Date & Time of Meeting: Tuesday, January 20, 2015, Immediately following the Marathon County Board of Supervisors Business Meeting.

Meeting Location: Employee Resources Conference Room (C149), Courthouse

Committee Members: E.J. Stark, Chair; Matt Bootz, Kurt Kluck, Mort McBain, Jim Warsaw, Jeff Zrinyi
Supporting Staff: Deb Hager

Agenda Items:
1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of the Minutes of December 16, 2014 Connectivity Taskforce Meeting

Policy Discussion and Possible Action
3. State Broadband Director
4. High Speed Bits
5. Review and Discuss Connectivity Task Force Charter
6. Plan the Meeting with Northwoods Broadband & Economic Development Coalition February 10th
7. Topics and Agenda Items for Next Meeting
8. Adjourn

Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 715-261-1500. For TDD telephone service, call the Employee Resources Department at 715-261-1451.

SIGNED /s/ E.J. Stark
Presiding Officer or Designee

FAXED TO: Daily Herald, City Pages, Marshfield News
FAXED TO: Mid-West Radio Group
FAXED BY: M. Palmer
FAXED DATE: ________________
FAXED TIME: ________________

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE
BY: M. Palmer
DATE: ________________
TIME: ________________
MARATHON COUNTY (BROADBAND) CONNECTIVITY
TASK FORCE

MINUTES
Tuesday December 16, 2014, 4:35 p.m.
Employee Resources Conference Room, Courthouse, Wausau WI

Attendance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Absent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E. J. Stark, Chair</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matt Bootz</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kurt Kluck</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mort McBain</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Jim Warsaw</td>
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<td>Jeff Zriny</td>
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Also Present: Deb Hager, Mary Kluz, Gerry Klein

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
The meeting was called to order by Chair Stark at 5:00 p.m.

2. **Public Comment** – None

3. **Approval of the Minutes of November 12, 2014 Connectivity Taskforce Meeting**
   **Discussion:** None
   
   **Action:** Moved by McBain, second by Bootz to approve minutes of November 12, 2014 Taskforce meeting. Motion carried.

4. **Policy Discussion and Possible Action**
   A. **Broadband Gap Study Discussion**
   **Discussion:**
   Gerry Klein presented summary of broadband gap study and how it was conducted. Key points: Five years ago residents 20% had a home based business, 28% plans for home based business, telecommuting was on the rise and should be resurveyed. We may need to revisit the short term strategies recommended in the gap study. County role may be to help residents/consumers understand their choices. County is getting ready to have first tower lease with a provider on the eastern side of the county to address underserved area. This was a direct result of the Public Safety Committee adopting a policy that allows for tower lease if certain criteria are met. Middle mile is very important for home based business and the over selling of the middle mile by providers. Technology options is run fiber or cable to home (Charter, ComCast, etc.) 60 to 100 meg; phone wiring (utilize the old teleco copper wiring) 5-6 meg however the copper is disintegrating because it is 60 years old; AT&T got approval to not replace copper instead provide wireless technology (however wireless does not go through trees or dirt); have built out Community Area Network in the last five years connecting Wausau School district, NTC, UWMC, City and County, clinics and hospitals; CWA needs high speed, high quality internet access - $25,000 to run from vault on HWY 29 to CWA from Indian Head Golf Course; wireless broadband coverage from 5 years ago very inaccurate; 92% of County is covered by AT&T and Cell Com with both speed and coverage; Solarus pulled out of Western Marathon County in 2014; Marathon County has terrain issues along our river bottoms and forested areas.
   
   **Action:**
No action needed.

**Follow Through:**
Bring Gerry back to discuss possible tech options and ideas for partnership. What does the task force want for the residents of Marathon County.

**B. Broadband Definition**

**Discussion:**
Mary Kluz discussed that there are three aspects: access, application and adoption (have it use it and create it). Bits per second measures speed. Bytes (8 bits make a byte) measures file size. Broadband is about upload and download speed. Consumer lacks understanding of what they are Federal Communication Commission, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and US Department of Agriculture, and others who administer grants and loans are players in defining broadband (including speed currently 4 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload); Public Service Commission PSC at state level; consumer concerned with options, cost and reliability. Connect America funding FCC requires 10Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload speeds. Marathon County is in PSC Region 4. PSC is looking for public/private partnerships for the PSC eligible grants. How connected do we want Marathon County residents to be?

**Action:**
No action needed.

**Follow Through:**

**C. Discuss Survey**

**Discussion:**
Survey may be premature. Need to look at the Gap and the PSC website.

**Action:**

**Follow Through:**

**D. Discuss Resources Sent**

5. **Future Meetings**
   A. Next meeting – January 20, 2014
   B. Agenda items:
      – State Broadband Director
      – High Speed Bits

6. **Adjournment**

   MOTION BY KLUCK; SECOND BY MCBAIN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED. Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
by Deb Hager
MARATHON COUNTY TASK FORCE CREATION REQUEST

I. Task Force Name: Marathon County Connectivity Task Force

II. Purpose: To explore potential strategies and policy recommendations which improve increase connectivity and speed of internet access to rural Marathon County based on following:
   1. Best practices in other communities that have addressed connectivity
   2. Needs of the business and residents in underserved areas
   3. Identification of economic impact of connectivity including opportunities for business, education, health care, etc.
   4. Current fiber or infrastructure – where is it and what are the future needs
   5. Appropriate role for county government in encouraging private partnerships to address connectivity needs
   6. Financial impact including tax levy implications, grant funding, etc.
   7. Public safety enhancements of increased connectivity

III. Relationship to County Government Structure: This Task Force will report to the Marathon County Executive Committee.

IV. Member Appointment: The County Board Chair will appoint task force members

V. Member Terms and Qualifications: Members will be appointed to serve from November 2014 through December 2015. Membership will include one member each from the Technology, Infrastructure and Education & Economic Development Committees and two County Board Supervisors at large.

VI. Duties and Responsibilities: The Task Force will develop recommended strategies and policies to address connectivity and speed of internet access in rural Marathon County.

VII. Description of Deliverable: The Task Force will provide a final draft of recommended strategies and policies for consideration by the Executive Committee of the Marathon County Board by December 31, 2015.

VIII. Task Force Term: The Task Force will be appointed in October of 2014 and be chartered until December 31, 2015