**Governor’s Task Force on Broadband**

**Monday, October 24, 2022**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Land O’ Lakes**

**1150 County Road F West**

**Arden Hills, MN 55112**

**and**

**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**Task Force Members Present in Person:** Teddy Bekele, Steve Fenske, Marc Johnson, Micah Myers, Jim Weikum, Paul Weirtz, Dave Wolf

**Task Force Members Attending Virtually:**, Yvonne Cariveau, Steve Giorgi, Jason Hollinday, Brian Krambeer, Phil Stalboerger, Theresa Sunde

**Task Force Members Absent:** Nolan Cauthen

**Others in Attendance:** Anna Boroff, Carol Bossuyt, Deven Bowdry, Hannah Buckland, Joe Buttweiler, Zachary Cairns, Brent Christensen, Scott Cole, Barbara Droher Kline, Brian Frederick, Jennifer Frost, Karrie Jansen, Tom Karst, Cassie Lovelle, Eileen Smith, Shane Stepp, Ann Treacy, Diane Wells, Melissa Wolf, Nathan Zacharias

1. **Welcome, Task Force Introductions, Attendee Introductions**

Chair Bekele called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. Chair Bekele provided an overview of the agenda. Meeting minutes from September 29, 2022 were approved.

1. **NTIA Grants (BEAD and Digital Equity) and role of Task Force in Plan Preparation**

Tom Karst, Federal Program Officer, Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG), National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), US Department of Commerce presented about the BEAD and Digital Equity Programs. His presentation is posted on the Office of Broadband Development website.

1. **Effects of Broadband Grants on Businesses and Townships**

Shane Stepp, resident of Sunrise Township, presented about the process of getting fiber broadband to their township. They needed to demonstrate they were in an underserved area, needed to get participation from CenturyLink and the township, and needed an anchor which was Stepp Manufacturing. The township residents signed a petition because it would increase their property values and they would have the ability to work and do schoolwork from home. The township made the initial request to CenturyLink to apply for grant money for fiber. Once they had fiber, Stepp Manufacturing had speeds necessary for their website and the cloud, to run their business. They gained access to a larger market and had faster data transfer for information from suppliers. It saved them a lot of time and was a necessity, to go from hours to download to seconds.

1. **Affordability and Adoption Sub-Group**

Yvonne Cariveau reported that they have met and come up with fourteen different challenges that relate to adoption and the recommendations they have. They are working with Scott Cole for the annual report.

1. **Funding, Mapping and Usage Sub-Group**

Steve Fenske provided an update from the Funding, Mapping and Usage Sub-Group. He discussed the challenges and are working on updated numbers to find the estimated cost to achieve the 2026 goal of 100/20.

1. **Update from Teddy Bekele, Chair of the Minnesota Governor’s Task Force on Broadband**

Teddy Bekele, SVP & Chief Technology Officer at Land O’Lakes Technology, discussed future meetings and how the Task Force will be putting together key recommendations using Scott’s format for the annual report. Scott would like any photographs that point to the work done in the last year for the annual report.

1. **Public Comment, Other Business, November 17 Meeting Plans, Wrap-Up**

The chair asked if any Task Force members or the public had items to bring forward. Steve Giorgi wanted to give a shout-out to CTC for securing the largest federal grant in Minnesota for the area near Lake Vermillion.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.