**Governor’s Task Force on Broadband**

**April 19, 2017**

**James J. Hill Conference Room at DEED**

**1st National Bank Building**

**332 Minnesota Street**

**St. Paul, MN 55101-1351**

**10:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.**

**Task Force Members present:** Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Hannah Buckland, Kevin Hansen, Shannon Heim, Maureen Ideker, Bernadine Joselyn, Neela Mollgaard, Don Niles, Jody Reisch, Dan Richter, Andy Schriner, and Paul Weirtz

**Task Force Members Participating by Telephone:** Dick Sjoberg

**Task Force Members Absent:** Denise Dittrich, Steve Lewsader

**Others in attendance:** Jackie Anderson, Brent Christensen, Darielle Dannen, John Dukich, Sheila Haverkamp, Cheryal Hills, Tim Johnson, Jane Leonard, Danna MacKenzie, Mark Mrla, Abby Rime, David Thao, Ann Treacy, Diane Wells, Kristi Westbrook

1. **Introductions, Approval of Minutes, Public Comments**

Members of the Task Force and others in attendance introduced themselves. The minutes of the March 22, 2017 meeting were approved. No one in attendance requested to provide public comments.

1. **Feasibility Studies for Broadband**

Mark Mrla from Finley Engineering discussed how feasibility studies are conducted to determine the options and estimate of costs for a broadband project. A copy of his power point can be found at [Feasibility Studies for Broadband](https://mn.gov/deed/assets/19april2017-finley_tcm1045-290531.pdf). Mr. Mrla also responded to questions from the Task Force.

1. **Legislative Update**

A list of bills that have been introduced and which address aspects of broadband was provided to the Task Force. The bills affecting the Border to Border Broadband Infrastructure grant program and funding for the Office of Broadband were noted. The Task Force discussed the bills.

1. **Economic Impact of Broadband in Region 5**

Cheryal Hills, Executive Director, Region 5 Development Commission; Sheila Haverkamp, Executive Director, Brainerd Lakes Area Economic Development Corporation; and Kristi Westbrook, COO of Consolidated Telecommunications Co. (CTC) provided a discussion of the economic impact of broadband in Region 5. Ms. Westbrook’s power point can be accessed at [Consolidated Telecommunications Company Presentation](https://mn.gov/deed/assets/19april2017-ctc_tcm1045-290534.pdf). The panelists responded to questions from Task Force members.

1. **Economic Impact of Broadband in Rural Areas**

Dusty Johnson, Vice President of Consulting for Vantage Point Solutions, by video discussed the impact of broadband on rural areas, emphasizing statistics for Minnesota. A copy of Mr. Johnson’s power point can be found at [The Economic Impact of Rural Broadband](https://mn.gov/deed/assets/19april2017-dusty-johnson_tcm1045-290533.pdf). Mr. Johnson also responded to questions from Task Force members.

1. **How to Price Out Broadband Deployment in the State of Minnesota**

Mike Wilson and Mark Guttman from CostQuest Associates, via video, provided an overview of methods to determine the cost of broadband deployment in Minnesota. A copy of their presentation is at [Cost Modeling Overview](https://mn.gov/deed/assets/19april2017-cost-quest_tcm1045-290532.pdf). They also responded to questions from Task Force members.

1. **Update from the Office of Broadband Development**

Danna MacKenzie, Executive Director of the OBD, provided an overview of current activities of the office.

1. **Wrap-up, Discussion of May Meeting**

It was noted that the May 11th meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held at St. Paul Neighborhood Network (SPNN).

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.