



BROADWATER COUNTY BROADBAND BOARD AGENDA

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

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

Date: Thursday, October 26th, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM

Meetings are held at the Flynn Building on 416 Broadway Street

Per Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 2-3-202, agenda must include an item allowing public comment on any public matter that is not on the agenda of the meeting and that is within the jurisdiction of the agency conducting the meeting. Public comments and items not on the agenda will be taken either in writing in advance of the meeting or in person at the beginning of the meeting. Mail and items for discussion and/or signature may occur as time allows during the meeting. Issues and times are subject to change. Working meetings will be posted on the agenda and will not be recorded.

OFFICIAL agendas are posted in the Courthouse (1st floor bulletin board), on our website at www.broadwatercountymt.com, in the window of the Flynn Building at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting

4:00 pm

Roll Call

Public Comment on items under the jurisdiction of the board and not on the agenda.

Approval of minutes

Discussion, employing a third party to engage in discussions with consulting companies

Discussion/Decision, recommendation of hiring Dean Nelson to interface with Montana Opticom to determine their future plans; Commissioner Richtmyer's update from meeting with Dean Nelson

Discussion, the possibility of Starlink, and the no-bid situation.

Discussion/Decision, Updates on possible partners and collaborations

- Opticom
- Montana Internet
- VisionNet
- Vigilante Electric
- Others

Discussion, CAC Correspondence, and the October Meeting is November 7th

Discussion/Decision: Confirm the next meeting date/time.

Discussion/Decision, CAC Review meeting time. (November 8th or 9th)

Adjourn



BROADWATER COUNTY BROADBAND **BOARD MINUTES**

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Date: Thursday, October 26, 2023

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Vice Chair Roger Flynn called the meeting to order at 4:24 p.m.

Vice Chair Roger Flynn, Members Joe Gill, Adam Six, and Spencer Sellay were present. Chairman Vic Sample was present via phone. Commissioner Lindsey Richtmyer was also present.

Joe Gill moved to approve the October 12, 2023 minutes. Spencer Sellay seconded and it was carried

The board discussed what a third-party partnership would look like without having a conflict of interest. The board had questions about what the cost would have to be in order to go through the RFP (Request for Proposal) process. It was also discussed if a different entity besides the county could hire that "third party". A third party could ultimately help with a feasibility study, help connect with providers, and look out for the county's best interest.

Commissioner Richtmyer had talked with Dean Nelson prior to this meeting. The discussion was that a number of people were going away from the BEAD grant process due to it being too complicated, the scoring rubric was not necessarily great, and the hardship of coming up with a 25 percent match. Connect 5 grant will be opening up in December.

The other part of the discussion pertains to Starlink. With the rounds of bids expected for BEAD funding, any area that does not have any bids potentially could be covered by Starlink (Satellite). The possibility for funds to go to a satellite company versus a local (Montana) company could be a setback for Broadwater County.

With the different discussions, the board will try to set up a time for different individuals to come and talk with the board including BDCD, Montana Internet, Dean Nelson, and Tory Richtmyer. These conversations would be information gathering only.

The board members are in contact with VisionNet and Vigilante Electric. There has been no communication with the other providers.

The board discussed since the CAC meetings are being a bit more direct with their information, that perhaps a CAC review meeting is not necessary. The next CAC meeting is Tuesday, November 7th in Helena, Montana

The board will work on contacting the individuals/companies that they wish to speak with and setting up those discussions. The next regular meeting has been scheduled for November 30, 2023 at 4:00 pm at the Flynn Building.



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Respectfully Submitted:

Melinda Banks

Melinda Banks, Assistant

11/30/23

Date

Approved:

Vic Sample

Vic Sample, Chair

Nov 30, 2023

Date