**Governor’s Task Force on Broadband**

**Thursday, September 29, 2022**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Minnesota Humanities Center**

**987 Ivy Avenue East**

**Saint Paul, MN 55106**

**and**

**Virtual Meeting via Teams**

**Task Force Members Present in Person:** Steve Fenske, Marc Johnson, Jim Weikum

**Task Force Members Attending Virtually:** Teddy Bekele, Yvonne Cariveau, Steve Giorgi, Brian Krambeer, Micah Myers, Dave Wolf

**Task Force Members Absent:** Nolan Cauthen, Jason Hollinday, Phil Stalboerger, Theresa Sunde, Paul Weirtz

**Others in Attendance:** Carol Bossuyt, Deven Bowdry, Hannah Buckland, Zachary Cairns, Scott Cole, Angie Dickison, Barbara Droher Kline, Jennifer Frost, Ashley Hitt, Karrie Jansen, Tom Karst, Nicole McMahon, Ann Treacy, Diane Wells, Nathan Zacharias

1. **Welcome, Task Force Introductions, Attendee Introductions**

Chair Bekele called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. Chair Bekele provided an overview of the agenda. Meeting minutes from July 13 and August 29 were approved. Nicole McMahon from the Minnesota Humanities Center welcomed everyone and gave a brief description of what the center is all about.

1. **FCC Mapping Update**

Ashley Littell Hitt, GISP, Vice President of GeoAnalytics at Connected Nation presented information about the history of the Minnesota broadband maps, what is coming with the new FCC maps and Minnesota broadband maps, the work involved for submitting and challenging the new maps, and the information the maps bring for future grants from the IIJA program. She explained the FCC’s Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric and the Broadband Data Collection (BDC). Minnesota is a leader with mapping, starting from 2008 when the map was first created and also with the competitive grant program. Ms. Hitt noted that some states are just beginning to create a broadband office for the mapping and grant award process.

1. **Digital Equity**

Hannah Buckland, Digital Equity Program Lead for the Minnesota Office of Broadband Development, introduced herself and presented information on the formation of the Digital Equity program in Minnesota. Hannah began employment with OBD on August 24. Welcome Hannah!

She explained Digital Equity and Digital Inclusion and the complexities with solving the digital divide using the IIJA funding for planning, capacity, and competitive grants.

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

Diane Wells, Deputy Director of the Office of Broadband Development, said that the announcement of the new Executive Director is very close to happening. She provided information on the Low-Density Pilot Program, Line Extension Program, the current grant round of reviewing the 135 applications, reviewing the challenges, and what will be involved with the next grant round.

1. **Affordability and Adoption Sub-Group**

Yvonne Cariveau reported that they have met and discussed the affordability and adoption challenges and are working with Scott Cole for the annual report.

1. **Funding, Mapping and Usage Sub-Group**

Steve Fenske provided an update from the Funding, Mapping and Usage Sub-Group. They tried to meet twice but could not find a common time when the majority was available. They are scheduled to meet next week. Discussion was held that Commissioner Steve Grove is wondering how much it would cost to get all served in the state of Minnesota and if the task force has an amount to recommend.

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 future meetings and how they will be hybrid – in person with the option to join virtually. The Task Force will need to put together key recommendations using Scott’s format for the annual report. If anyone has ideas of venues and topics, let Teddy, Carol or Diane know.

1. **Public Comment, Other Business, October 24 Meeting Plans, Wrap-Up**

The chair asked if any Task Force members had items to bring forward. Steve Giorgi raised the issue of the frustrations of smaller ISP’s regarding materials and staffing and if the state should be involved in helping to meet the challenges and help with getting fiber.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.