

**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES**

October 4, 2024

Broadband Working Group

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Broadband Working Group Members present: Matthew Foelker, Richard Jones, Amy Rinard, Amanda Truax, Michael Wineke.

Members present via ZOOM:

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

Others Present via ZOOM: MadRep; Mark Leonard, PSC; Sarah Lawrenz, Bertram; Todd Kruse, Frontier Communications

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 18, 2024 Broadband Working Group minutes

Draft minutes were provided for review.

Motion by Jones/Wineke to approve the July 18, 2024 Broadband Working Group minutes as printed. Motion passed 5-0.

7. Approval of the agenda

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

Luckey shared a Q&A document from the PSC and talked about the point system. The project area maps have not been approved by the federal government, making the planning for the endorsement process difficult. Leonard talked about the process and the timeline-December 18th is the target date for endorsement. The Jefferson County Board meeting is scheduled for December 12th. No action taken.

9. Update on Public Service Commission

There were no additional updates. No action taken.

10. Discussion and possible action on engagement and endorsement procedures for BEAD program

Leonard said that the PSC needs a final endorsement, which would include a resolution and approval by the County Board. Luckey laid out a possible plan for framework which included presentations from providers. Kruse said that Frontier is an Incumbent Local Exchange Company (ILEC). He talked in general about the broadband market and shared a network map of historic service areas on file with the PSC. ISPs are waiting for the project maps which makes planning challenging for them. Lawrenz talked about what other counties are doing for their endorsements. Kruse suggested issuing a Request for Information (RFI) to gather information to help to determine what will provide for an endorsement. Staff will draft an RFI and send to the group for review.

Motion by Jones/Foelker to direct staff to issue preliminary Request for Information (RFI) with final authorization to occur on October 31 and issued on November 1. Motion passed 5-0.

11. Update on Internet Service Providers (ISP) build progress

Luckey shared a map on ISP build progress for Charter Spectrum. Wehmeier shared a project map for Bug Tussel. No action taken.

12. Discussion and possible action on future meeting dates and agenda items

The Broadband Working Group will meet again on October 31st at 9:00 a.m. and December 4th at 10:30 a.m. No action taken.

13. Adjourn

Motion by Jones/Foelker to adjourn at 10:21 a.m. Motion passed 5-0.