

Harrison Internet Meeting
March 3-9-2023

Present: Pat Voermans, Tim McFadden, Ken Wickham, Sue Dierkson, KatieHansen

County Broadband Update – Ken

- The Broadband Committee has added two new members, one being the Economic Development Corporation Coordinator.
- The Broadband Ordinance is on hold while evaluating potential utility accommodation costs. While not mandated, is helpful in attracting internet service providers. The County resolution, Telecommuter Forward, was approved
- The County allocated \$200,000 American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds for a grant request in partnership with Charter to provide fiber to 229 homes that are not covered in the Rural Digital Opportunity Funding (RDOF). The total grant would be 2.9 million if awarded. Letters of support included Townships, Aspirus, and schools. Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) planning grant –Grow north has elected to not be involved with this grant. The County will use Cenergy as their consultant and collaborate with surrounding counties in in the planning but the work will have to be done at the local level.
- Frontier submitted a grant application for Merrill and is digging there

Broadband Consumer Labeling Recommendations Article- Sue

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) is advocating for transparent labeling of broadband services to protect the elderly and all consumers rom potentially misleading marketing practices.

The 2020 University of Wisconsin Extension UWEX Survey Review - Pat

Good information for County Planning. Findings indicated poor service and general dissatisfaction. Even those who had internet, 78% did not have speeds that met the Federal standard of 25 Mbps download/3Mbps upload.

Article - Small Internet Service Providers, ISPs, vs Big cable companies

Working to get RDOF funds that should be dedicated to companies installing fiber

Mbps, Gigs - At what point is the speed so fast that the high packages do not matter

Patricia Voermans