



Broadwater County Broadband Advisory Board Meeting
Friday, August 11, 2023 8:00AM

Board Members Present:

Vic Sample, Chairman; Roger Flynn, Vice-Chair; Members, Joe Gill; Adam Six

Broadwater County (BC) Staff Present:

Lindsey Richtmyer, Commissioner Liaison (absent)

Administrative Assistant:

Melinda Banks

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am. All members were present. Commissioner Richtmyer, Commission Liaison, was absent.

There was no public comment and role was taken.

Roger moved to approve the minutes from the July 27th meeting. It was seconded and carried.

The Board discussed possibly recommending a local resident as a board member. He will need to send his letter of interest to the Board and then the Board will decide after the required 30 days are completed on a recommendation.

Multiple board members attend the CAC (Communications Advisory Commission) meeting on August 8th in Helena, MT. The discussion was over grant processes and the speed app.

The board discussed if the county were to draw their own polygons, it would show a more accurate layout of each county and what they may need. The main need is going to be public health and safety, which would include police, fire, and ambulance response time. Those places around the lake may not be populationally dense, but definitely is for recreational purposes. If the providers were given any incentives to go into the lower density areas, it would be beneficial with cross-county efforts.

The board discussed ways to allow companies to receive more points for grants if they factor in public safety, fire and ambulance services. What also could be helpful is the population that is on the lower end of the income scale. This could show that even in town, a good portion of people may not be able to afford internet.

The board also talked with Dean Nelson with Montana Opticom and it was discussed that matching funds were wanted or in-kind matching funds could also be used.

The board discussed the speed app that was supposed to be released two weeks ago. The information that is being gathered turns out to be a lot more difficult to gather than once thought. The average person most likely will not participate.

The next regular meeting will be August 24, 2023 at 4 PM in the Flynn Building

Meeting was adjourned at 8:26 AM

Respectfully Submitted:

Melinda Reidy Banks*
Melinda Banks, Assistant

8/29/23
Date

Approved:

Vic Sample
Vic Sample, Chair

Sept. 8, 2023
Date