

**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES**

March 29, 2021

Broadband Working Group

1. **Call to Order**
Meeting was called to order by Rinard at 1:00 p.m.
2. **Roll Call**
Broadband Working Group Members
Members present: Joan Fitzgerald, Matthew Foelker, Jeff Johns and Amy Rinard

Members present via ZOOM: Richard Jones

Members absent: Curtis Backlund

Others Present: Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator

Others Present via ZOOM: Jim Taylor
3. **Certification of compliance with Open Meeting Law Requirements**
Wehmeier certified compliance with the Open Meetings Law
4. **Communications**
None
5. **Public Comment**
None
6. **Approval of the July 22, 2020 working group minutes**
Draft minutes were provided for review.

Motion by Foelker/Johns to approve the July 22, 2020 Broadband Working Group meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed 5-0.
7. **Approval of the agenda**
No changes.
8. **Update on phase 1 broadband grant and project**
Wehmeier did a presentation updating phase 1 of the broadband grant and project. He went over the timeline, rough coverage maps and showed photos of the four towers. No action taken.
9. **Update on 2021 PSC Grant Application**
Wehmeier did a presentation on the 2021 PSC Grant Application that was submitted at the end of November. We were not awarded this grant. No action taken.
10. **Discussion and Possible Action on Plans for 2021/2022**
Wehmeier reviewed potential funding sources:
 - American Rescue Act – Jefferson County will be receiving about \$16.4 million – this money needs to be used by 2024. Broadband was one of the three specified infrastructure (water and sewer) The group discussed what the process might be on deciding how these American Rescue Plant funds will be used. The Executive and Finance Committees will be discussing this process.
 - State Budget 2021-2023 – The Governor has proposed \$200 million

- \$50K had been allocated for a pilot project that didn't happen. The workgroup discussed where to use these funds.

11. **Agenda Items**

- Discuss and develop future plans and priorities for broadband (Netwurx and Bertram)

12. **Adjourn**

Motion by Foelker/Fitzgerald to adjourn at 2:08 p.m. Motion approved 5-0.