



County of Augusta
Internet Initiative (Broadband Committee)
PO Box 590
Verona, VA 24482

Thursday, October 28, 2021 7:00 pm

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mr. Lawhorne, Chairman, Riverheads District
Mr. Henderson, Vice-Chairman, Pastures District
Mr. Powell, Middle River District
Ms. Thornton, North River District
Mr. Kirby, Wayne District
Mr. Carter, South River District
Ms. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator

ABSENT: Vacant, Beverly Manor District
Ms. Carter, Board of Supervisors Liaison
Ms. Kiracofe, Asst. Superintendent for Instruction & Technology

VIRGINIA: At the regular meeting of the Augusta County Internet Initiative (Broadband Committee) held on Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 7:00 pm in person.

Call to Order

Meeting started at 7:00pm. A quorum was present.

Adoption of the Minutes

Minutes of the September 23, 2021 meeting were approved.

Comments by the Public

None

Special Presentations

None

Matters to be Presented by Sub-Committees

None

Matters to be Presented by Staff

Ms. Whetzel provided an update on the VATI 2021 grant that is under construction by MGW/Lingo Networks. The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) have added additional criteria for reimbursement of funds from the grant. The provider and County must show that estimated milestones are met and that the request for funds meets a Cost Performance Index (CPI) of 90% or more. Through the CPI, DHCD monitors the progress of the project and matches that project to the funds requested. Both the County and DHCD are withholding a 10% retainage from invoices until the project is completed. Below is a summary of work to date. Please note that milestones are set on 2 month increments, so therefore the passings will be updated every other month.

Project Area	Total Passings	Passings to Date 8/31
McDowell	235	30
Morris Mill	288	64
Deerfield	508	
Middlebrook	142	
Total	1173	94
% Completed		8%

Total Project Budget: \$1,814,876

Spent to Date \$262,995

Grant to Date \$184,097

Locality Funds to Date \$31,559

Provider Funds to Date \$47,339

Ms. Whetzel reviewed the VATI 2022 deadlines. A response was submitted for challenge process for the utility leverage program. The challenges from providers under the VATI grant guidelines were due on Oct. 21 to DHCD and the County should be notified of the challenge soon. Rebuttals are due to DHCD on Nov. 18 and DHCD is scheduled to make a determination on Dec. 3. Current DHCD schedule shows VATI awards being announced in December 2021.

Ms. Whetzel is working with New Hope Telephone Coop and MGW Networks to gather information to complete reporting for the CARES Projects that were awarded in 2020. Deadline is in Jan 2022.

Lumos has officially separated from Segra and is rolling out new business plans for area buildout.

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is working on Broadband availability map guidelines.

Matters to be Presented by the Committee

None

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be January 27, 2022 at 7pm in the Smith West Room or a special call meeting in Dec 2021. With no further discussion by the committee, the meeting adjourned.