**Governor’s Task Force on Broadband**

**February 23, 2022**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.**

**Virtual Meeting via Teams**

**Task Force Members Present:** Teddy Bekele, Yvonne Cariveau, Steve Fenske, Steve Giorgi, Marc Johnson, Bernadine Joselyn, Brian Krambeer, Micah Myers, Theresa Sunde, Jim Weikum, Paul Weirtz, and Dave Wolf.

**Task Force Members Absent:** Nolan Cauthen, Jason Hollinday

**Others in Attendance:** Chuck Ackman (Kobuchar),Anna Boroff, Carol Bossuyt, Deven Bowdry, Earl Bower, Mike Bull, Joe Buttweiler, Zachary Cairns, Kirk Crowshoe, Angie Dickison, Barbara Droher Kline, Amanda Duerr, Brian Frederick, Jenn Frost, Steve Grove, Karrie Jansen, Eric Lightner, Connie Martin, Tony Mendoza, Ron Mitchell Jr, Emily Murray, Christine Pribbernow, Ashley Schweitzer, Ann Treacy, Jim Weikum, Melissa Wolf, Nathan Zacharias.

1. **Welcome, Task Force Introductions, Attendee Introductions and Approval of Minutes from December 20, 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 December 20, 2021 meeting were approved. Chair Bekele provided an overview of the agenda.

1. **Update from DEED Commissioner Steve Grove**

Steve Grove provided an update on the recommendations from Governor Walz regarding broadband, to ensure broadband for every Minnesotan. 240,000 households in Minnesota do not have access to strong broadband and it’s vital to communities. To connect all households, the estimated cost would be $1.3 billion. The Governor requested $170 million for this year so we can attract talent, create business and rural development. Tech jobs are growing twice as fast as all other occupations and MN ranked last in states with students taking AP computer science examination. Clean Tech workforce training programs are needed. We need broadband to grow our workforce. The Governor’s Task Force Annual Report made the case for the Governor to continue to promote broadband development.

1. **Update on the 2022 Session**

Deven Bowdry, Government Relations Coordinator for the Department of Employment and Economic Development, informed the committee that the House is introducing a broadband line extension reverse auction and broadband easements bill. The Senate will plan their next steps this week.

1. **Minnesota Cable Communications Association Presentation**

Anna Boroff, Executive Director, Minnesota Cable Communications Association, and Tony Mendoza, Outside Council to Minnesota Cable Communications Association, presented information on the Broadband Line Extension Program partisan bill they drafted for residents lacking access to broadband. The Office of Broadband Development would create a portal on their website where people could enter in their address and report that they don’t have service. Every six months, the list would be shared with broadband providers and the providers could bid on extending service.

1. **Office of Broadband Development**

Angie Dickison, Executive Director of the Office of Broadband Development, gave an update on the state and federal money that is proposed and received for Minnesota.

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

Discussion was held on what went well this past year and how to move forward. Subgroups worked well last year and it was agreed to continue that process. Scott Cole was the writer for the Annual Report and we would like to hire him again, starting in July (FY23). Discussion was held on future meeting topics, speakers and presentations and venues. Topics such as affordability, RDOF funding, security, privacy and reliability were brought up.

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

Chair Bekele then asked if any members of the public wished to provide comments to the Task Force and no one did.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.