

## **Broadband Action Workgroup**

August 3, 2023 – Minutes

**Call to order:** Chair Austin Marsman.

Members present: Austin Marsman, Scott Beltman, Gerry Williams

Member joined via zoom: none

Others Present: Project Mgr. Dunham, Administrator Sarro

We do not have quorum.

**Communications:** none

**Presentations:** none

**Administrator** – Administrator Sarro reported that the county is in discussion with 123Net to provide some space on County property and possible use of the building next to County Services Building, which is currently empty.

Board of Commissioners has approved and asked the BAW to address mobile wireless coverage. There is no funding appropriated at this time. If there is economic impact opportunity, this could be referred to the Economic Development Commission for further review.

Mobile Wireless Coverage Scope Add:

1. Document Current Reality – Provide a county-wide assessment of mobile wireless/cellular coverage. This includes bringing each major provider to present on their current coverage and their plans to increase coverage.
2. Identify coverage gaps to the best of our ability.
3. Develop Future State goals and recommendations to fill all gaps, including provider for increased coverage.

**Project Manager:**

**ROBIN** – Today is the last day for internet service providers to file challenges to the ROBIN projects. Ms. Dunham does not anticipate any significant challenges to the 123Net/Allegan project. The challenges will need to be reviewed and determined to be valid or not. MIHI is targeting Labor Day for final awards.

**MI Connected Future Tour** – Jill attended the presentation of the draft Digital Equity Plan and the draft plan for the Five Year, which is attached to the agenda.

**Allegan County Map lookup tool** – Dunham asked the BAW members to continue to promote the Broadband Map on the county website broadband page and have residents check their addresses.

Marsman asked if 123Net will build beyond the project scope of the RFP. Dunham responded that their first priority is to complete the RFP scope build. After that, they will follow their normal process for expansion of their network.

Dunham also mentioned that she is working with the Green Lake homeowners' association on cell coverage issues. Some of the residents are test driving coverage – where is it good, where does it drop – all around the lake. Dunham is looking for a tower company to partner with that might be willing to install a new cell tower in the Green Lake area.

**Public participation:** no one seeking.

Adjournment: Moved by Beltman, seconded by Williams. Passed: 4:39 pm

Next meeting: August 17.