

**MILLE LACS
TRIBAL
ECONOMY**

MILLE LACS TRIBAL ECONOMY BROADBAND INITIATIVES





END GAME





MILLE LACS
TRIBAL
ECONOMY

MILLE LACS TRIBAL ECONOMY COHORT



Dustin Goslin
MLCV



Brittany Wind
Mille Lacs Band



Colin Cash
Mille Lacs Band



Percy Benjamin
Mille Lacs Band



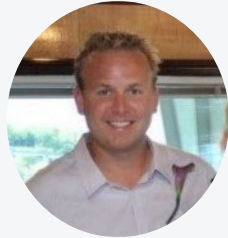
Keith Modglin
Mille Lacs Band



Mike Moilenan
Mille Lacs Band



Joe Buttweiler
CTC



Scott Savage
SCI Broadband



Bill Hill
City of Onamia



Dean Kapsner
Isle Schools



Beth Gruber
MLCV

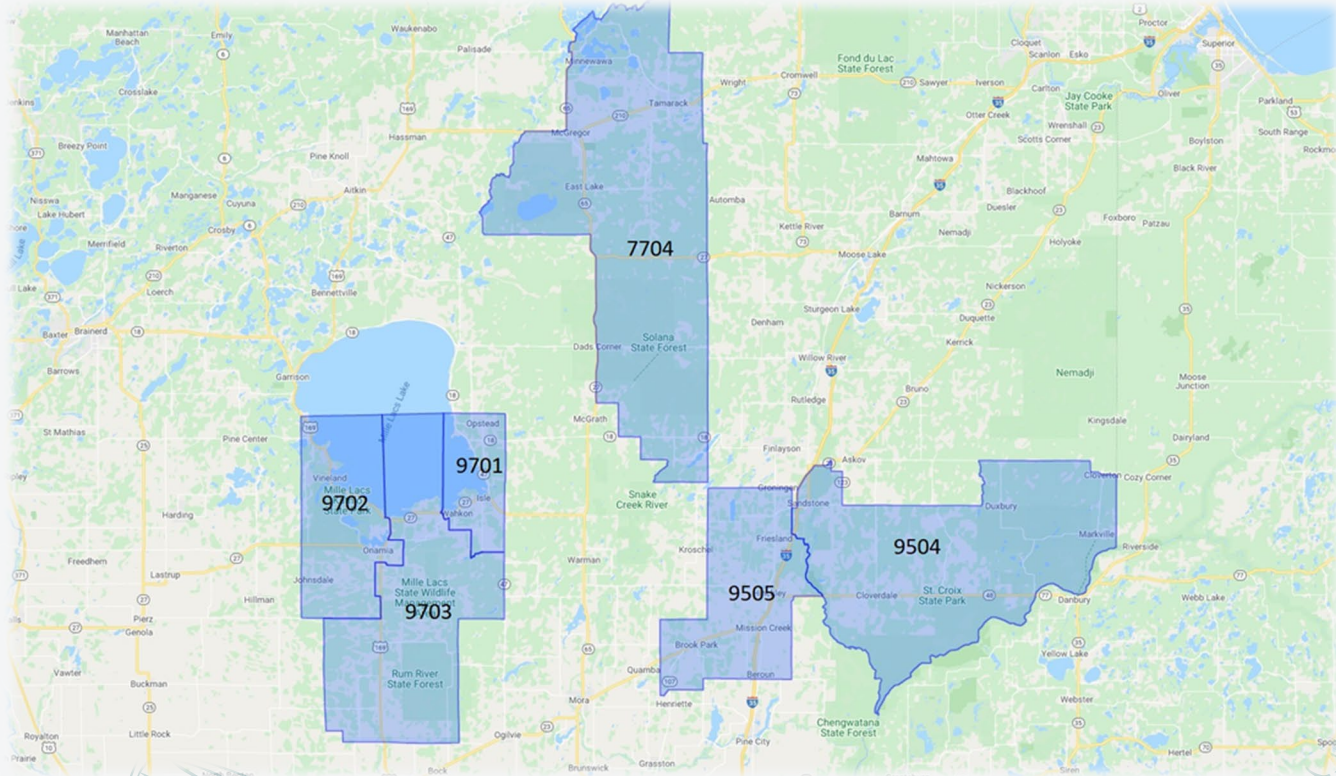


VISION

To create an environment where all tribal and community homes and businesses within the Mille Lacs Tribal Economy have access to reliable and affordable one gigabit symmetrical broadband by 2026.



