

## Allegan County Broadband Action Workgroup

May 19, 2022

Minutes

**Call to order:** 4:00 pm Chair Marsman

**Roll Call:** the following members answered the roll: Kotas, Marsman, Williams, Beltman, Storey. Also present were Jeff Kaylor, Trowbridge Twp Supervisor; Steve Schulz and Janine Hartman, Bloomingdale Communications; Jill Dunham, project manager. The workgroup lacked a quorum.

**Public Participation:** No one sought recognition.

**Project Manager Reports:** Have ordered 5,000 pizza box stickers, with survey logo; still distributing flyers. Connect Michigan will advise the county administrator when its starts surveying the county for existing cabling. Michwave and Surf Broadband have asked to brief us on their proposals.

### Discussion Items:

- 1. Duck Lake proposal** – Steve Schulz briefed the workgroup on its proposal to expand service in Trowbridge, Cheshire and Valley under the U.S. Department of Agriculture ReConnect Program. Schulz and Dunham explained the state of broadband availability in the proposal. Schulz outlined where their service infrastructure is located from which to serve. Trowbridge \$713,000; Cheshire, \$2.5 million, Valley \$344,000 is the cost to connect. USDA has already awarded \$2.5 million loan and grants; Cheshire has already allocated \$216,000 in ARPA funds to the project. It's a lot of homes. Bloomingdale is seeking township and county support for the shortfall. Dunham asked whether it could wait until the RFP is out and ready for action. Charter mapping may be inaccurate. Marsman asked whether the township is putting aside money for broadband; Kaylor said his board is not in favor of it, but if the county will match, he wants to use it to convince the board to do it.
- 2. Draft RFP review** – Dunham led the workgroup through a review of the draft RFP. Member Kotas asked about including a "take rate" as part of the RFP request to providers. Hartman suggested that providers be requested to propose a response that includes a 100% build out of the area for which they bid.

**Public Participation:** no one sought recognition

Adjournment: 5:44 pm; Moved by Williams; seconded by Beltman.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Storey, secretary