JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 5, 2023

Broadband Working Group

Curtis Backlund, Joan Fitzgerald, Matthew Foelker, Jeff Johns, Richard Jones, Robert Preuss, Amy Rinard

1. **Call to Order**
   Meeting was called to order by Fitzgerald at 9:00 a.m.

2. **Roll Call**

   Broadband Working Group Members present: Joan Fitzgerald, Matthew Foelker, Robert Preuss, Amy Rinard

   Broadband Working Group Members present via ZOOM: Curtis Backlund, Jeff Johns

   Broadband Working Group Members excused: Richard Jones

   Others Present: Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator, Supervisor Anita Martin; Steve Sharp, Reporter, Mark Dodge, Tom Lieberherr, Ken Baehler, Gary Henshue, Bug Tussel.

   Others Present via ZOOM: Jason Hafenstein, Gene Dalhoff, MadRep; Doug Barrett and Erin Wichmann, Bug Tussel; Michael Hellekson.

3. **Certification of compliance with Open Meeting Law Requirements**
   Wehmeier certified compliance with the Open Meetings Law

4. **Communications**
   None

5. **Public Comment**
   Supervisor Martin read a letter from one of her constituents regarding concerns with lack of reliable broadband.

6. **Approval of the July 6, 2022 Broadband Working Group minutes**
   Draft minutes were provided for review.

   Motion by Rinard/Foelker to approve the July 6, 2022 Broadband Working Group minutes as printed. Motion passed 5-0.

7. **Approval of the agenda**
   No changes were made.

8. **Discussion and Update on Jefferson County Public Safety Commission Grants and Conduit Debt Broadband Projects**
   Wehmeier said the county received two Public Service Commission (PSC) grants and they are working with Bug Tussel and Hilbert Communications on starting these projects. Dodge went over the project plan and timeline. The team shared maps of the project plan. A dashboard will be available on our website showing the progress of the project. A quarterly newsletter will also be available. Dodge and Baehler demonstrated a management software tool that will be used for the project. No action taken.

9. **Discussion and Update on Jefferson County Conduit Debt Data Center Project**
   This was discussed with Item 8. No action taken.

10. **Discussion and Possible Action on Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Planning Grants**
Wehmeier gave a presentation on Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Planning Grants. Wehmeier and Dalhoff discussed our grant options and key timelines. The Workgroup will focus on the planning and defining information for the grant at their next meeting. No action taken.

11. **What is the BEAD Grant and purpose?**
This discussion was part of item 10. No action taken.

12. **Requirement of BEAD Grant/Collaboration with MadRep (Draft Agreement)**
This discussion was part of item 10. No action taken.

13. **Potential Next Steps for BEAD Planning**
This discussion was part of item 10. No action taken.

14. **Discussion of next steps**
The next Broadband Working Group will meet on April 22, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

15. **Adjourn**
Motion by Foelker/Rinard to adjourn at 11:06 a.m. Motion passed 4-0.