

**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD  
COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**May 28, 2024**

**Broadband Working Group**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Ben Wehmeier at 1:04 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

**Broadband Working Group Members present:** Richard Jones, Amy Rinard, Michael Wineke

**Members present via ZOOM:** Amanda Truax

**Members absent:** Matthew Foelker

Others Present: Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator; Michael Luckey, Assistant to the County Administrator

Others Present via ZOOM: Jason Hafenstein, Gene Dahlhoff, MadRep; Brian Udovich, Highway Operations Manager

**3. Certification of compliance with Open Meeting Law Requirements**

Wehmeier certified compliance with the Open Meetings Law

**4. Communications**

None

**5. Election of officers**

Jones/Wineke nominated Rinard for Chair. Motion passed 4-0.

Jones/Rinard nominated Truax for Vice Chair. Motion passed 4-0.

**6. Public Comment**

None

**7. Approval of the April 1, 2024 Broadband Working Group minutes**

Draft minutes were provided for review.

Motion by Jones/Wineke to approve the April 1, 2024 Broadband Working Group minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.

**8. Approval of the agenda**

#5 Election of Officers was moved to the end of the agenda and item #11 was moved up to accommodate committee members and staff.

**9. Discussion on Broadband equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Challenge Process**

Luckey said we are nearing the end of the BEAD challenge. Luckey reviewed the remainder of the timeline, including the final determination by the PSC which is expected between July 7 – August 6. The data showed 31,000 ineligible BEAD locations in Jefferson County. Luckey worked with maps to identify addresses that are considered fully served in Jefferson County. 11,000 survey postcards were sent out to confirm that those areas are indeed fully served. Luckey followed up with certain households to obtain documentation proving they are not fully served and submitted those as challenges. No action taken.

**10. Update on Internet Service Providers (ISP) build progress**

Luckey and Udovich gave an update on ISP build progress for Charter, TDS and Bug Tussel. No action taken.

11. **Discussion and possible action related to expansion of conduit debt for Public Service Commission Grant match and other potential project areas**

Wehmeier provided background information on conduit debt and project areas. The locations are located near Palmyra and Whitewater. Wehmeier shared a draft Resolution "Initial Resolution Approving Revenue Bond Financing for Bug Tussel Wireless, LLC" The Working Group needs to decide the amount of conduit debt. The minimum obligation for the grant is \$500,000. Wehmeier is looking for feedback on how to move forward. Wehmeier will talk to Bug Tussel Wireless, LLC, and let them know that once we know the rules, we may consider additional funds. The resolution will go to the Finance Committee and then to the County Board for consideration.

Motion by Jones/Wineke to authorize initial conduit debt not to exceed \$500,000 in conduit debt. Motion passed 4-0.

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 Jones/Wineke to adjourn at 2:15 p.m. Motion passed 4-0.