



BROADWATER COUNTY BROADBAND **BOARD MINUTES**

Vic Sample; Chair ~ Roger Flynn; Vice-Chair ~ Joe Gill ~ Spencer Sellay ~

Adam Six

Lindsey Richtmyer; Commission Liaison (absent) ~

Melinda Banks; Admin/Contact

Date: Thursday, November 30, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM

Chairman, Vic Sample called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Spencer Sellay was absent. Commission Lindsey Richtmyer was present via phone.

There was no public comment and role was taken.

Joe Gill moved to approve the September 28, 2023 minutes. Adam Six seconded and it was carried.

Commissioner Richtmyer sent an email about the challenge process for BEAD. There will be a webinar on this topic. The challenge process will start in January.

Joe Gill had an update from Global Net. Joe had talked to the CEO and found out that they use ZAYO fiber. Global Net would be interested in working with the County and could work with other providers. Global Net would not be interested in BEAD. Joe thought it would be a good idea to bring him in and start a conversation.

The board discussed the providers that serve the city of Townsend and how they serve the city. There has not been much movement or contact with Opticom.

Montana Internet and Vigilante had a meeting together and they both were open to working with one another. The one concern was the poles themselves. The Vigilante poles are old and may need to be replaced, which could be up to 2.5 million dollars. Lindsey received an email and perhaps funding may be available through USDA. Adam Six commented that the Broadband Board should have a Rural/Economic Development Plan and Brian with MBAC would be able to help. The deadline for a CBDG grant would be March 15th. Adam Six stated there also may be money through the Touchstone Energy Cooperative. There also may be some grants that will/can help get service to the Duck Creek Fire Hall.

No update on VisionNet. Spencer had mentioned Earthlink is serving the county through satellite. The board will look into this. No other updates.

Broadband Board members will attend the next CAC (Communication Advisory Council) Meeting on December 7, 2023. Members will be attending in person or online. The main topic should be the challenge process.

Roger moved to move the monthly meeting to December 21st at 4 pm. Joe seconded and it was carried.



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The Regular Advisory Board meeting will be on December 21, 2023, at 4 pm. These meetings will be held at the Flynn Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Melinda Banks
Melinda Banks, Assistant

1/18/24
Date

Approved:

Vic Sample
Vic Sample, Chair

1/18/2024
Date