**Governor’s Task Force on Broadband**

**September 15, 2021**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**Virtual Meeting via Teams**

**Task Force Members Present:** Teddy Bekele, Yvonne Cariveau, Nolan Cauthen, Dale Cook,

Steve Fenske, Steve Giorgi, Jason Hollinday, Marc Johnson, Bernadine Joselyn, Brian Krambeer, Micah Myers, Theresa Sunde, Jim Weikum, Paul Weirtz, and Dave Wolf.

**Task Force Members Absent:** None

**Others in Attendance:** Katherine Blauvelt, Katharine Brown, Zachary Cairns, Scott Cole, Kirk Crowshoe, Angie Dickison, Denise Dittrich, Amanda Duerr, Dihanna Fedder, Brian Frederick, Jenn Frost, Beth Gruber, Allyson Hartle, Terry Lovgren, Bree Maki, Connie Martin, Dustin Moretz, Jeff Plaman, Lezlie Sauter, Connie Schmoll, Heidi Steinmetz, Anne Hoyt Taff, Ann Treacy, Diane Wells, Melissa Wolf, Mike Wimmer, Nathan Zacharias.

1. **Welcome, Task Force Introductions, Attendee Introductions and Approval of Minutes from July 28, 2021 Meeting**

Chair Bekele called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. Members of the public attending the virtual meeting were given the opportunity to introduce themselves. The minutes of the July 28, 2021 meeting were approved. Task Force member Marc Johnson, who arranged the agenda for this meeting focused on education, provided an overview of the agenda.

1. **Update from the Office of Broadband Development (OBD)**

Diane Wells and Angie Dickison from OBD provided an update on activities at the office.

1. **Minnesota Department of Education Online/Distance Learning Presentation**

Jeff Plaman, Online and Digital Learning Specialist, delivered a presentation and responded to questions from Task Force members. A copy of the presentation is available here: <https://mn.gov/deed/assets/department-education-15sept2021_tcm1045-500481.pdf>

1. **East Central MN Rural Broadband Panel**

Heidi Steinmetz, Kanabec County Economic Development Director; Lezlie Sauter, Pine County Economic Development Coordinator; and Beth Gruber, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures Director of Planning & Community Engagement; through questions posed by Marc Johnson, discussed the importance of broadband in their region, challenges faced, and next steps for their communities. The three panelists also responded to questions from Task Force members. The slides referenced by Ms. Gruber are available here: <https://mn.gov/deed/assets/mille-lacs-15ept2021_tcm1045-500480.pdf>

1. **Partnership for a ConnectedMN (Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundation)**

Anne Hoyt Taff, Associate Vice President of Community Impact; and Dustin Moretz, Community Initiatives Program Manager, provided an overview of the work of ConnectedMN and responded to questions from Task Force members. A copy of the presentation slides is available here: <https://mn.gov/deed/assets/connectedmn-presentation_tcm1045-500483.pdf>

1. **ECMECC Digital Navigator Project**

Marc Johnson and Dihanna Fedder discussed the Digital Navigator project that was implemented in the school districts that participate in ECMECC to address the needs related to distance learning. Along with Dihanna’s overview of the work she did, Marc referred the Task Force to a YouTube video that was prepared on the program: <https://youtu.be/YLUq8Acw5ng>

1. **Subgroup Updates**

Subgroup updates were provided by Yvonne Cariveau for the Accessibility, Affordability and Education subgroup, by Paul Weirtz for the Unserved/underserved and Funding Subgroup, and by Bernadine Joselyn for the Mapping and Speed Goal subgroup. Scott Cole, who will be assisting in the preparation of the Task Force’s annual report, indicated that he would be sharing a template with the subgroups for the collection of information and recommendations in a uniform manner.

1. **Public Comment, Other Business, October Meeting Plans, Wrap-up**

Chair Bekele provided an opportunity for Task Force members to bring up additional issues. Items raised included the Blandin Foundation upcoming Fall conference and regional convenings and the timing of the next application window for the Border-to-Border grants. Chair Bekele gave others in attendance the opportunity to provide comments to the Task Force. No comments were provided.

The next meeting will be October 5, 2021 and will include time for discussion on the work of the subgroups.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.