

**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: Ken Wickham, Patricia Voermans, Elsa Duranceau, Sherry Hulett, Clyde Nelson, Gary Hartwig, Bill Bialecki, Kathy Tobin, Gordon Sennett, Tyler Verhasselt, Brian Arndorfer, Travis Spoehr, Julie Allen (v), Lisa White (v), Tony Piraino (v), and Renee Krueger (v)

1. Call to Order 6:30PM
2. Welcoming Remarks
3. Introduction of Participants
4. Approve October Agenda
  - Bill motioned, Pat second, motion carries.
5. Status/Updates of Lincoln County Broadband Efforts
  - NCWRPC Final Draft of Lincoln County Plan – Andrew Faust
    - Lincoln Co is the first of 5 North Central WI Co's to complete our plan.
    - Frontier Capital Project: Applications Due on Nov 7. 124 Applications for 221.6 million dollars. 12 projects totaling 14 million dollars.  
  
Proposed for 468 locations. Their strategic team revised the proposal that allowed for 185 locations in the city of Merrill and Town of Pine River totaling \$500k.
  - PSC put out notice for objections. Deadline is 11/30/2023. Revisions will be published in January.
  - Breaking Point Solutions completed a rapid design study - OptiDesign. Glen Fishbine gave a presentation.

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- Speed test tax bill notification – This helps to show our needs and hold ISPs accountable for what their service actually is vs what they advertise.

6. Mark O’Connell Video

7. Introduction to Final Broadband Plan

- Slideshow
- Internet Speed Test
- Tax bill flyer
- Social Media flyer
- Community Action Steps: Letters of recommendations and speed test.
- Rural Digital Opportunity Funds (RDOF)
  - o 6000 locations must be covered by 2028.
  - o Start in NW Lincoln County in 2025-26 (Corning and Harding), SE Lincoln County in 2024-2025 (from Marathon Co).
  - o 100% fiber.
- Final Plan should be completed around April – July.

8. Next Meeting

- Agenda:
  - o Deep dive into the Final Lincoln Co Plan
  - o Anchor institutions.
- Date: 01/25/2024
- Time: 6:30PM
- Location: Same location

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9. Adjourn

- 7:48