



BROADWATER COUNTY BROADBAND **BOARD MINUTES**

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

Lindsey Richtmyer; Commission Liaison ~ Melinda Banks; Admin/Contact

Date: Thursday, October 12, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM

Chairman Vic Sample called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Vice Chair, Roger Flynn, Spencer Sellay, and Commissioner Lindsey Richtmyer were absent.

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

The meetings in Helena were running a bit late. The ARPA meeting that started at 8 a.m. ran an hour and a half late.

The board discussed that the Commission will use Census Blocks for their polygons. Broadwater County would have 5 separate blocks. The discussion encourages providers to use infrastructure that is already in place. If the board could get Century Link to sell its conduit to a provider that would use it, it could be very beneficial.

Dean Nelson is currently not with Opticom any longer, Chairman Sample talked to him at the CAC meeting and he does not believe Opticom will have the motivation to cover Broadwater County.

Starlink can use BEAD for extremely high-cost areas and no-bid areas. The board discussed what possibly could happen to areas that the providers will not bid on. For any area that does not receive a bid, Starlink has the opportunity to cover that particular area.

The board discussed asking the Commission if they would be able to help hire a third party or consultant who can advocate on our behalf. This has already been done, but the plan needs to be specific. The plan is to help provide engineering help to take some of that load off for our providers in our county.

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2023, at 4:00 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Melinda Banks
Melinda Banks, Assistant

10/26/23
Date

Approved:

Vic Sample
Vic Sample, Chair

Oct 26, 2023
Date