WHERE IS THE MILLE LACS TRIBAL ECONOMY?





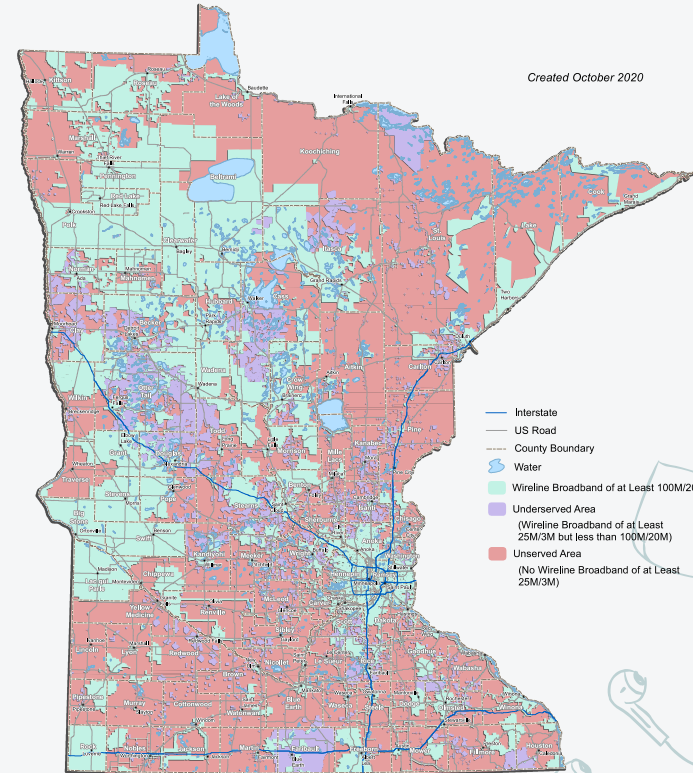
WHO LIVES IN THE MILLE LACS TRIBAL ECONOMY

- The Mille Lacs Tribal Economy (TE) encompasses the three districts of the MLBO territory that include Census tracts 9504, 9505, 7704, 9703, 9701, 9702.
- Included in the TE are portions of the counties of Mille Lacs, Pine and Aitkin. As well as the cities of Onamia, Wahkon, Isle, McGregor, Hinckley, and Sandstone.
- According to Minnesota Compass, there are 20,171 people that live in the Tribal Economy.

MINNESOTA REALITY

Rural Broadband Challenges

- Low population density
- Costs vary by soils and geography
- Competitive and complicated grant processes
- Incumbent provider resistance
- Poor broadband maps
- Digital equity considerations



