

**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD  
COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**April 1, 2024**

**Broadband Working Group**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Fitzgerald at 8:30 a.m.

**2. Roll Call**

**Broadband Working Group Members present:** Curtis Backlund, Joan Fitzgerald, Robert Preuss, Amy Rinard

Others Present: Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator; Michael Luckey, Assistant to the County Administrator; Brian Udovich, Highway Operations Manager; Supervisor Anita Martin

Absent: Matthew Foelker

Others Present via ZOOM: Supervisor Richard Jones, Jason Hafenstein, Gene Dahlhoff, MadRep

**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 October 20, 2023 Broadband Working Group minutes**

Draft minutes were provided for review.

Motion by Backlund/Rinard to approve the October 20, 2023 Broadband Working Group minutes as printed. Motion passed 5-0.

**7. Approval of the agenda**

No changes.

**8. Discussion on planning ahead for Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Challenge Process**

Luckey shared maps created by our Highway Department showing propriety information. The map identified unserved, underserved, and fully served addresses. BEAD funding is for unserved and underserved areas. Luckey prepared postcards that could be sent out to approximately 12,000 households currently identified as fully served to conduct a survey to confirm that they are fully served or may be unserved or underserved and would then be eligible for BEAD funding. The group supports the idea of sending out postcards to collect data. Luckey will reach out to the PSC for feedback on the survey. No action taken.

**9. Discussion and possible action on Capital Projects Fund Grant and Conduit Debt**

Wehmeier explained that this grant funding was released last fall. We were awarded one grant with Bug Tussell for the Palmyra area.

Motion by Backlund/Preuss to support the grant for the Palmyra area approved by the PSC and Jefferson County's portion of \$500,000 in conduit debt. No action taken.

**10. Update on Broadband Projects**

Udovich went over some upcoming projects planned by Internet Service Providers. No action taken.

**11. Update on ARPA funding and Broadband**

Wehmeier said the contract with Bugg Tussell has been finalized. No action taken.

12. **Discussion and possible action on future meeting dates and agenda items**  
The Broadband Working Group will meet again as needed. No action taken.
13. **Adjourn**  
Motion by Backlund/Preuss to adjourn at 9:45 a.m. Motion passed 5-0.