

**WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BROADBAND EQUITY SUBCOMMITTEE
UNAPPROVED MEETING MINUTES May 21, 2018**

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

A session of the Broadband Equity Sub-Committee was held at the County Building, 200 North Main Street, on Monday May 21, 2018.

The meeting was called to order by Ben Fineman at 2:04 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ben Fineman, Sub-Committee Vice-Chair, President of the Michigan Broadband Cooperative and Broadband Expert

Andy Brush, Washtenaw County IT

Michelle Deatrick, Washtenaw County Commissioner

Theresa Herron, Manchester Schools representing secondary education

Kyle Mazurek, Comcast and serving as Industry broadband liaison

Scott Wooster, Chelsea Schools representing secondary education/IT expert

STAFF PRESENT:

Desmond Miller

PUBLIC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ron Mann, Deputy Supervisor, Manchester Township

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Karen Domino, WISD and Education/Technology Expert

Barb Fuller, Sub-Committee Chair, Sharon Township and citizen representative (participating in interviews for the Managing Director position at the Washtenaw County Road Commission)

Kent Martinez-Kratz, Washtenaw County Commissioner

Alicia Ping, Washtenaw County Commissioner

Conan Smith, Washtenaw County Commissioner

Teresa Gillotti, Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development

GUEST PANELISTS:

Sally Elminger, AICP, LEED AP, Principal, Carlisle Wortman Associates

Jim Haeussler, President, Peters Building Company, Saline, MI

Matt MacDonnell, P.E., Senior Project manager, Permits & Construction, Washtenaw County Road Commission

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Lisa Moutinho, Manchester Township Trustee

Zoning, Permitting, Master Plans and Ordinances:

Panelists were recruited from the regulatory, planning and builder communities to offer their perspectives on how broadband expansion is impacted by permitting, community Master Plans and development of residential housing.

Sally Elminger is an experienced community planner who is also trained as a landscape architect. Sally noted that government's authority to regulate private companies is limited and relies heavily on corporations to put a philosophy of responsibility and public service into their practice. She observed

that broadband providers act as utilities but are not regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission as are DTE and Consumers Energy. Furthermore, she remarked that government cannot require broadband service expansion and local governments in underserved areas may need to get together to identify and implement a solution. Sally wondered aloud about what incumbent carriers need to expand into lower density communities and considered that input valuable in solving the access and equity challenge. She proposed creating a model “Dig Once” ordinance for adoption by local units of government.

Jim Haeussler is the President of Peters Building Company, established in 1971. His company specializes in constructing residential sub-divisions, condominiums and commercial/office buildings. Jim acknowledged that broadband and cable providers often come in after the development is completed and the subscriber base is established. His company doesn’t build a housing development without including broadband and works to partner with providers on the front end to include communication infrastructure. His projects place water, sewer, electrical and broadband infrastructure in a “utility right-of-way” that is separate from the road ROW.

Matt MacDonnell is the senior staff person at the Washtenaw County Road Commission with construction permit oversight. Matt observed that road ROW’s are becoming ever more crowded in urban areas (water, sewer, electrical and cable service.) While rural areas have fewer ROW occupants, the environmental impact of ROW access is more complicated due to trees, lack of road shoulders, ditches, lakes, wetlands and rolling topography. He suggested exploring a Public-Private-Partnership (P3) arrangement to incent incumbent carriers to expand into under and un-served communities. Matt is supportive of “Dig Once” policies to minimize the disruption of ad hoc installation of broadband.

NEW BUSINESS

The topics for June and July were swapped and will be as follows:

June 18, 2018 - Andy Brush, Lead Sub-Cmte Member E-Government Services

Andy will consider and advise about whom to invite as panelists.

July 16, 2018 – Barb Fuller, Lead Sub-Cmte Member Local Broadband Initiatives

Barb: invite Mike Moran, Ann Arbor Twp Supervisor; Peter Psarouthakis, Sharon Twp Supervisor; Lisa Moutinho representing the Manchester Twp experience; Ben Fineman: representing the Lyndon Twp experience

August 20, 2018 – Barb Fuller, Lead Sub-Cmte Member Public Policy Impacting Broadband Access & Equity

Barb: Invite State Representative Donna Lasinski; Larry Merrill, Michigan Townships Association; Kirk Profit, Lobbyist; Lisa Dedden-Cooper, AARP Manager of Advocacy

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Monday, June 18, 2018, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. in the lower level conference room of the County Building at 200 North Main, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.