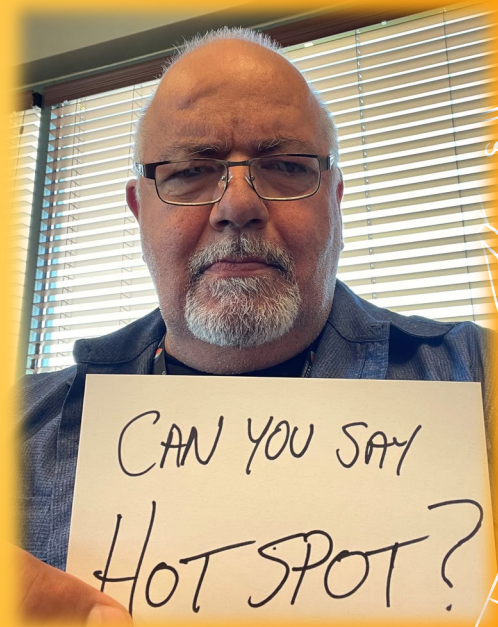


OUR STORIES



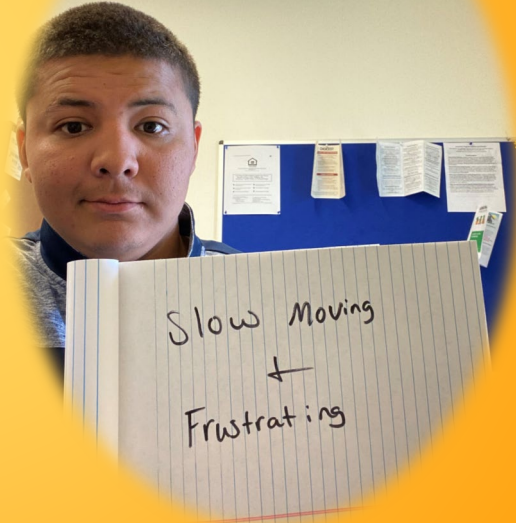
“My internet cuts out sometimes. During storms it gets knocked out. We have to wait weeks for frontier to fix it. Sucks.”

“My children when doing school work from home get disconnected all day long. If one child is working with their teacher and the either one tries to work with their teacher the internet goes down. It is slow and does not stay connected.”



OUR STORIES

“Multiple times a day internet services is interrupted. Stops functioning for approximately 10 minutes about 9 times a day. Fellow customers I speak with have same problem.”



OUR STORIES



“Depending on time of
the day we lose
service.
Mostly at night.”



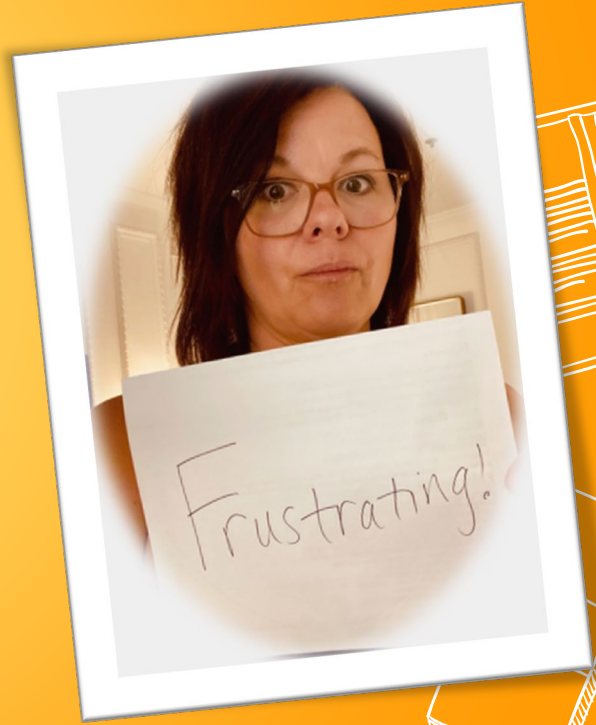


OUR STORIES



FaceTime with MeeMaw gets sketchy!

“Grandparenting from afar is tough. It is worse when our calls drop and our Facetime freezes. So frustrating”



OUR HIGHEST PRIORITIES

- Application to the NTIA grant opportunity to build our own network, submitted on September 1st.
- Conduct a feasibility study to capture:
 - Engineering
 - Technology Options
 - Proforma and Costs
 - Equity and affordability

HOW TO GET THERE:

- **Funding Opportunities**
 - NTIA partnership
 - Congressional Spending partnership
 - American Rescue Plan
 - Border to Border Broadband Grants
 - Small Cities Development Grants
 - USDA
 - Initiative Foundation Grant to study Starlink

HOW BAD IS IT?

