

**Lincoln County Broadband Commission Meeting**  
**6:30 PM, Thursday, September 14, 2023**  
**Room 255/257/260, Lincoln County Service Center**  
**801 N. Sales Street**  
**Merrill, WI 54452**

**MINUTES**

Attendees: In Person: Ken Wickham, Bill Bialecki, Elsa Duranceau, Earl Welker, Pat Boermans, Gary Hartwig, Jerome Ziegelbaur, Dustin Brown, Clyde Nelson, Renee Krueger, Heidi O'Hare, Travis Spoehr

Virtual: Mike Houth, Julie Allen

1. Call Meeting to Order 6:31PM
2. Welcoming Remarks
3. Purpose of Introductory Meeting
4. Introduction of Participants
5. Explanation of Commission Roles, Responsibilities, and Expectations
  - Non-government entity to serve as a single point of contact.
  - Provide leadership and representation to establish broadband telecommunications availability in Lincoln County.
  - Develop Broadband Commission mission, vision, goals, and organizational structure.
  - Develop and administer the Lincoln County Broadband Plan.
  - Identify, promote, coordinate, and facilitate opportunities to achieve Broadband Plan goals including collaborating with internet service providers and broadband infrastructure providers.
  - Keep the Lincoln County Economic Development Executive Director and Lincoln County businesses, residents and taxpayers informed about Broadband progress.
  - Direct requests for County government support to the Administrative and Legislative Committee via the Lincoln County Economic Development Executive Director.
  - Provide recurring updates regarding Broadband Plan progress to the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors.
6. Commission Membership
  - Has the ability to expand.

Lincoln Co. Economic Development	Major Medical Providers
Lincoln Co. Supervisor	Merrill School District
Lincoln Co. Sheriff's Department/Dispatch	Tomahawk School District
Fire Departments Representative	Each Municipality

Lincoln County Administrative Coordinator	Merrill Library
Lincoln Co. Emergency Management Director	Tomahawk Library
Lincoln Co. Information Technology Director	CESA 9
Lincoln Co. Land Information Program Mgr	Chambers of Commerce

## 7. Lincoln County Broadband Commission Goals

- Support establishment of broadband telecommunications availability to all areas, residences, and businesses of Lincoln County. Broadband speeds initially should be at least 100 megabits per second download and 20 megabits per second upload.
- Create a map of internet service in Lincoln County and identify and prioritize areas that are unserved or underserved for broadband by the end of the first quarter of calendar year 2024.
- By the end of the first quarter of the calendar year 2024, produce a plan that provides a realistic scenario for deploying broadband infrastructure in Lincoln County.
- Identify and promote opportunities for Lincoln County residents and businesses to access internet educational and self-help opportunities.
- On an ongoing basis, encourage internet infrastructure and service providers to invest in Lincoln County through county and community support of funding applications by matching funds, in-kind services, or other collaboration or coordination opportunities.
- Establish by the fourth quarter of calendar year 2023 a Lincoln County Broadband Commission that reflects and includes representatives from our county's citizens, municipalities, businesses, and government.

## 8. Status of Current Lincoln County Broadband Efforts

- Committee active for approximately last two years
- Speed testing/Mapping
- Broadband Plan development (NCWRPC through \$19,000 Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Grant from PSC)
- Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auctions 2019 – Charter and LTD Broadband
- Support of Charter Spectrum PSC Broadband expansion grant – March 2023
- Current PSC Capital Projects Broadband Infrastructure grants \$42 million due November 7, 2023
- Internet for All (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) \$1 billion grant funds for Wisconsin
- Why change to Broadband Commission?
  - Stability
  - Broader representation
  - Community and Economic Development focus
  - Flexibility

## 9. Election of Broadband Commission:

- Chair: Ken Wickham nominated by Pat Voermans, seconded by Earl Welker
  - Vote: unanimous yes and accepted
- Vice Chair: Pat Voermans nominated by Ken Wickham, seconded by Gary Hartwig
  - Vote: unanimous yes and accepted

- Secretary: Elsa Duranceau nominated by Clyde Nelson, seconded by Pat Voermans
  - Vote: unanimous yes and accepted

#### 9. Establish Quorum requirements

- Clyde Nelson motions 9, seconded by Jerome Ziegelbaur
  - Vote: unanimous, yes.

#### 10. Determine Frequency of Meetings

- Clyde Nelson motions Monthly and 4th Tuesday of the month and at the discretion of chair, seconded by Jerome Ziegelbaur
  - Vote: unanimous, yes.

#### 11. Date, Time, Location, and Agenda for next Meeting

- Next meeting: October 24 @ 6:30pm
- Agenda out at least one week in advance
  - By-laws
  - How to market speed testing
  - Define what target speed is needed/wanted

#### 12. Adjourn 8:21PM

### Useful links

Lincoln County Broadband Committee Meeting Agenda and Minutes

[Meetings | Lincoln County, Wisconsin](#)

Wisconsin Public Service Broadband Office

[PSC Wisconsin Broadband Office](#)

[PSC Capital Projects Broadband Infrastructure \(wi.gov\)](#)

Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Map

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/0b324cabf7b94d9ca34caa9361122d94/>

Lincoln County Internet Speed Test

[Turn Your Red Dots Green! Click Here to Take the Broadband Speedtest. | Lincoln County, Wisconsin](#)

Broadband Planning Presentations by PSC/UW-Extension

[Broadband – Community Economic Development \(wisc.edu\)](#)