

Broadband Task Force

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



January 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes

1. Roll Call:

Task Force Members In attendance:

Mac McCullough (chair)
Kathy Szenda Wilson
Paul Egnatuk
Sonja Elder
Dr. Paul Watson
Lorie Upright
Art Kale
Mike Nofs
Derek Perry
Haley Snyder

Brent Thelan
Erin Cummings
David Hackett
Mike Watza
Kaitlyn Elias
Ziggy Rivkin-Fish

Task Force Members Absent:

Angela Stewart
Jim Haadsma
Lee Adams
Marc Newman
Paulette Porter
Jeff Albaugh
Robert Stahelin

Others in attendance:

Kelli Scott
Lucy Blair
Lynn Meikle

2. CTC Report Presentation - Ziggy Rivkin-Fish from CTC Energy & Technology:

Rivkin-Fish presented the executive summary of their Broadband Plan and Guidebook for the County. The executive summary recommends the following options,

- Issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) from Calhoun County
- Target a smaller project for a grant with an RFP-selected partner
- Strategically pursue federal and state funding opportunities
- Promote Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) outreach efforts and adoption
- Maintain close communication with the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office

Task Force Chair Mac McCullough noted that ACP is not a sustainable program, and encouraged ongoing efforts to increase competition even in areas that are already served.

Regarding map challenges to the FCC, County Communications Director Lucy Blair shared that individual challenges are still an important element in getting the FCC maps updated to be more accurate.

Kaitlyn Elias from Kitch Law Firm asked for clarification about the County's RFP process and whether it was limited to proposals for unserved and underserved areas. Blair replied that certain grant funding will limit the eligible areas, but Internet Service Providers could respond regarding any areas of the county they were interested in covering.

County Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott mentioned that the Realizing Opportunity with Broadband Infrastructure Networks (ROBIN) grant application is expected to be issued soon and will be due in March. Scott added that the County hopes to partner with one or more internet providers to submit an application for this funding.

3. County RFP Update:

Blair shared that responses to the County's RFP are due on or before Feb. 2, 2023.

Blair added that County Communications Staff have been speaking with the Michigan High Speed Internet Office about how to use state audit data on bulk challenges, and about the planned listening tour stop in Battle Creek, which is part of the state's efforts to gather information for the BEAD grant process.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:55 p.m.