Allegan County Broadband Action Workgroup



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BROADBAND ACTION WORKGROUP - AGENDA

Thursday, July 7, 2022 – 4PM County Services Building, Board Room 3283 122nd Avenue, Allegan, MI 49010 Virtual Meeting Options – Connectivity Instructions Attached

4PM CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Austin Marsman ROLL CALL PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** PRESENTATIONS:

> **COMMUNICATIONS:** APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 16, 2022

REPORTS/UPDATES: County Administrator **Broadband Project Manager**

- Survey update
- Mapping update
- RFP update

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. RFP Language and Evaluation Requirements

ACTION ITEMS:

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: ADJOURNMENT:

Next Meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 21 @ 4PM

Broadband Action Workgroup Goals:

- Step 1 Upon verification of eligibility through the ARPA funds or identification/allocation of alternative funds, hire a directly employed or contracted project lead (and possibly team) to lead the project and deliver results for Board approved Specific, Measurable, Actionable, Realistic, Time-based (S.M.A.R.T.) goals.
- Step 2 Consider partners, technical professionals, and other stakeholders to serve as an advisory resource to the project team.
- Step 3 Gather necessary and relevant data to form S.M.A.R.T. goals.
- Step 4 Consider plans, proposals, legislative initiatives and other resources to establish and implement plans for increased accessibility.



Allegan County

Broadband Action Workgroup



STEP 1: Connect to the Meeting

• OPTION 1: Zoom over Telephone

- Call (929) 205-6099 -or- (312) 626-6799 -or- (253) 215-8782
- Type in Meeting ID: 854 0746 8607, then #, then # again
- Type in Meeting Password: 2022, then #
- To raise your hand to speak, press *9
- To Mute and Unmute, press *6

<STOP here>

You do not have to continue reading the rest of the instructions.

OPTION 2: Youtube

- Open Internet Explorer or Chrome
- Navigate to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQIiZQstN2Pa57QAltAWdKA
- Click on image of "Live" video

<STOP here>

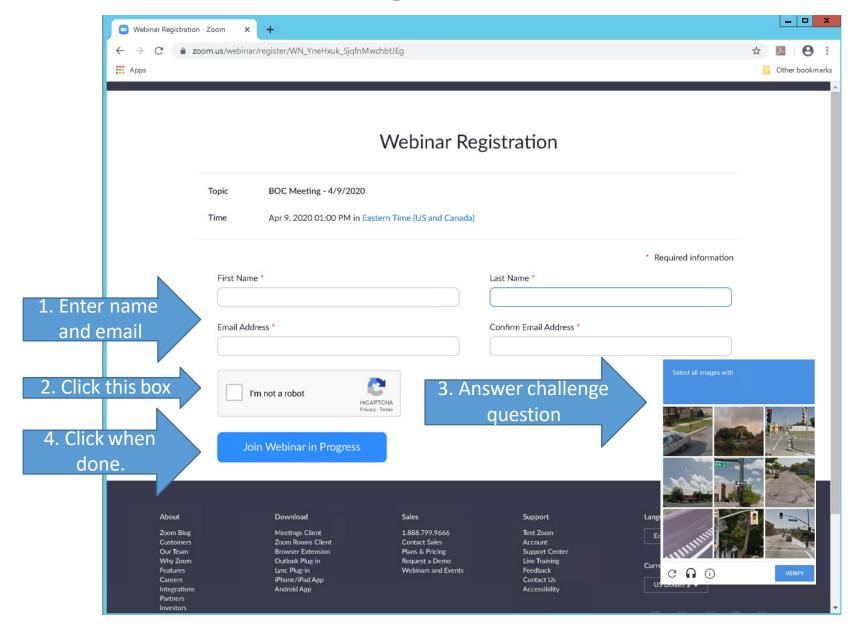
You do not have to continue reading the rest of the instructions.

