



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, September 28, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM

Chairman, Vic Sample called the meeting to order at 3:58 pm. All board members were present.

There was no public comment and no action was taken.

Vice Chair Roger Flynn moved to approve the September 7, 2023 minutes. Adam Six seconded and it was carried.

The Board discussed the challenge process. The state just finished the Speed Test Challenge. This data may bring engineers to the area to validate the information. The challenge against NTIA will begin January 9th and will last until February 7th. The challenge will be using the census blocks. There are five major blocks in our county and we will need at least 6 individuals in each block. The information gathered from this test will determine bidding for projects in our area.

There were no updates on possible partners. The board continues trying to reach people at Opticom, Montana Internet, VisionNet, Vigilante Electric, and others.

Chair Vic Sample, Vice Chair, Roger Flynn, Joe Gill, and Adam Six explained the services that are currently in the county and Provider updates with Spencer. The board discussed that some partners may be using BEAD money, but some may not be and the question is what will that ultimately look like. The board needs to start discussing what those scenarios will look like. Spencer Sellay asked if a power company would like to become an ISP co-op when they are already established in our county. Adam Six reminded the Board that their main goal is for broadband connectivity. Chair Vic Sample commented that maybe the different companies would be more willing to work together if the county was part of that partnership.

Members of the Broadband Board will be attending the next CAC (Communication Advisory Council) Meeting on October 11, 2023. Members will be attending in person or online. The Board will have a review meeting set on October 12, 2023, at 4 p.m.

The Board discussed the Regular Meeting Times and Dates that are posted in the By-Laws. The board did not change any information. The Board will have the November Regular Meeting for November on November 30, 2023, due to Thanksgiving.



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The next meetings are;


CAC Review; October 12, 2023, at 4 pm

Regular Board meeting; October 26, at 4 pm

These meetings will be held at the Flynn Building. The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

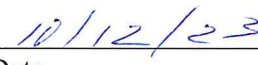
Respectfully Submitted:


Melinda Banks, Assistant


Date

Approved:


Vic Sample, Chair


Date