Kenosha County Broadband Advisory Committee
April 13, 2023, meeting minutes

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: John Holloway, Margaret Hefner, Supervisor Brian Bashaw, Mike Ulicki, Susan Crane, Kris Keckler, Christine Anderson, Jack Musha, Randy Kerkman, Marty McGinley, Kevin Meagher (virtually), Jeff Robshaw (virtually), Jason Peters (virtually)

COUNTY STAFF PRESENT: Shelly Billingsley, Clement Abongwa, Andy Buehler, Scott Schutze, Pam Larson, Patty Merrill, Shawn Smith, Joe Potente

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Zehner

MEETING LOCATION: Kenosha County Center, Hearing Room

1: Call to Order: Acting chairman John Holloway called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

2: Comments From County Executive Samantha Kerkman: County Executive Kerkman introduced herself and welcomed committee members and staff.

3: Introductions or all Committee Members and Supporting Staff

4: Discuss Overall Purpose and Goals of the Committee: Acting Chairman Holloway stated the primary role of the committee is to provide direction and suggestions to County Executive Kerkman's office and the County Board, to make sure resources are used as efficiently as possible and to identify areas where we can support each other's efforts.

5: Recent Broadband Activity in Kenosha County: Communications Manager Joe Potente gave an overview of past and ongoing efforts, including the Kenosha County Quick Connect broadband speed test survey.

(Item 6 — Kenosha County Representative for the PSC/REDO BEAD Local Planning — moved to the end of the agenda per unanimous agreement of the committee.)

7: ARPA Funds Recommendations: Acting Chairman Holloway stated the county has a balance of ARPA funding that can be used for broadband development in the county. County Executive Kerkman noted that the previous County Board had put aside some ARPA funds for broadband. She said roughly $800,000 is currently set aside that this committee can make recommendations spending on for projects that need a match, etc. This is for one-time expenditures, not ongoing programs. CIO Shawn Smith added that ARPA funding needs to be spent by the end of 2024, or contractually obligated by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of

2026. As such, given the timing, we would be looking for accelerated projects. Supervisor Bashaw added there are areas including Paris and Brighton that are definitely in great need, and it looks like the northwest part of the county is the place to do that.

8: Wisconsin Broadband Office's Statewide Planning Effort for the Five-Year Action Plan: Presentation by Rory Tikalsky, Broadband Expansion Manager for the Wisconsin PSC.

9: UW Broadband Updates: Presentation by Gail Huycke of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension.

6: Kenosha County Representative for the PSC/REDO BEAD Local Planning: Shawn Smith stated that because we're participating in BEAD planning as a member of M-7, we will need to have someone from Kenosha County represent us at those meetings. This would be the main person who would be working with the REDO to make sure we're actively engaged in the process. Anyone who is interested in doing this is encouraged to come forward.

10: Discussion on Date/Time and Agendas for Subsequent Meetings: Shawn suggested holding to the second Thursday of the month for now (May 11 for the next meeting). Supervisor Bashaw also suggested breaking out into workshops at future meetings to encourage committee member participation and directed discussions of certain topics.

11: Adjournment: Motion by Supervisor Bashaw, seconded by Randy Kerkman. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Joe Potente, Kenosha County Communications Manager