1. **Call Meeting to Order**
The meeting was called to order by Chair Stark at 3:30 p.m.

2. **Public Comment** – None

3. **Approval of the Minutes of April 22, 2015 Connectivity Taskforce Meeting**
   MOVED BY ZRINY, SECOND BY KLUCK TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 22, 2015 TASK FORCE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

4. **Policy Discussion and Possible Action**
   A. **Presentation Regarding Marathon County Economic Regions – Jeff Pritchard**

   **Discussion:**
   Jeff Pritchard, Conservation, Planning and Zoning, gave a presentation on Farmland Preservation and the six regions in the County and the strengths of each region. From East to West the regions are:
   - Antigo Flats
   - Eastern Lakes
   - Lumberjack
   - Wisconsin Central
   - Wisconsin River Influence
   - Heart of America

   Wausau sanitary sewer plan is looking forward 20 years. The types of facilities that may grow an area could impact connectivity.

   Pockets of problems all over the county, except perhaps the urban areas. Western part of the County has a little better Wifi than the eastern part.

   Industry growth will be promote agriculture activities and continue agriculture growth. Western part will have high farm preservation. Won't move too much off the mark where it is.

   Smaller communities are not seeing growth (Marathon, Edgar, Athens, etc.)

   Cities and villages in the core area with sewer and water are a high growth area.

   **Action:**
   No action needed.

   **Follow Through:**
   No follow through needed
B. Discussion – Determining Target Audience for Focus Groups to Identify Broadband Needs for Marathon County Businesses and Residents

Discussion:
Jim Warsaw participated in a Broadband Boot Camp in Eau Claire. Smaller groups are more aggressive. We know where growth rates are and we need to decide how Marathon County figures in the equation and solution. Money will need to be put into it? Not everyone will get the same level of service. Municipalities need to negotiate contracts and how much will the counties or businesses step up?

A suggestion was made to create a matching fund to put up a telephone pole or metal tower to amplify signals. Wi Fi providers could serve several close houses.

Action:
No action needed.

Follow Through:
No follow through needed

C. Review Progress on Task Force Charter and Discuss Possible Next Steps

Discussion:
This Task Force is nearing an end. E.J. Stark, Chair will put together a bullet point document of the charge of this Task Force and where things are at. He will then send it to this Task Force for review. It will include:
- Best practices
- Why the County should take a lead in this endeavor.
- Bold, visionary and clear
- Multi-technologies approach – not patchwork (cellular, WiFi, fiber)
- Leasing space for towers or tall telephone poles that reach above the trees
- Include approaching Rural Electric Coop by Rosholt in an underserved area to see if they are interested.

Are focus groups the way to go or do targeted surveys and questionnaires? We need to make a recommendation.

Gerry Klein does not see a lot of value doing surveys. We have enough information without them. Don’t get quality information. He suggests getting WiFi providers together, then cell, dsl and cable. Send questions ahead of time – ie what are trends, what can make it move faster, This will provide better information.

Someone has to put the money up and make a commitment. Grant money is available, but they are specific and hard to get (Warsaw). Matching funds or business partners. No guarantees but money is the key. It won’t get any better.

Oneida county is using interns to go door to door to see what’s really going on in complaint areas.

Action:
No action needed.

Follow Through:
Chair Stark will send out his recommendations and asks that each Task Force member bring their revised recommendations to the next meeting and then it will be sent to Matt Hildebrandt and the Technology Committee.

5. Future Meetings Topics and Agenda Items
A. Next meeting to be determined
B. Agenda items: Review proposal and presentation for Technology Committee.

6. Adjournment
MOTION BY WARSAW; SECOND BY KLUCK TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED. Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
by Mary Palmer