstra, Dean Bouta, Bruce DeBlieck, Jason Hulstein, Tony Kirby, Larry Kliendl, Michelle Marotzke, Ryan Nelson, Rollie Nissen, Goldie Smith and David Sisser

Excused: Roger Imdieke

Staff: Sarah Swedburg, Business Development Manager

Secretarial: Cathy Skindelien, Legal & Administrative Assistants, Inc. (LAA)

Chairperson Mark Boeschen called the meeting to order at approximately 10:30 a.m.

AGENDA—The agenda was approved as emailed.

NEW BUSINESS—

Vibrant Broadband - Hawick Long Lake Project Additions. Chair Boeschen called this special meeting to discuss two proposals related to the Hawick Long Lake Project from Vibrant Broadband, one for the unincorporated community of Hawick and the other for the south side of Long Lake. Chair Boeschen shared background financial information. Kandiyohi County has received \$4,195,499.50 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, and including the two projects under consideration in today's meeting there is \$2,596,003.84 committed to broadband projects, leaving \$1,599,445.66 available to commit.

The first proposal will extend the Hawick Long Lake Project into Hawick, providing 60 passings and 1.7 miles of fiber, in a 50/50 cost split with Vibrant Broadband (see attached). Kandiyohi County's share of the cost is \$89,700 or \$1,695 per passing. Roseville Township will be asked to contribute \$200 per passing, a total of \$12,000. David Sisser asked if the Jennie-O turkey barns in the area would be interested in getting broadband. Chair Boeschen will investigate whether the barns are already included in this project; if not, Jennie-O will be contacted.

IT WAS MOVED BY David Sisser, SECONDED BY Bruce DeBlieck, to bring the Hawick project of 60 passings at a local cost of \$89,700 to the Kandiyohi County Board, and to ask Roseville Township to contribute \$12,000. MOTION CARRIED.

The second proposal services the south side of Long Lake with 114 passings and 7.23 miles of fiber (see attached). Kandiyohi County's cost is \$202,100 or \$1,972 per passing. Roseville Township and Irving Township will be asked to contribute \$2,280 and \$20,000, respectively.

IT WAS MOVED BY Bruce DeBlieck, SECONDED BY Dean Bouta, to bring the south side of Long Lake project of 114 passings at a local cost of \$202,100 to the Kandiyohi County Board, and to ask Roseville Township to contribute \$2,280 and Irving Township to contribute \$20,000. MOTION CARRIED.

Vibrant Broadband's proposed coverage of an area in New London Township overlaps an area Charter plans to service. Charter's quote is \$50 per passing higher, but it was decided to allow Charter to keep this area to avoid jeopardizing the entire project.

Vibrant Broadband plans to bring the Hawick Long Lake Project, including the Hawick and south side of Long Lake projects, to the Kandiyohi County Board on April 19, 2022. Chair Boesch and Sarah Swedburg will attend the board meeting.

Rollie Nissen expressed his frustration with the lack of progress on state Border-to-Border grants. Chair Boesch responded that now is a good time to send letters to legislators advising them that costs are increasing and requesting immediate action.

Due to rapid changes in the broadband projects, with more providers involved and more projects becoming feasible; contribution levels are changing, making it necessary for this committee to identify standards for these projects. This issue will be addressed at the May 2, 2022 meeting.

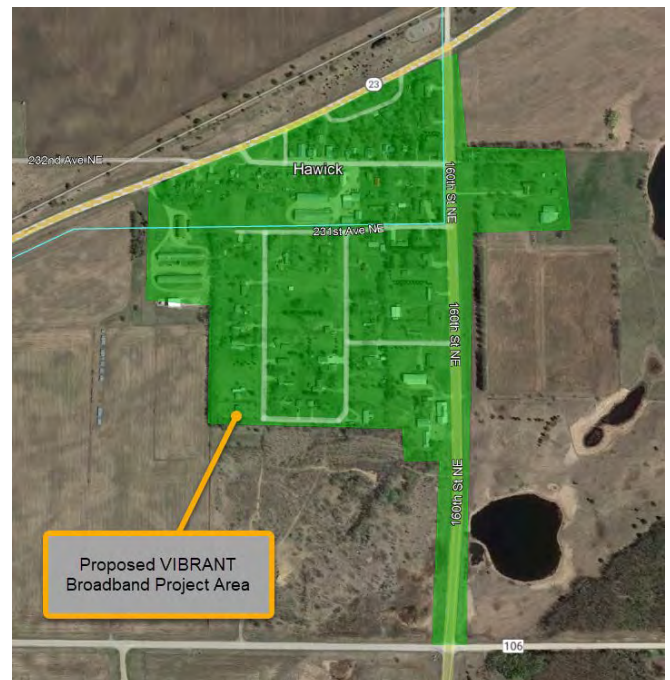
ADJOURNMENT—There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

NEXT MEETING—The next regular committee meeting is **10:00 a.m., Monday, May 2, 2022** at Room 2057, Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building, Willmar and via Zoom video conference.

Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Association/VIBRANT Broadband - Kandiyohi County Funding Proposal

Kandiyohi County- City of Hawick (*proposed coverage area represented in green, see photo below*)
-Project scope falls within the SW quarter of Roseville Township

- 60 Passings
- 1.7 Miles of Fiber
- \$203,400 – Total Project Cost to Construct & Install Customers
- \$101,700 – 50% Split Cost
- \$1695– Cost per passing



Businesses operating in Hawick was unknown at the time of proposal. Meeker Cooperative requests 50% funding of total project cost. Meeker Cooperative also requests the aid of Kandiyohi to waive R.O.W. permit costs.

This proposal is high-level, as an engineering study and design review will need to be conducted to verify associated costs. Project dependent on Meeker Cooperative Board approval.



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Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Association/VIBRANT Broadband - Kandiyohi County Funding Proposal

Kandiyohi County- Long Lake Southside- Excluding New London Township

(Proposed coverage area represented in green, see photo below)

-Project scope falls within the NW ¼ of Irving Township

- 114 Homes Passed
- 7.3 Miles of Fiber
- \$449,800 – Total Project Cost to Construct & Install Customers
- \$224,900 – 50% Split Cost
- \$1972– Cost per passing



Meeker Cooperative requests 50% funding of total project cost. Meeker Cooperative also requests the aid of Kandiyohi to waive R.O.W. permit costs.

This proposal is high-level, as an engineering study and design review will need to be conducted to verify associated costs. Project dependent on Meeker Cooperative Board approval.



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