INGHAM COUNTY BROADBAND TASKFORCE

P.O. Box 319, Mason, Michigan 48854 ~ Phone (517) 676-7206   FAX (517) 676-7306

Commissioner Randy Maiville, Commissioner Irene Cahill, Gregg Todd,
Dr. Jean Hardy, Deb Fett, Cloud Kelly Justin Barnaby,
Sheryl Knox, Mike Lilly, Deborah Stuart, Christopher Mumby,
Patricia Jackson, C.G. Lantis, Gene Ulrey

A MEETING OF THE
INGHAM COUNTY BROADBAND TASKFORCE
WILL BE HELD ON
Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

**Hybrid Meeting
Human Services Building
Conference Room B
5303 S. Cedar Street
Lansing, Michigan**

Zoom Link

https://ingham.zoom.us/j/83589864389?pwd=enpOK0txODQrU1l4M0pmK05BaVdEdz09

AGENDA

Call to Order
Additions to the Agenda
Limited Public Comment

1. Approval of the August 23, 2023 Minutes
2. Introduction of Douglas Weber, Urban Wireless
3. Digital Inclusion Plan Workgroup Update
4. Broadband Mapping and Map Challenge Process – Chris Greene Hutchings, Merit Network

Announcements
Public Comment
Adjournment

Next Meeting January 24, 2024

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DRAFT MINUTES
August 23, 2022

Members Present:	Gregg Todd, Mike Lilly, Randy Maiville, Chris Greene Hutchings, Sheryl Knox, Deb Fett, Johannes Bauer, Deb Stuart, Irene Cahill, Chris Mumby
Members Absent:	Emma Bostwick (virtual), C.G. Lantis, Justin Barnaby, Pat Jackson, Gene Ulrey
Others Present:	Merit Pierette Renee Dagg (virtual), Merit Representative Christine Greene Hutchings, Dr. Sita Dasa (virtual), Ingham County Assistant to Controller Rachel Prettenhofer
Call to Order:	The Ingham County Broadband Task Force meeting was called to order by Gregg Todd at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 23, 2023 in 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan, Human Services Building, Conference Room B and virtually via Zoom.

1. Approval of the March 1, 2023 Minutes:

Ms. Fett moved to approve the March 1, 2023 minutes as presented. Ms. Stuart supported the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Additions to the Agenda: None.

Limited Public Comment: None.

2. Overview of County Broadband Assessment

Mr. Todd explained to the Task Force that we will start making moves in the coming months.

Ms. Greene Hutchings gave an overview and background of the County survey data and situation. She mentioned that Task Force members may want to pay particular attention to the following Key Sections:

Page 1:	Executive Summary
Page 8:	Estimated Speeds
Page 9:	Estimated Infrastructure
Page 16:	Perception vs. Actual Speeds
Page 29:	Reasons Why Households Lack Internet (also 32-33)
Page 44:	Summary

Ms. Greene Hutchings further explained that members may want to use the report regularly and learn how to utilize and navigate packet for questions they may encounter.

3. Digital Inclusion Plan Discussion

Ms. Dagg explained the proposed group, process, and goal for the Digital Inclusion Plan. She further stated that Merit has created a prototype template and are looking at various services and sectors and developing a long-term digital equity strategy that is achievable and attainable for all and that can be used as the basis for grant opportunities. She explained that it will be a good platform to begin applying for funding and implementing programs and it could provide a roadmap and other services associated.

Ms. Dagg further stated that there will be roughly 6 virtual meetings that take place and that they will look at various indicators and identify and develop strategies and that grant funding has been identified, so participation would be a fully funded grant and that those who participate will need to be able to participate in all 6 meetings as well as in interactions and services for investigative purposes/information gathering. It will not be more than 1-2 hours/week. We may want to choose a large group to start and then it will naturally whittle down as time passes.

Mr. Todd asked whether or not there would be other stakeholders besides the Task Force involved.

Ms. Dagg stated the Task Force role would be to just make suggestions and recommendations. There will be full or occasional participation from relevant sectors such as higher education, K-12, agriculture, religious institutions, and township and city government. She further stated that they will need no fewer than 4 but no more than 8 task members.

Ms. Knox stated that she supports participation and that she liked that it will be structured.

Ms. Knox moved to appoint members of the Broadband Task Force to the Digital Opportunities Committee.

Ms. Fett supported the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Appointed members of the Digital Opportunities Committee are as follows:
Sheryl Knox
Gregg Todd
Emma Bostwick

Members looking for representatives to join the committee as follows:
Mike Lilly
Johannes Bauer

Mr. Mumby shared that Lansing needs to ensure they have BEAD funding and that he needs to ensure that a portion of those dollars apply to Lansing specifically. He stated that he would be happy to find a representative, though. He stated that they are focusing more in the area of affordability for the City of Lansing, rather than access.

Discussion.

Ms. Dagg stated that members should send their information to her and that they plan to use Ingham County as a case study to help other communities with similar demographics.

