

Broadband Action Workgroup
July 7, 2022
Minutes

CTO: 4pm by Chair Marsman

Roll Call: Called by Tim Kotas, quorum present; project manager Dunham joined via zoom as did Administrator Sarro

Public participation: no one sought recognition

Communications: Steve Revor requested the county match the townships broadband dedication of ARPA, according to Dunham.

Project Manager Reports:

- Survey results are continuing to come in. Would like to conclude by end of the year. Thus far have 1,790 responses. Keeping survey open to 12/31/22 would allow challenges to FCC maps expected to be released in November timeframe.
- Mercury is building high speed fixed wireless (up to 150M down) in Calhoun and Kalamazoo counties.
Dunham said if BAW & county is dedicated to fiber only, it would have to be in the RFP
- Mapping update: Spectrum supplied a new map in response to three areas of the county that were not accurate on the original Spectrum mapping. Dunham reviewed the new map and deemed it accurate.
- No need to wait for connect Michigan.
- Per Siler, FCC is starting to update their maps, Holland Board of Public Works, as a provider has access to provide address level information to the FCC.
- Beltman asked whether there was any update from AT&T on their installation in Monterey twp. Dunham and Henry Reinert (twp supv) did ride-around survey to see where the new fiber is installed.
- Kotas suggested that RFP might need to reflect that a fixed wireless provider awarded ARPA funds should be required to be moving towards fiber.
- Sarro said he wants to bring the RFP to the Board of Commissioners at its July 28. Dunham says its 90% there, but there are things the executive committee wants to make some tweaks.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

RFP review- only item scheduled

The BAW initiated a review of the proposed Request for Proposal (RFP) from providers seeking county ARPA. Siler brought up the wisdom of requiring providers who respond to the RFP to connect all homes. Kotas suggested that the wording in 2.4 be softened to encourage providers to tell explain their adoption strategy for connecting all households if they are awarded ARPA county and township funds. The executive team will further discuss this section based upon the reaction of the committee. Regarding section 3.2: discussion ensued regarding how to evaluate pricing bids vis-à-vis ARPA requirements that obligations be executed by 12/31/24 and spent by 12/31/26. The balance of the RFP addressed by the BAW members saw comments on bid security, insurance requirements, and cost of provider plans to county customers. Siler opined that the strategy, preferring

fiber over fixed wireless, should be included at the start of the RFP. Regarding the grading proposal, Dunham suggested that BAW members review the grading and be ready to discuss at June 21 meeting prior to voting on the RFP document. Per Kotas, adoption strategy should be in scored. Siler, Storey and Kotas said that providers installing fiber should get a higher score than those that are using cable due to future adaptability.

Action items: non scheduled

Public Participation: no

Adjournment: Kotas, moved, Beltman seconded. Passed at 5:33pm.