Lincoln County Broadband Commission Meeting
6:30 PM, Thursday, January 25, 2024
Room 255/257/260, Lincoln County Service Center
801 N. Sales Street Merrill, WI 54452
Join by Phone: (US) +1 862-283-0266 PIN: 419571710
Meeting Link: meet.google.com/vvz-szuh-ipi

MINUTES

Attendees: Ken Wickham, Renee Krueger, Bill Bialecki, Pat Voermans, John Heckindorf, Brian Arndorfer, Gary Hartwig, Gordon Sennet, Rich Prange, Jeanette Beederman, John Heckendorf, Paul Strong, Jean Strong
Virtual: Elsa Duranceau, Earl Welker, Sherry Hulett, Julie Allen, Sue Dierksen, Glenn Fishbine, Andrew Faust, Travis Spoehr, Jennifer Bishop, Jerome Ziegelbauer, Katie Hanson, Northwoods Guy, Heidi O'Hare,

1. Call to Order: 6:30PM

3. Introduction of Participants

4. Approve November Minutes

- Pat Voermans motions to approve. Seconded by Elsa Duranceau - Motion Carries

5. Status/Updates of Lincoln County Broadband Efforts

- BEAD Challenge process
    - Most likely the ISPs would do this.
    - If Lincoln Co needs to challenge, the County could challenge or we can work with Grow North EDC to challenge on our behalf.
    - Pat, Ken, and Elsa presented at the Lincoln County Towns Association

6. Rapid Design Study Presentation by Breaking Solutions, LLC

- Helps with finding best options by comparing costs for different expansion projects.
- Identifies the best strategy based on most likely amount our county will be eligible for from the BEAD funds.
- Total project costs = 3.7 mil to 47 mil. Cost is based on how many residents get full fiber.
- C3 Model is likely based on grant funding availability.

- Not everyone will need fiber based on location to tower (line of sight).
- https://expressoptimizer.net/projects/WI%20Lincoln/index.php Access Key: WI Lincoln Access
    - Use project overview to find instructions how to use the website
- A link to a guide on the spreadsheet: https://expressoptimizer.net/documents/Sheet%20Guide.pdf

7. Broadband Plan Final Draft Review

- https://www.ncwrpc.org/lincoln-county-broadband-plan/

8. Internet Speed Testing Update

- We're doing great! Keep testing.
- 12.90% participation rate
- Call 715-390-0470 to report addresses that do not have fiber internet.
- Will be taken down end of April

9. LCEDC website update

- www.lincolncountyedc.org

10. Charter RDOF Construction Schedule

- On the LCEDC website
- Must be completed by 2028
- Started in the Southwest area of the County

11. Next Meeting Agenda Date Time Location

- Feb 22, 2024 – 6:30PM Lincoln Co Services Building
- Final Review on Plan with Andrew Faust

12. Adjourn: 7:59PM