OPTION 3: Zoom over Web browser

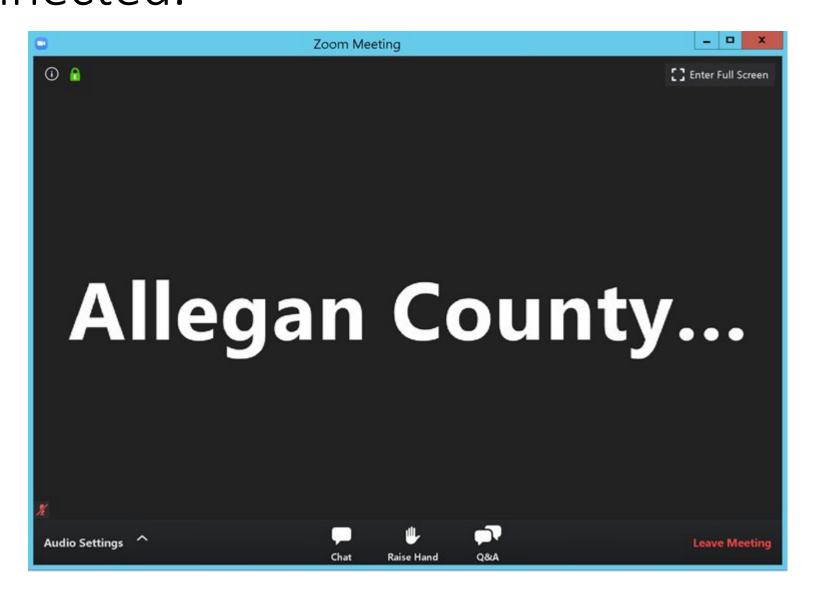
- Open Internet Explorer or Chrome
- Navigate to https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85407468607?
 pwd=TFN5YkxpZVdSNDBpejllMmpSd1c4Zz09
- Meeting Password: 2022

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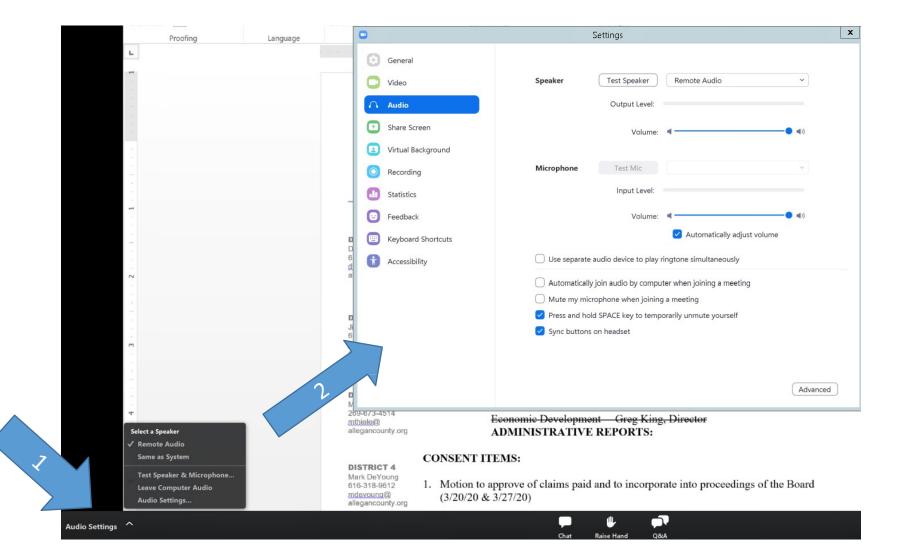
STEP 2: Enter registration information



STEP 3: This Window will appear when connected.



STEP 4: Adjust audio settings (if needed)



STEP 5: Raise hand to be recognized to speak.

 Once "Raise Hand" is clicked, the Board Chairperson will receive notice and may UNMUTE your microphone when ready and verbally recognize you to speak.

On bottom of screen.

