

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