

Broadband Task Force

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



Oct. 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes

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

1. Roll Call

In Attendance:

Sonja Elder
Paul Egnatuk
Chad Frein
Angela Myers
Mike Nofs
Art Kale
Derek Perry
Angela Semifero
Haley Snyder
Lorie Upright
Dr. Paul Watson

Not in Attendance:

Lee Adams
Jeff Albaugh
Monique French
Jim Haadsma
Tommy Miller
Marc Newman
Paulette Porter
Tina Rasey for Robert Stahelin
Barry Skutt
Kathy Szenda Wilson

Staff in Attendance:

Kelli Scott
Lucy Blair
Lynn Meikle
Brent Thelen
Eric Cummings
Mike Watza

2. Approval of minutes from the Sept 19, 2023 Meeting
*Moved to adopt minutes by Member Watson seconded by Member Kale
Passes unanimously.*

3. Calhoun County Broadband Maps
Communications Director Lucy Blair gave a brief background about how the map data was compiled in preparation of BEAD funding. Brent Thelen, GIS Manager presented a map showing the Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSL) as defined by the FCC. BEAD definitions were clarified as under 25/3 is unserved, 25/3 to <100/20 is underserved, and 100/20 and greater is served. According to our data, Calhoun has 9340 unserved, and underserved 5961 for a total of 15,301. When we consider fixed wireless, this number is reduced to ~5000 eligible BSLs.

Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, explained the background of MIHI's process and NTIA has told us that we need to be challenging fixed wireless.

Watson expressed his willingness to push the challenges and assist in communicating with the college.

Regarding Community Anchor Institutions, MIHI has 400 CAIs listed for Calhoun County. MIHI will run the challenge for CAIs.

Next steps are to compare the county's map to MIHI's map and see what areas of the county need to be challenged and meet with ISPs to discuss what their plans for Calhoun.

4. Identifying a Task Force Chair

Blair explained Chair Mac McCullough has stepped down from the task force. Anyone interesting in being Chair should contact Lucy. Meetings will be moved to quarterly meetings in 2024.

5. Member Updates

Scott shared staff is going to Merit's broadband conference and 123.net's Broadband Summit.

Mike Nofs shared that MEC is installing fiber in Burlington Township and East Leroy. Installations costs are varying depending on if it's an ARDOF area or not.

Erin Cummings shared she is seeing a lot of permitting from MEC for Clarence Township.

Mike Watza shared that the FCC has been at a 2 – 2 tie, and Senate has approved the 5th person. So many issues should be coming up and resolved. We are hoping for better movement on issues than the past 2 years.

6. Citizen's Time

7. Adjournment 3:34pm.

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.