

**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD  
COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**April 25, 2023**

**Broadband Working Group**

1. **Call to Order**  
Meeting was called to order by Fitzgerald at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Roll Call**  
**Broadband Working Group Members present:** Curtis Backlund, Joan Fitzgerald, Matthew Foelker, Jeff Johns, Richard Jones, Robert Preuss, Amy Rinard  
  
Others Present: Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator, Supervisor Anita Martin; Brian Udovich, Highway Department.  
  
Others Present via ZOOM: Jason Hafenstein, Gene Dalhoff, MadRep; Ken Baehler, Bug Tussell, Supervisor Walt Christensen.
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 April 5, 2023 Broadband Working Group minutes**  
Draft minutes were provided for review.  
  
Motion by Backlund/Johns to approve the April 5, 2023 Broadband Working Group minutes as printed. Motion passed 6-0. Jones abstained.
7. **Approval of the agenda**  
No changes were made.
8. **Discussion and Possible Action related to planning activities under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Planning Grants**  
Wehmeier provided a list of eligible projects and activities. He talked about the grant process. The group will focus on marketing, surveys and training opportunities to best utilize the grant funds. Strategies for getting this tool to the citizens of Jefferson County were discussed.  
  
Dalhoff talked about the MadRep speed tool we will be using throughout Jefferson and the importance of participation. The goal is 10% of household participation. There are 35,000 households in Jefferson County so we would need 3,500 speed tests to meet that goal. The website is <https://madisonregion.org/test-your-speed/> A QR code and flyer will also be available. No action taken.
9. **Discussion and Guidance in responding to UW-Extension Broadband Survey**  
A copy of the UW Extension Broadband Survey was provided for review. Wehmeier asked for guidance on parts of the survey. Wehmeier will submit the survey for Jefferson County. No action taken.
10. **Update on Broadband Projects**  
Wehmeier updated the group on Broadband projects. There is a meeting with Bug Tussell and area communities scheduled for Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. at the Highway

Department. The PSC is reviewing grant applications that have been awarded which may alter our project with Bug Tussell. Continuing to work with Charter. No action taken.

11. **Discussion of next steps**

The group will discuss their Vision, Goals, priorities, and planning.

The next Broadband Working Group meetings are scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup> and June 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. at the Highway Department.

12. **Adjourn**

Motion by Backlund/Johns to adjourn at 10:50 a.m. Motion passed 7-0.