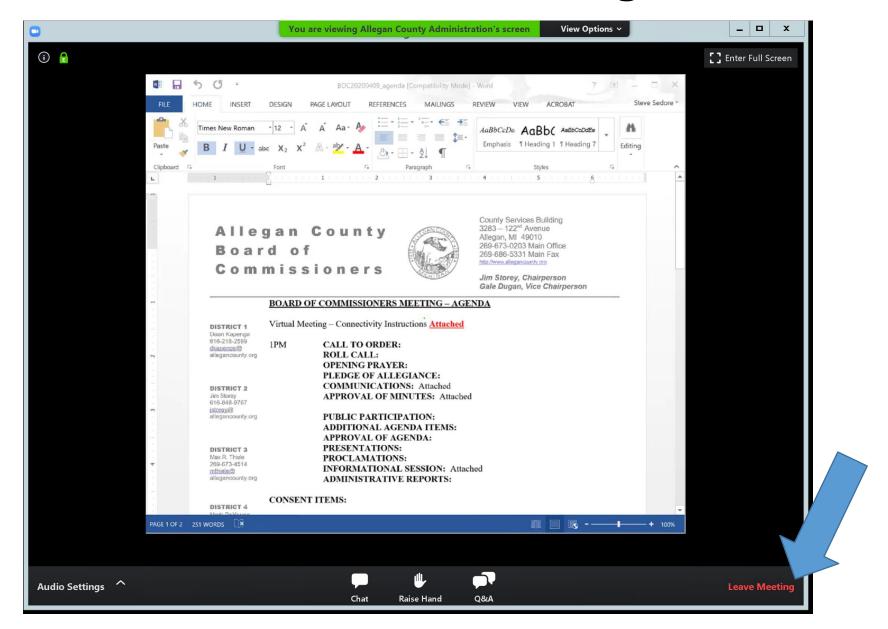
Click Raise Hand in the Webinar Controls.



- The host will be notified that you've raised your hand.
- Click Lower Hand to lower it if needed.



STEP 6: To leave the meeting



Minutes Allegan County Broadband Workgroup June 16,2022

Chair Marsman called meeting to order at 4pm and called the roll

The following members answered the roll: Marsman, Kotas, Beltman, Siler answered the roll. Project Manager Jill Dunham, Administrator Sarro, and Exec Director Steve Sedore were also present.

Communications: MLive picked up news release issued by Ms. Dunham

PRESENTATION: Gene Crusie, CEO of Surf Broadband made a presentation. Company is approaching 20,000 customers in Michigan, including Byron Center and Fowlerville, Indiana and Illinois. Company focus is fiber optic in the Great Lakes area which they see as transformational. Kotas asked how close the company's fiber is to Allegan County; the company responded in Leighton Township, Zeeland Township, Dorr Township and building on 144th Street. The Surf Broadband purchased Freedom Net and has 13 fixed wireless towers in northern Allegan County. Marsman asked about pricing, Cruise said \$35 for 50M, \$85/1G for fiber broadband. Asked about adoption rate in Michigan 50 to 70 percent; across all market is 35% over three years. The company is building in a township in Livingston County in which 85% of funding is from the company and 15% with ARPA funds from township. Cruise said company plan is to build along eastern Lake Michigan shore from Muskegon to state line. The company reps expressed hope that State's MiHI office would soon be organized.

Minutes: June 2 minutes were approved.

County Administrator update: Sarro said hybrid approach to the goal of advancing broadband adoption has evolved. Advised that a shovel ready status will be needed in order for a proposal to qualify from local governments for broadband and water projects. Sewer has been introduced as a concept for possible county funding. Discussed the criteria the Board of Commissioners is considering for approving funding for projects.

Project Manager Update: Dunham reported on the status of the survey to date. Results are attached to the minutes. She observed that most people are finding some way to connect by internet, noting that cell phone speeds are highly unreliable. Calhoun County also has a task force on broadband expansion and Dunham will be meeting with them. The RFP draft is done; it is being reviewed by Valdis in the county's project manager office. Project Manager and BAW members engaged in dialogue on connecting residences from the access cable to the house commenting on how to finance it. Mr. Crusie commented on the approach his company takes

towards connecting individual homes. Dunham said that she is anxious to get the data from the Michigan Connect survey. The RFP will not go to the BOC for approval prior to issuance.

DISCUSSION – Kotas reported Lee Twp leadership was happy with the BOC approving the allocation for expansion of broadband in the township. He said the high degree of completion of the survey in the township showed how great an interest there was in broadband completion.

NEXT MEETING: Dunham asked if the next meeting should be in 2 weeks on June 30 or the first Thursday, July 7. After considering a meeting on June 30, the group decided to keep the next meeting scheduled for July 7.

Public Participation: No one sought recognition.

Adjournment: 5:11 pm.