**Governor’s Task Force on Broadband**

**March 24, 2022**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.**

**Virtual Meeting via Teams**

**Task Force Members Present:** Teddy Bekele, Yvonne Cariveau, Nolan Cauthen, Steve Fenske, Steve Giorgi, Jason Hollinday, Marc Johnson, Bernadine Joselyn, Brian Krambeer, Micah Myers, Theresa Sunde, Jim Weikum, Paul Weirtz

**Task Force Members Absent:** Dave Wolf

**Others in Attendance:** Anna Boroff, Carol Bossuyt, Deven Bowdry, Joe Buttweiler, Kirk Crowshoe, Amanda Duerr, Karrie Jansen, Ann Treacy, Mike Wimmer, Nathan Zacharias

1. **Welcome, Task Force Introductions, Attendee Introductions and Approval of Minutes from February 23, 2022 Meeting**

Chair Bekele called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. The minutes of the February 23, 2022 meeting were approved. Chair Bekele provided an overview of the agenda.

1. **Update on the 2022 Session**

Deven Bowdry, Government Relations Coordinator for the Department of Employment and Economic Development, informed the committee of the following:

* 1st Deadline March 24: committees must act favorably on bills in the house of origin.
* 2nd Deadline April 1: committees must act favorably on bills or companions of bills that met the first deadline in the other house.
* 3rd Deadline April 8: committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills.
* Committee targets are expected soon. In the House and Senate, respectively, these targets will show how much money each committee gets to spend on their programs.
* Omnibus bills will hopefully be out before lawmakers go on Easter/Passover break (April 9-18).
* HF 3605/SF 3476 are bills creating line extension programs and they also allow existing easements to be used to provide service (similar to the electric co-op easement provision from last year). These bills are moving in both the House and Senate and have bipartisan support.
* HF 4375/SF 3617 charge DEED with using the remaining $110.7 million from the Capital Projects Fund on broadband infrastructure. This bill is moving in the Senate but has not yet moved in the House.
1. **Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Broadband Development Presentation**

Jason Hollinday, Director of Planning for the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa presented on the development of broadband in their area, including the history, changes, strategy, partners, grants, becoming an ETC, marketing, challenges and current status of their organization.

1. **Adoption Challenges in Rural Minnesota Presentation**

Bernadine Joselyn, Director of Public Policy and Engagement for the Blandin Foundation, gave an update on the adoption challenges of broadband in rural Minnesota, including rural disparities in access, rural community characteristics, barriers such as devices, broadband access to the internet and digital literacy skills, affordability, and supportive services.

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

Teddy Bekele, SVP & Chief Technology Officer at Land O’Lakes Technology discussed having three subgroups this year and for task force members to select a first and second choice.

* Funding and Investments
* Updated Mapping and Usage
* Affordability and Adoption of Broadband

He also covered the NTIA federal high level funding plan.

1. **Public Comment, Other Business, April 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 11:57 a.m.