

Harrison Internet Committee Minutes

February 9 2023

Exciting news. Wisconsin is receiving dollars from the \$42 billion Infrastructure Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) grant for purpose of developing a comprehensive State five year broadband (BB) plan. That plan will determine how much additional funds the State will be allotted down the road. The funds will be distributed to counties if they choose to participate. The Public Service Commission (PSC) who manages the funds, have in partnership with UWEX , defined the role of the local government to develop local plans, access funds and obtain technical assistance. Without these funds and support, most counties would not be able to do so because they lack the manpower and technical expertise.

Ken reports the County Broadband (BB) Committee is seeking these dollars and working hard to address requirements such as letters of support, resolutions, and seeking township support. The timelines are very tight. The plan is due August 28th of this year. He believes the County can work collaboratively with Grow North, the Regional Economic Corporation to access the necessary technical expertise.

The County BB Committee requested \$200,000 of American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds to partner with Charter for a grant request to provide coverage to three areas in the County that were not included in any of the bids from the FCC.

Update: As of this writing, that goal has been achieved. Great article in this week's Tomahawk Leader. Good job Ken!

The Internet Service provider, LTD, who bid on the FCC funds to cover significant portions of the County were denied. They are appealing, however other ISP's may be interested.

Next meeting March 9th at 1:00 PM at the Harrison Town Hall

Pat Voermans