

Lincoln County Broadband Commission

Organizational Guidelines

Last Approved: 02/01/2025

The Lincoln County Broadband Commission (LCBC) is a non-governmental entity designated to oversee activities related to broadband/internet service expansion efforts throughout Lincoln County, Wisconsin.

MISSION: To coordinate activities and collaborations that will efficiently and cost-effectively provide accessible, affordable, high-quality internet service options throughout Lincoln County.

VISION: Every Lincoln County resident, business, and visitor can reliably access affordable quality internet service options that meet their unique needs.

GOALS:

- Achieve cost-effective quality internet service availability in all areas of Lincoln County with an emphasis on broadband service featuring speeds no less than 100 Mbps download/20 Mbps upload.
- Locate & implement viable resources, including funding opportunities, that will help with the strategic implementation and utilization of accessible quality internet options.
- Identify, develop, and/or promote educational tools to help Lincoln County residents and businesses increase their personal digital literacy and improve overall internet service utilization.

HISTORY: The LCBC was formed in mid-2023 to replace the Lincoln County Broadband Ad Hoc Committee. It was based on recommendations from the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors as presented in Resolution 2023-07-47. The current LCBC was formed as a commission/subcommittee under the Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation (LCEDC) by a majority vote at the August 2023 LCEDC Board meeting.

MANAGEMENT: The LCBC is housed under the Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation (LCEDC) and is considered a non-governmental commission. LCBC meeting agendas/minutes are publicly available on the LCEDC website. Other LCBC documents are retained by the LCEDC Executive Director on behalf of the organization. Organizational Guidelines are publicly reviewed and updated by the Commission annually at the June meeting.

MEETINGS: Regular monthly meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Lincoln County Service Center in Merrill unless otherwise specified by the Chair or their designee. An option for virtual (online) meeting attendance will be provided and shared as part of the meeting agenda whenever reasonably possible. Meetings will be public and open to all interested parties. All attendees may participate in meeting discussions with Chair approval.

LEADERSHIP: The LCBC Action Team has primary responsibility for overseeing activities related to executing the LCBC's mission. Only approved members of the Action Team may vote on LCBC agenda action items. The Action Team consists of nine (9) members approved by a majority vote who serve 3-year staggered terms ending at the May meeting. At least five members (or their designated proxy) must be present for a quorum. An Executive Team consisting of a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary must be elected out of Action Team members for 1-year terms that take effect at the May meeting. Action and/or Executive Team vacancies should be filled by a majority vote at the next scheduled LCBC meeting.

2024-25 Lincoln County Broadband Commission Action Team Members

Tom Backen (Vice Chair) Town of Skanawan (Broadband Rep.) <i>Term Exp: 2027</i>	Jennifer Bishop Town of Bradley (Broadband Rep.) <i>Term Exp: 2027</i>	Sara Guild (Secretary) Lincoln County Economic Dev. Corp. <i>Term Exp: 2027</i>
Amanda Patterson Merrill Area Public Schools <i>Term Exp: 2026</i>	Clyde Nelson Merrill Area Chamber of Commerce <i>Term Exp: 2025</i>	Heidi O'Hare Tomahawk Public Library <i>Term Exp: 2025</i>
Gordon Sennet City of Tomahawk (Resident) <i>Term Exp: 2025</i>	Earl Welker Town of Schley Planning Commission <i>Term Exp: 2026</i>	Ken Wickham (Chair) Lincoln County Board of Supervisors <i>Term Exp: 2026</i>