

Broadband Task Force

315 W Green St, Marshall, MI 49068 | calhouncountymi.gov/broadband



April 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 3:01 pm

1. Roll Call

Task Force Members in Attendance:

Michael "Mac" McCullough
Paul Egnatuk
Marc Newman
Dr. Paul Watson
Monique French
Tommy Miller
Lorie Upright
Mike Nofs
Tina Rasey for Robert Stahelin
Art Kale
Derek Perry
Haley Snyder
Sonja Elder

Others in Attendance:

Kelli Scott
Lucy Blair
Lynn Meikle
Brent Thelen
Erin Cummings
David Hackett
Mike Watza

Not in Attendance:

Jim Haadsma
Paulette Porter
Angela Myers
Kathy Szenda Wilson
Jeff Albaugh
Shadi Makahleh
Barry Skutt
Lee Adams

2. Approval of minutes from Jan, Feb, and March meetings

Moved by Member Kale, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to approve the Broadband Task Force meeting minutes for January, February, and March, and Agenda for April.

Passes unanimously

3. ACP education update

Communications Director, Lucy Blair explained staff had their first meeting with the WIC Office. WIC staff engage with people using technology and found clients are using their phones to connect. They want to help people get connected so clients have better access to resources. Next steps include printing out applications, editing a letter, printing posters. Secondary steps include translating into Burmese and supplying pre-paid, addressed envelopes.

Communications staff will be meeting with Veteran's Affairs office next.

Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott thanked the Communications Department for their work on ACP. Customized solutions for each community partner. Asking for a status list from the targeted areas outlined.

4. Discussion about digital equity from our community partners
Action: Creation of a digital equity subcommittee

Communications Director Lucy Blair explains there is interest in digital equity for the county, and the goal is to form a sub-committee to work on fixing this in the county.

The senior millage has strategic projects mini-grants and there is interest in digital literacy. Staff met with Rod Auton from Battle Creek Community Foundation, who submitted a project called Intergenerational Partnership to Support Aging in Place. AmeriCorps volunteers would go into seniors homes to help with digital literacy, one-on-one. The project starts in Albion, but the goal is to expand, and is connected to the Albion Health Care Alliance. Senior Services wants to look into more solutions to help seniors with digital literacy.

Chair Mac McCullough has a meeting Ida Hill from Automation Workz and the Kellogg Foundation to discuss building digital literacy skills and technical skills in Battle Creek for African American kids.

Blair shared the Digital Equity Survey draft and reviewed the proposed questions. Survey would be sent to Community Institutions as well as the Task Force. Results would be shared with the Michigan High Speed Internet Office. She also gave the background as to why we want a survey.

Moved by Member French, seconded by Member Elder, to create a digital equity subcommittee

Passes unanimously

Discussion about possible members included representatives from Marshall Library, KCC, Grace Health, Albion Library, IT from Albion College, and Senior Services

5. Member Updates

Communications Coordinator, Lynn Meikle gave an update on map challenge. The County has received 2 letters from ISPs, Comcast and Springcom. Administrator/Controller Scott gave some background of the challenge process.

Member Dr. Paul Watson has talked with VP of Instruction who is looking into what curriculum KCC that would go with broadband work and connected with Ben Fineman from NTIA regarding workforce development.

Attorney Mike Watz reported he is working to revise state legislation to include governments in funding.

6. Citizen's Time

None

7. Adjournment 3:51pm

*Motion to adjourn Member Kale, Member Elders supported.
Passes unanimously*

This meeting is capped at an hour. If we reach an hour before getting to citizens time, please send your questions or comments to Calhoun County staff at information@calhouncountymi.gov.