Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 19, 2019
8:00 – 9:00 A.M.
Chelsea District Library, 2nd Floor Large Study Room
221 S. Main Street, Chelsea, MI 48118

I. Call to Order | Introductions
The meeting was called to order by Chair Fuller at 8:01 a.m.
Present: Chair Barb Fuller, Sharon Township
Don Stein, Bridgewater Township
Jack Knowles, Scio Township
Sue Waters, Webster Township
John Kingsley, Webster Township
Craig Maier, Lima Township
Kyle Mazurek, Comcast
Mike Compton, Dexter Township
Ben Fineman, Michigan Broadband Cooperative
Melanie Bell, via telephone, Michigan Broadband Cooperative

II. Public Comment
No public comment

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes
A. August 22, 2019
The minutes of August 22, 2019 were approved, adding Alize Asberry Payne, Washtenaw County Racial Equity Officer as a list of attendees.
Stein/Mazurek

IV. Approval of Agenda
Approved as presented, Kingsley/Maier

V. Action Items
No action items

VI. Workgroup Updates
A. Data Collection Workgroup
The group continues to explore possible partnerships with various vendors who can provide assistance with study. Merit, Ginsberg Center, Quello Center.
Reviewed the data provided by Equalization, suggested adding a ‘state’ field prior to importing to mailing file.

Need to request bid from county, form contract (understand scope of work and how it will be divided, first)

Can committee sign contract w/vendor, or is it county only? When is payment rendered? Pre or post work?

Who owns data? How did Lyndon handle their data collection?
   Need to make access fair and equitable
   How do we publish results while protecting privacy of those who responded?

Could we present in the form of an interactive map Connect America has a clickable map that provides individual addresses.

Workgroup needs to have more frequent meetings as they work through these issues.

Ben described the survey process for the new members.

A meeting with the Ginsberg center yielded some positive results, they pair students with real world projects and opportunities and may be able to help us, in some capacity, with our data collection.

Consider township input on tax bill insert (winter tax bill), as a second wave, what are their respective deadlines, do their boards want to review or approve prior at sending?

Other concerns for survey in tax bills:
   Need to annotate they’re for parcel, not person
   Single page?
   Return envelope?
   Announce survey on respective township social media, websites?

VII. Report of the Chair

A. Membership update
Chair received a letter from Chuck Tellas, York Township Supervisor, indicating they decline to place a representative on the task force, citing the following reasons:
   1. The cost to the township will be too high for the small number to be served.
   2. Advances in technology may soon render an expensive network obsolete.
   3. Government moves too slow – risk is best left to entrepreneurs.
4. Lack of high speed connectivity is a price many are willing to pay for the solitude of low density living, far from other homes.
5. Other alternatives, such as ‘hot spots’ exist.
6. An effort to establish county wide broadband in the early 2000’s was stopped by legal action from corporate broadband partners who objected to government competing with them in the marketplace.

Commissioner Beeman responded to Supervisor Tellas via email and asked to meet with him so she could help to clarify the engagement and goals of the County Board of Commissioners. Additionally, she encouraged representatives from York Township to attend one of the Broadband Task Force meetings to better understand the work of the group.

VIII. Next Steps | Deliverables
Update membership list w/contact information and due date for survey inclusion in winter tax bills.

IX. Announcements

Comcast Update: CMIC grant has been submitted, Comcast submitted for a total of 6 townships in Michigan, including Manchester and Dexter, expecting answers as early as 10/1 – there is a challenge process though, through early next year, funds will be awarded in April of 2020.

X. Adjournment

8:53 a.m. Maier/Knowles

NEXT MEETING:
Thursday, October 3, 2019
Chelsea District Library, 2nd Floor Large Study Room