Ms. Stuart stated that she is struggling with different places in the county. She stated that the County has range of citizens with no fiber, while others are focused on areas of affordability, etc.. She asked how we plan to manage the variation.

Ms. Dagg stated that we can address that by segmenting the populations of the County. There are ways to improve the digital equity picture for all and that each population will not have same needs, plans, or desires. She stated that we may be identifying community anchor systems, etc. as well as ways to rise the tide for everyone. In 2, 3, or 4 years, we may have the dream and goal of getting everyone access, but we can also have a long-term plan to rise the tide for everyone.

Ms. Greene Hutchings stated that there are 2 waves and that the Task Force cares that we're looking at both. She further explained that we will have to be more tactful because the infrastructure funding will be coming first and the second wave of funding will come later.

Mr. Bauer stated that there is built-in awareness in that. There is no insight on how the State will do in obtaining funding and we may need to work on a house-by-house, block by block, demographic by demographic basis.

Ms. Stuart stated that we should have standards of at least a center to go to etc. for citizens without access.

Discussion.

Ms. Dagg stated that digital equity will always be a moving target and that as technology and bandwidth increases and apps, education, etc. change, the goal will move. She stated that there is one main argument: that yes, access and literacy are important, but really that we also really need to look at the broader societal outcomes in each sector where we can build programs to improve. Second, the issue stresses the importance of measurements and metrics along the way and that every community is different, but we can identify broader goals and then develop further. She explained that there will be larger goals and milestones that will make the work we are doing understandable and communicative.

4. **MIHI State Funding Grant Overview**

Mr. Todd stated that the FCC map shows everything in Ingham County as served, the question is how we pull that out. We will have to determine whether or not MIHI will identify properties with only satellite internet or if that is the County's responsibility. He stated that we need to know what our responsibility is to help get fiber to every home.

Ms. Greene Hutchings stated that when the State map comes, it will only have BEAD-eligible areas on it and that it is likely to have satellite internet on it as BEAD-eligible.

Mr. Todd stated that rural areas are all over the place with a variety of services.

Ms. Greene Hutchings shared a presentation regarding BEAD and DEA funding. She explained that the State received just under $6 billion to run a sub-grant program for areas that don't have internet today and that the DEA has $2.75 billion and that they are looking at a competitive program, but we don't when it will open. It could be in 2024 or later.

Discussion.

Ms. Greene Hutchings stated that Task Force members may want to check out the following Key Documents:

> BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NTIA)
> BEAD Five Year Action Plan (Michigan draft)
> Michigan Digital Equity Plan (Michigan draft)
> BEAD Initial Proposal: Volume I (expected fall 2023) & Volume II (due by December 2023)
> BEAD Challenge Process Policy Notice (NTIA)
> BEAD Model Challenge Process (NTIA)

BEAD Final Proposal (due 1 year after process begins)

Discussion.

Ms. Greene Hutchings explained that the NTIA is administering BEAD and that they have to use the FCC map as a starting point. Before the State map is published, they will be challenging the FCC map. NTIA clearly states that you cannot add any new developments after the publishing of the State map, but that we can add new things to the federal map. She explained that it is worth the effort to get all areas on the map and get all structures on the federal map. She then shared the estimated timeline for BEAD and DEA for Michigan.

Mr. Todd stated that the Task Force can get off the quarterly meeting schedule, and that we should schedule a September meeting.

Ms. Greene Hutchings shared and explained the BEAD Application Process and shared the following 5 Things we Can Do Today:

1. Download FCC availability data from the Nation Broadband Map or CostQuest Fabric license
2. Compare FCC availability data with MI infra audit data
3. Contact local internet service providers to start a BEAD discussion
   a. Current service areas
   b. Planned expansion
   c. Potential partnerships for high-cost/low-profit areas
4. Check the MIHI site for the publication of Initial Proposal, Volume 1
5. Watch Merit's webinar: How to Prepare for Upcoming Broadband Grants

5. **Discussion of Ingham County Plan Options**

Mr. Todd stated that we need to think about what our options are and what we're going to do.

Ms. Greene Hutchings stated that we can take several meetings to make a decision about how to address infrastructure and explained the following options for the County:

1. County owned and operated. This would be open an access model where the County funds some of the infrastructure but anyone can use it.
2. Public-Private Partnership. The County would decide where to build and who gets service, but someone else runs the network.
3. Incentivization Strategy. The County would have some say in where the network access goes and so have incentives to offset costs.

She explained that going down the list of options illustrates less control over the end cost but going up is more effort on the County's part.

Ms. Stuart asked whether or not there has been any discussion with the private industry yet.

Mr. Todd stated that there has not been but that we are interested. The County is developing a contract with Urban Wireless to help work through the data and figure what direction is best for the County.

Commissioner Cahill stated that when we need to sell the initiative, she is willing to go to meetings, etc. to do so.

Announcements: The next Broadband meeting will be on September 27, 2023.

Public Comment: None.

The August 23, 2023 Broadband Task Force meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.