

## Broadband Action Workgroup of Allegan County Minutes

Thursday, February 16, 2023

Called to Order at 4:00pm by Chair Marsman.

Roll Call: the following members answered the roll: Cooper, Armstrong, Siler, Williams, Beltman, Bursma and Storey.

Minutes of January 19, 2023 meeting were approved.

County Administrator Sarro reported on contacts with legislators to support the county/123 Net application.

Project Manager Jill Dunham reported:

Residents can register their support for the 123NET project on their website > [www.123.net/allegan-county/](http://www.123.net/allegan-county/). Residents can add their name to a list or use the tool to craft a unique letter of support.

Township, cities, and villages meeting on February 22 will hear from 123 Net and Dunham updating the progress made on the applications at 7 p.m.

Community meeting in a box – MIHI office is holding 30 or more meetings across the state inviting residents on digital equity and access. Dunham attended the one held in Benton Harbor. None scheduled for Allegan County. Dunham received the tool kit to host a series of five meetings in the county starting in mid-March continuing to June.

Dunham also reported on MERIT meeting in Ann Arbor. Challenges to FCC map deadline expired in January. But they are still accepting challenges. The updated FCC map is expected to be issued in June.

Discussion items:

Austin Marsman reported on the site visit to 123 Net.

The BAW members discussed the idea of expanding its scope to include identifying “dead” cell service areas. Some members questioned whether it was within the scope of the BAW’s charter and whether the current members would like to continue. Marsman suggested getting the county commissioners involved in asking the local units in their districts the interest of pursuing this project.

Public Participation:

Andy Webb is the planning commission member for Otsego Township. He cited his experience in trying to get fiber service from AT&T. He said that he logged a challenge on the FCC Broadband map being incorrect.

Moved by Marsman, seconded by Williams to adjourn.

Adjourned at 4:53p.m.

Respectfully,

Jim Storey, Secretary