**Governor’s Task Force on Broadband**

**April 29, 2020**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

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

Meeting link:

[https://intercall.webex.com/intercall/j.php?MTID=m4fb8155ff38556bf0f042572909fb9c3](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fintercall.webex.com%2Fintercall%2Fj.php%3FMTID%3Dm4fb8155ff38556bf0f042572909fb9c3&data=02%7C01%7Cdiane.wells%40state.mn.us%7Cddb6f5a430f94b072f2308d7e84edd87%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637233297725905573&sdata=UlZ%2By6iVYLde2kBd2nd9K2uYu6Unq9z47Y5hLSOlzuQ%3D&reserved=0)

Meeting number: 592 448 653

**Task Force Members Present:** Teddy Bekele, Nolan Cauthen, Dale Cook, Steve Fenske, Steve Giorgi, Shannon Heim, 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:** Chuck Ackman, Katherine Blauvelt, Anna Boroff, Vernon Brown, Joe Buttweiler, Brent Christensen, Kathryn deWit, Angie Dickison, Ryan Dutton, Brian Frederick, Patrick Haggerty, Anita Hollenhorst, Emma Keiski, Daniel Lightfoot, Cassie Lovelle, Bree Maki, Anna Read, Adam Schiff, Sen. Tina Smith, Ann Treacy, Diane Wells, Kristi Westbrock, Melissa Wolf, Nathan Zacharias and a few other unidentified callers.

1. **Welcome, Introductions, Public Comment**

Chair Bekele previewed the agenda. Minutes from the March meeting will be approved at the next face-to-face meeting. Members of the Task Force introduced themselves.

1. **Comments and Discussion with Sen. Tina Smith on Federal Updates and COVID-19 Funding Work**

Sen. Smith discussed the need for broadband, highlighted by the pandemic. She also discussed existing federal programs and responded to questions from Task Force members.

1. **PEW Trusts presentation by Anna Read**

Anna Read from PEW Trusts provided an overview of the research that PEW did on state broadband programs. A copy of her power point is available here: [PEW Presentation](https://mn.gov/deed/assets/pew-presentation-29april20_tcm1045-430612.pdf) Ms. Read responded to Task Force questions. In response to a query on whether she had any advice for Minnesota, Ms. Read indicated she would review the research and circle back to the Task Force with her thoughts.

1. **CTC Perspective on Challenges Created by COVID-19 by Kristi Westbrock, CEO/General Manager**

Kristi Westbrock provided the Task Force with an overview of the history of CTC and information on the company’s experience and response to COVID-19. Her power point can be found here: [CTC Presentation](https://mn.gov/deed/assets/ctc-presentation-29april20_tcm1045-430610.pptx)

Ms. Westbrock also responded to questions from the Task Force.

1. **Report out by Minnesota Model Subgroup** (Chair: Brian Krambeer; Members: Steve Fenske, Shannon Heim, Theresa Sunde, Paul Weirtz)

Brian Krambeer thanked Shannon Heim for her work on the Task Force and the Subgroup as she will be resigning from the Task Force to take a position with an out of state company. Paul Weirtz then provided an over view of pending broadband legislation.

1. **Report out by Barriers and Technology Subgroup** (Co-Chairs: Marc Johnson, Dave Wolf; Members: Nolan Cauthen, Steve Giorgi, Jim Weikum)

Marc Johnson presented an updated charter for the subgroup. The subgroup will be discussing broadband speeds and continue reviewing the technologies used to deliver broadband services.

1. **Report out by Economic Development and Digital Inclusion Subgroup** (Chair: Bernadine Joselyn; Members: Dale Cook and Micah Myers)

Bernadine Joselyn discussed the work her subgroup was focusing on, which include updating the outcomes of prior task force recommendations and putting together a panel of broadband champions to discuss the impact of better broadband. The subgroup appreciated that representatives of PEW Trusts had been invited to participate in today’s meeting.

Chair Bekele reminded Task Force members if they had suggestions for speakers to let him and Diane Wells know.

1. **Task Force Discussion of COVID-19**

Theresa Sunde mentioned that the cable industry has a website that tracks broadband usage during the pandemic: <https://www.ncta.com/COVIDdashboard>

1. **Other Business/May Meeting Plans/Wrap Up**

The Task Force briefly discussed the FCC’s upcoming Rural Development Opportunity Fund (RDOF), broadband mapping, speed tests, and the status of a Task Force letter on additional funding for broadband.

The next meeting will be May 20th.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.