Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Stark at 4:00 p.m.

1. Public Comment – None

2. Approval of the Minutes of February 17, 2015 Connectivity Taskforce Meeting

MOVED BY MCBAIN, SECOND BY WARSAW TO APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 2015 TASKFORCE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Policy Discussion and Possible Action

   A. Review of Wisconsin Public Service Commission Broadband Web Site and Services

   Discussion:

   Sarah Klein presented a historical perspective of the Public Service Commission (PSC) work through a grant to obtain information from private ISP’s. PSC has a budget request in to continue work begun under the grant. Broadband Coordinator position is vacant at this time. Hoping to fill in 2 to 3 months. Broadband expansion grants have been awarded for $1 million in last biennium budget. This biennium budget has up to $6 million request for broadband expansion grants. Any private entity can apply. If a public entity wants to apply must have a private partner. Really up to the private provider to initiate an application. Marathon County municipalities have indicated that they have little success with getting private ISP’s to work with them to increase accessibility and availability in their areas.

   Unserved is consider any place with less than two providers. Looking at underserved, impact and match when considering grant application. Legislation prohibits counties from direct provision of broadband service. Recommends looking at Fond Du Lac County to push a fixed wireless system. Chippewa County – Bloomer telephone company pushes out 1 gigabyte.

   LinkWisconsin site – focuses on serving consumers and providers. Regional planning teams plan will be refreshed when new Broadband coordinator is hired. Suggest using broadband width assessment tool to connect with providers. Suggest that we get a neighborhood, subdivision, or group of citizens to go to the tool to engage a provider/providers. Mapping is dependent on ISP’s willingness to provide information at this time most of it is by census population blocks so if anyone in the block received service the whole population block is indicated as covered at that level.
Action:  
No action needed

Follow Through:  
Will schedule a follow up meeting with Colter and Sarah.

B. Discussion of Current Broadband Maps for Marathon County

Discussion:  
Have Gerry continue the discussion on broadband maps at next meeting.

Action:  
No action needed.

Follow Through:  
No follow through needed

4. Future Meetings Topics and Agenda Items
A. Next meeting – April 22, 2015 @ 3:30 pm or immediately following the County Board meeting
B. Agenda items:
   • Current broadband maps

5. Adjournment
   MOTION BY MCBAIN; SECOND BY BOOTZ TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,
by Deb Hager