



Washtenaw County Broadband Task Force

Established by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners

Working to Achieve Countywide Broadband Equity by 2022



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 17, 2021

8:00 – 9:00 A.M.

- I. Call to Order | Introductions / Roll Call
Chair Fuller called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.
Broadband Task Force Members Present:

Ann Arbor Township	Diane O’Connell
Augusta Township	Belynda Domas
Bridgewater Township	Don Stein
Dexter Township	Karen Nolte
Freedom Township	Valisa Bristle
Lyndon Township	Gary Munce
Manchester Township	Lisa Moutinho
Northfield Township	LJ Walter
Saline Township	Gary Pirkola
Scio Township	Alec Jerome
Sharon Township	Represented by Chair Fuller
Sylvan Township	Amanda Nimke Ballard
Webster Township	John Kingsley
Jason Maciejewski	Commissioner, District 1
Shannon Beeman	Commissioner, District 3

Chair Barb Fuller
Vice Chair Ben Fineman
Kyle Mazurek (Comcast)

Others Present:
Chris Scharrer
Lamar Weir (Congresswoman Debbie Dingell’s Office)
Chris Leonello
Jared Mauch
Justin Heinze
- II. Approval of the Agenda
Agenda moved by Kingsley/Supported by Nimke-Ballard
Unanimous approval
- III. Approval of May 20, 2021 Meeting Minutes
Moved by Walter/Supported Stein
Unanimous Approval

IV. Updates

- Fineman updated the group on gap-filling efforts
- Approximately 3,000 households remain unserved after RDOF and CMIC
- RFP garnered bids that would cover all unserved
- Executive group is working to refine and evaluate

- Asking County to utilize their ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding to help close the gap, but townships are encouraged to use their ARPA funding for broadband and help the County's Board of Commissioners make their allocation (refer to memo/resolution)

- Commissioner Maciejewski added that ARPA funds are being allocated via resolution and there will be an opportunity for public engagement.
- The Board has \$71 million to allocate, it is a difficult decision
- Vote on allocation will not happen in July
- Encouraged the group to continue to advocate for the broadband allocation as public engagement is very important to the Board of Commissioners

- Commissioner Beeman encouraged township leaders and residents to come forward and advocate at Board of Commissioner meetings

- Chair Fuller asked the group to keep talking about this issue and encourage others to do so, Livingston (Unadilla) and Detroit are working to make the same broadband decisions as us

- Commissioner Maciejewski said the County has the money now, we shouldn't wait for other legislation – move now as we're ready to go

- Diane O'Connell will bring resolution of support to their township board meeting on Monday

- Chair Fuller asked all townships who have not already done so to bring the resolution in support to their board as well

- Michigan Townships Association is holding an ARPA funding webinar later today (Lisa sent members link)

- Various members of the group discussed strategies on communicating, including reminding residents Washtenaw County would be the first in the State of Michigan to achieve 100% broadband coverage

- Kyle Mazurek stated that Comcast continues to work and advocate on behalf of broadband equity

V. Action Items

No Action Taken

VI. New Business

None

VII. Old Business
None

VIII. Township Updates
None

IX. Public Comment

Lamar Weir of Congresswoman Dingell's office let the group know he'd be moving on to a different role and another representative would be attending BBTF meetings on behalf of the Congresswoman. He also added that the Congresswoman continues to be involved and advocating in rural areas and cities where a high percentage of black students suffer with home schooling challenges.

Chair Fuller thanked Lamar for his attention and attendance at the meetings and responded that broadband equity is truly a countywide effort.

X. Announcements
None

XI. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn Walter/Supported by Beeman
The meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: July15, 2021 @ 8:00-9:00AM – Zoom format