

# Broadband Task Force

315 W Green St, Marshall, MI 49068 | [calhouncountymi.gov/broadband](http://calhouncountymi.gov/broadband)



## July 11, 2023 Meeting Agenda

These meetings take place the second Tuesday of the month at 3 p.m.

### 1. Roll Call

Chair Michael "Mac" McCullough  
Lee Adams  
Jeff Albaugh  
Paul Egnatuk  
Sonja Elder  
Monique French  
Jim Haadsma  
Art Kale  
Tommy Miller  
Marc Newman  
Mike Nofs

Derek Perry  
Paulette Porter  
Tina Rasey for Robert Stahelin  
Barry Skutt  
Haley Snyder  
Angela Stewart  
Kathy Szenda Wilson  
Dr. Paul Watson  
Lorie Upright  
Kelli Scott

2. Approval of minutes from the June 13, 2023 meeting  
*Action: Approval of Broadband Task Force meeting minutes*
3. Digital Equity Subcommittee Update
4. ROBIN Grant Outcomes
5. BEAD Allocation in Michigan
6. Member Updates
7. Citizen's Time
8. Adjournment

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](mailto:information@calhouncountymi.gov).

# Broadband Task Force

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



## June 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 3:02 pm

### 1. Roll Call

#### Task Force Members in

##### Attendance:

Chair Michael "Mac" McCullough  
Lee Adams  
Paul Egnatuk  
Monique French  
Tommy Miller  
Mike Nofs  
Lorie Upright  
Haley Snyder  
Art Kale

##### Others in Attendance:

Kelli Scott  
Lucy Blair  
Kaitlyn Elias

David Hackett  
Lynn Meikle  
Brent Thelen  
Erin Cummings

##### Not in Attendance:

Dr. Paul Watson  
Angela Myers  
Tina Rasey for Robert Stahelin  
Derek Perry  
Paulette Porter  
Marc Newman  
Jim Haadsma  
Jeff Albaugh  
Barry Skutt  
Kathy Szenda Wilson  
Mike Watza

2. Approval of minutes from the April 11, 2023 meeting  
*Action: Approval of Broadband Task Force meeting minutes*

*Moved by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Member French, to approve the Broadband Task Force meeting minutes for April.  
Passes unanimously*

3. ACP Update  
Communications Director Lucy Blair gave the update. The first meeting of the Digital Equity Subcommittee was last week. The goal of the subcommittee is to look at solutions to bridge the digital divide. The group discussed chair and member options, the survey regarding internet resources, and the nationwide ACP Week of Action on June 14-22 from the Department of Education and White House. Outreach includes a press release explaining ACP and Facebook posts.

Chair Mac McCullough stated, to meet people where they are at, festival season is a good time to promote ACP by having tables set up at events and also having devices available to sign up. McCullough offered booking a librarian and finding places to direct people to sign up as solutions. Blair explained Veteran's Affairs can have items at their table.

As for the ACP Communications plan outreach, staff has met with and provided resources to WIC and Veterans Affairs. Next steps will be meeting with Senior Centers.

#### 4. FCC Map Challenges Update

Communications Coordinator Lynn Meikle gave a brief background of the challenge process and a status update from the five ISPs that had FCC map challenges. The county met with Comcast to discuss challenges and is awaiting an NDA from Comcast to receive data about challenged locations and infrastructure data in the county. On the Broadband Data Collection website, most of the challenges were either conceded or upheld. Staff expressed that this will probably change as it appears the FCC has upheld the challenges from Comcast when Comcast means to dispute them.

#### 5. Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Grant Program

Blair gave a brief background on the ROBIN and BEAD grant programs, Merit Conference in May, and a project in Livingston County. The project includes a middle mile network, connects government buildings and townships with fiber, and is a public private partnership with Lit Communities. The county would own the middle mile infrastructure.

Blair asked what is our plan for the BEAD application? The next step could be finding a grant writer. She asked the group if they knew of grant writers that have done federal grants.

Blair shared that from both Merit and Attorney Mike Watzka, there was concern that the BEAD allocation for Michigan may be reduced by about \$400 million dollars. Fixed Wireless may be considered served, so that is a factor of how much the state could receive.

Administrator Kelli Scott shared that in the CTC report we learned it would take about 300 million dollars to run fiber for the whole county, so the ROBIN grant money could only cover five counties. Calhoun is in a good position with the Ford Blue Oval Battery Plant coming.

#### 6. Member Updates

Member Lee Adams shared that Kalamazoo County is steps behind Calhoun's broadband initiative, and he is learning from Calhoun. Kalamazoo County is doing a FCC Map Availability Challenge.

Administrator Scott explained that legal counsel is working on legislation to revise current law to include governments and other entities so that they are eligible for

BEAD funding. The current law prohibits government from applying. McCullough asked for talking points for the proposed legislation.

7. Citizen's Time

8. Adjournment - 3:52 pm

*Motion to adjourn Member French, Member Egnatuk supported.  
Passes unanimously*