**Governor’s Task Force on Broadband**

**March 27, 2020**

**Webex/Conference Call
Dial-in:** **1-619-377-3319 or 1-888-742-5095, Passcode 3249482049**

[https://intercall.webex.com/intercall/j.php?MTID=m57f6df8334a16bb0b0e4248175f2bdc1](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fintercall.webex.com%2Fintercall%2Fj.php%3FMTID%3Dm57f6df8334a16bb0b0e4248175f2bdc1&data=02%7C01%7Cdiane.wells%40state.mn.us%7C9c0d35289b754c9e6b4708d7cf4ec102%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637205809453366831&sdata=UbY488uFAb%2F8f9WSc7eJonUcgJHn9%2BadFkIHfbRUd3Y%3D&reserved=0)

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

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

**Task Force Members Absent:** Nolan Cauthen, Dale Cook

**Others in Attendance:** Dana Bailey, Anna Boroff, Brent Christensen, Angie Dickison, Jane Leonard, Ann Treacy, Diane Wells, Melissa Wolf, Nathan Zacharias and a few other unidentified callers.

1. **Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Minutes and Public Comment**

Chair Bekele previewed the agenda. Minutes from the February meeting will be approved at the next face-to-face meeting. Public comments deferred to the end of the meeting.

1. **General Discussion of Subgroup Role and Full Task Force**

The task force discussed the role of the full task force versus the role of the subgroups. The subgroups will discuss issues and bring forward topics, propose speakers, and identify recommendations for the full task force consideration. Task Force meetings will include time for updates and discussion of subgroup work. The end product will be a report to the Governor and Legislature with recommendations and analysis.

1. **Subgroups**

Each subgroup reported out. The Minnesota Model subgroup, with Shannon Heim as chair, provided an updated charter for their work. They plan to focus on the topics of funding for the Office of Broadband Development, funding for the Border to Border Broadband Grant program, mapping, and the challenge process. The Barriers and Technology subgroup, with Marc Johnson and Dave Wolf as co-chairs, intends to discuss barriers including those identified as a result of COVID-19 demands for broadband, the speed goals, and review of technology for delivering broadband. The Economic Development and Digital Inclusion subgroup, chaired by Bernadine Joselyn, intends to review prior task force recommendations and whether adopted, identify new recommendations, develop stories of broadband impact, and identify a panel of early grant recipients to discuss results of their projects.

1. **Other Business**

The Task Force discussed the appropriateness of sending a letter to the Governor and Legislature to support additional broadband actions given the identified need for broadband resulting from COVID-19. Concerns were raised with recommending significant changes to the program without full deliberation. The proposal was tabled.

1. **Public Comment**

Brent Christensen, on behalf of the Minnesota Telecom Alliance, provided details on how his members are responding to the increased demand for broadband services because of the pandemic. Nathan Zacharias, on behalf of the Rural Broadband Coalition, discussed the ways COVID-19 has increased demand for broadband services. Anna Boroff, for the Minnesota Cable Communications Association, summarized the programs her member companies are offering as a response to COVID-19.

1. **April Meeting Plans/Wrap Up**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 29. Subgroups should meet in the interim and be prepared to report out at that meeting. There will also be time for one or two speakers.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.