

Harrison Internet Committee Meeting Summary 1-11-24

Present: Sue, Katie, Ken, Steve, Tim

Start time: 1pm-2:04pm

Lincoln County Commission Update

- The five year plan update review
 - It now includes the Rapid Study Design (see plan index). According to the report, Lincoln County could receive \$12.5 million of BEAD funding, which is about 30 million short of covering 100% of underserved households.
- BEAD grants will be \$12.5 mill short so county needs to look at other options
 - Options are proposed in the study
 - Fulfill areas that need to be served
 - Fixed Wireless will be a stepping stone to get to fiber
 - With study, county will be able to direct the contractors on areas of need
 - Dots on the maps represent the towers
 - Software detect topography where fixed wireless should work

Bead Grant Challenge Process

- There is a process set in place for the challenging process which enables non-profit, tribal and municipality stakeholder to challenge service levels at a location to help with accurate maps.

Speed Testing

- All property tax owners were mailed instructions for conducting speed tests. This insert helped the county's numbers significantly. They went from having 8% of locations recorded to 12.5% recorded. The goal was to have a 10% completion rate and Lincoln County may be close or currently leading the state in speed testing numbers.

Current Grant Applications

- The county will have to find providers that are ready to come to Lincoln County to cover the areas that are currently not covered by RDOF funds. Charter has a big plan for a good chunk of the county (RDOF funded). Frontier had proposed a project for the Town of Corning, but pulled out at the last minute. Frontier is now only focused on the Pine River area.
- The county should hear sometime in March or April about the outcome of the grants they applied for previously.

Charter Update

- Charter provided a map of estimated installment of broadband in the RDOF areas of Lincoln County. They finished some work in the Town of Scott in 2023. They are building out the broadband internet from Medford, Rhinelander and Wausau based on the location of the areas in the county. The map has the year of when the work is estimated to be completed. They will be running the fiber on poles if they are available. If there are no poles available, the fiber will be buried. The map can be seen below.

