

Allegan County Broadband Action Work Group

May 5, 2022

Minutes

Chair Austin Marsman, called meeting to order at 4:00pm

Roll Call: In addition to chair Marsman, the following members answered to the roll call: Kotas, Siler, Williams, Beltman. A quorum was present. Others present: R. Sarro, M. Thiele, S.Schulz of Bloomingdale Bloomingdale Communications.

Public participation: no one sought recognition.

Communications: none received

Minutes: Kotas moved, Williams seconded approval of April 21, minutes

Project Manager Report: Jill Dunham reported visiting school districts and libraries to promote completion of the broadband survey with flyers and printed survey response forms. Created a sticker on pizza boxes to encourage participation. Press run of 5,000 is intended. She will also do a half-day in each town to distribute flyers. Proposes September 1 deadline. Kotas asked what a reasonable goal for participation; Dunham: five percent or greater of county households. Siler reports Holland had 3,800 responses to its survey and Ottawa County had 4,000. Said she would bring RFP draft to next meeting. Connect Michigan advised that they had started their road-by-road survey. Projects they will be in Allegan in June. Said the NOFA for BEAD funding will be released May 16. Beltman asked about the RFP draft with the survey in initial stages. Administrator Sarro participated in Dunham's answer by stating that the draft was mainly a language issue. Chair Marsman asked whether any info was received from Connect Michigan: Dunham/Sarro: nothing yet

County Administrator: Reported the Board of Commissioner has hired a lobbyist with the hope having one will get money for Allegan County broadband expansion.

Discussion items: Dunham kicked off a "brainstorming" discussion of an evaluation template. Said she adapted it from a 911 purchase project. A wide-ranging discussion among the workgroup members ensued. Those actively participating included Beltman, Kotas, Siler, Marsman, Schulz and Sarro.

Action items: None scheduled.

Public Participation: Chair Marsman invited Commissioner Thiele to address the group; declined.

Adjournment: 5:29pm.

Note: A recording of the meeting can be accessed at the following website address.

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/_cEcco9fnYaPJNI2TGStdKcy-C2rCp-NuqBdThkpV6OiMEiubgn1LoF99eesbft-8F4pBaINfOH_3ck.WDjJoTQPZkZ2C3Ik

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Storey, Secretary.