MINUTES
Jefferson County Broadband Team Meeting
Wednesday, March 31, 2021 @ 10:00 AM
Virtual Meeting via GoTo

Members Present – Sandy McDonald, Stephanie Grove, Ev Erlich, Dennis Jarvis,
Elizabeth Cook, Tricia Jackson, Jane Tabb, Laura Whittington

Others Present – David Deamer, Patricia Corley, Paul Comes, Nancy Kautz

1.) Commissioner Jackson and Tabb welcomed participants. Stephanie Grove made
participant introductions and determine members present and roll call
2.) Stephanie Grove called the meeting to order with a Sandy McDonald motion, seconded
by Dennis Jarvis
3.) The committee approved the agenda on a Dennis Jarvis motion, seconded by Sandy
McDonald
4.) Minutes from December 2, 2020 committee meeting were approved by Dennis Jarvis and
seconded by Sandy McDonald.
5.) David Deamer led the discussion about Design 9 Final Report. He reported on the final
draft of the Technical Broadband Development Plan for Jefferson County West Virginia.
   a. David went into detail about the tower locations identified in the Design Nine
      plan. There were cost estimates and timelines provided regarding each project.
   b. Propagation studies determine an estimated 89% of residents/businesses will be
      covered from the radio signal propagation study.
   c. He identified 3 or 4 potentially eligible CDBG eligible projects. The projects
      range from equipment upgrades on a county-owned tower to the construction of a
      new tower on county-owned properties.
   d. Discussed the fiber pilot studies conducted in Jefferson County, and provided the
      cost estimates for them.
   e. Areas Unserved/Underserved were identified based off WV Broadband Data
6.) David Deamer provided insight on ISP/WISP Review in Jefferson County
   a. Shentel
      i. Region 9 met with enterprise and GLO reps.
      ii. Expressed interest in county both in the residential, business and fixed
          wireless sector
   b. Morgan Wireless
      i. Interest in Jefferson County
      ii. They will need a site visit to existing tower location
   c. Comcast
      i. **Lift Initiative** - Hotspot
      ii. Community Centers, Churches, Non-Profits, Rescue Mission
      iii. 3 years free service
      iv. Boys & Girls Club of Charles Town, Martinsburg, Berkeley Springs
      v. **RISE Initiative**
1. Small Businesses
   vi. Comcast Internet Essentials
      1. $9.95 for 25/3 but moving towards 50/5
      2. Low-Income – free and reduced lunch students, Low-Income Veterans and Senior citizens
d. Wave2Net
   i. Have not heard from representatives regarding services in Jefferson County
e. Point Broadband
   i. Representative reached out discussing expansion of rural fiber in Jefferson County. They have projects in Hagerstown.
7.) Next steps and timeline / Implementation
   a. David Deamer going to create cost estimates for CDBG eligible projects, and present the data at the next broadband committee meeting.
   b. Jefferson County going to put Broadband Strategic Plan on commission website
8.) Announcements/Old Business
   a. Sheperdstown – Remote worker program
      i. Funded by WVU Brad and Alys Smith Remote Worker Initiative
      ii. Possible site at the new library
   b. Guidance needed on stimulus package funding
   c. USDA funding for broadband projects was discussed
9.) Public Comment
   a. Nancy Kautz
      i. Area southeast of Sheperdstown has bad cell service and broadband coverage
      ii. Advocating for better broadband coverage
      iii. Discussed how broadband and cell coverage is affecting the real estate market
   b. Patricia Corley
      i. She asked for an explanation on CDBG funding
10.) Next Meeting – April 28, 2021 at 10:00AM. Stephanie Grove made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Sandy McDonald