



Broadwater County Broadband Advisory Board Meeting  
Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

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**Board Members Present:**

Vic Sample, Chairman; Roger Flynn, Vice-Chair;  
Warren Smeltzer, Secretary, Absent; Members,  
Joe Gill; Adam Six, Absent

**Broadwater County (BC) Staff Present:**

**Lindsey Richtmyer, Commissioner Liaison**

***Assistant***

***Melinda Reidy***

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The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm. All members were present and a quorum was met at the beginning of the meeting.

There was no public comment. Roger moved to approve the minutes from the March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting with amendments. It was seconded and carried.

Chairman Sample discussed that there was no contact with Zayo. He contacted Brian Obert and he had stated that he had contacts with Treasure State Internet & Telegraph in Helena and not Zayo. Joe Gill made a recommendation to contact Global Net thinking that they use Zayo. Vice-Chair Flynn suggested that he will contact Treasure State. The board was unsure if the companies would be able to share information.

Chairman Sample also discussed that he spent some time looking over the GIS information on the Department of Commerce Website. It was helpful but there was no new information from the electric companies.

Joe Gill discussed contacted Matt King from Montana Department of Transportation and was given a list of different providers that have fiber buried along the highway and may be able to get the GIS layers that may be able to pin point those lines. Joe also talked with someone from Verizon and he was not able to provide specific information because of the size of the company. If the board has specific information they are requesting, then the contact from Verizon can send it to his supervisor.

Vice-Chair Flynn stated that the request for Verizon should be 1) Where are their towers and 2) What companies are they using for backhaul. Chairman Sample also wanted to know if they have any future plans of expansion in the county. Vice-Chair Flynn also would like to know the infrastructure of the fiber that they are using. Joe Gill commented that Verizon would also like to know what areas they could improve for their coverage in our area. Chair Sample would like to ask these same questions to T-Mobile.

Vice Chair Flynn discussed the progress he made on the mapping portion. He was also told that the double legged power does not have power hooked up to them any longer. They are there for easement purposes but there are non- electric cables on top of those power lines. Those cables most likely are fiber. He tried to contact Century Link to inquire about the cables but was unsuccessful. Chairman Sample knows someone who is an engineer with Century Link and will try to find a contact.

Commissioner Richtmyer discussed contacting NTIA and MACo. Robin from NITA will be speaking at the annual MACo conference and she will be assisting. The board discussed how people assume we have services because Broadwater County is in between two larger counties.

Commissioner Richtmyer stated that she talked with Emily Haxby from Nebraska. Nebraska challenged their FCC map by joining forces with the electric companies and used meter data to overlay the information over the FCC Map. This showed who in the state had power but is not served. Emily and the board would like to set up a meeting to discuss the process of this. Chairman Sample and Vice Chair Flynn will contact Vigilante and Northwestern energy to see about receiving meter readings for our county.

Meetings with Triangle will be June 8, 2023 at 9am and meetings with 3 Rivers will be June 13, 2023 at 2pm. These meetings will be over Zoom. The board will be attending these meetings but will not be breaking any Public Meeting Laws.

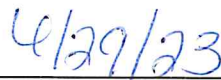
Joe Gill will be conducting some research into B-tap before the next meeting.

The next meeting will be July 27, 2023 at 4:00 pm in the Flynn Building

Chairman Sample moved adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded and carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:07 PM


Respectfully Submitted:

  
Melinda Reidy, Assistant

  
Date

*Approved:*

  
Vic Sample, Chair

  
Date