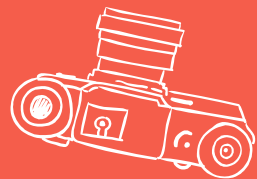


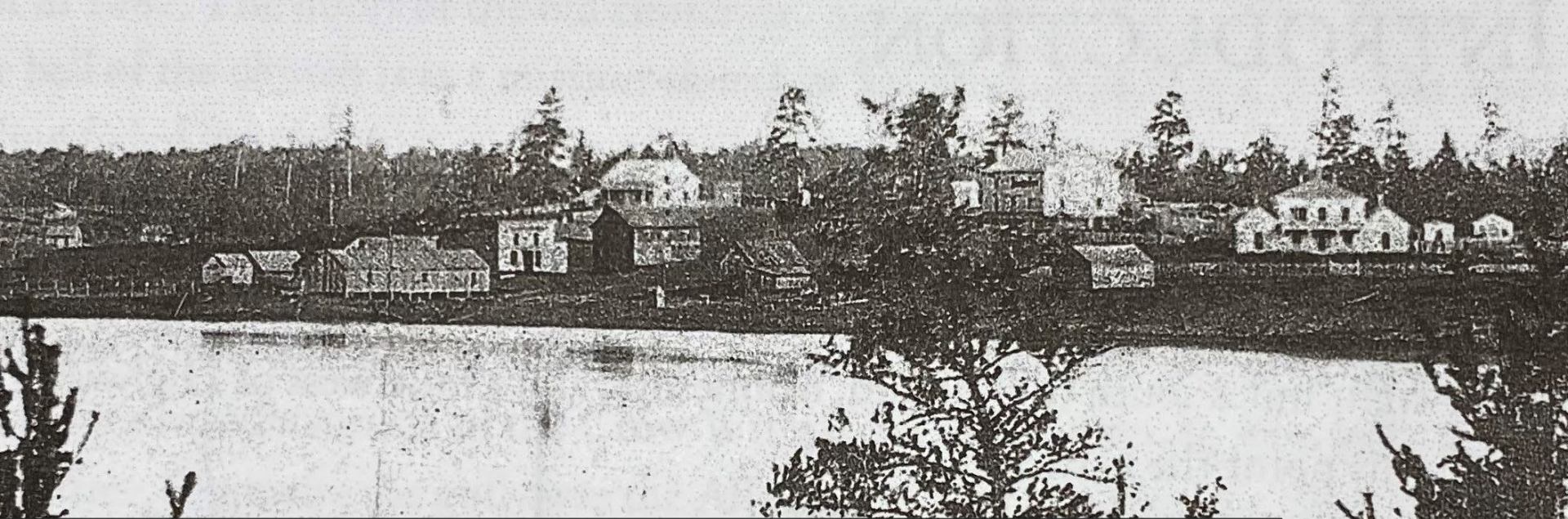
A central graphic with a white background and a black border. On the left is a logo consisting of several overlapping, semi-transparent blue shapes that form a stylized, abstract figure. To the right of the logo, the text "MILLE LACS" is written in a blue, sans-serif font. Below it, the words "TRIBAL" and "ECONOMY" are written in a larger, bold, black, sans-serif font, stacked vertically.

MILLE LACS
TRIBAL
ECONOMY



WHAT IF WE DO NOTHING?





The Story of Crow Wing

- Center of commerce and population in 1800s due to access to Mississippi.
- In 1871, after Crow Wing refused to compete for Northern Pacific, the railroad chose to cross the Mississippi at Ogamagua.
- In less than 6 years the town of Crow Wing became a ghost town and drifted into non-existence.



Broadband is the new River & Railroad

- Benefit derives not from the infrastructure, but from the economic ecosystem that grows around it.
- We are at a pivotal moment where we can drift into non-existence, or charge into the super-highway of next-gen opportunities for Mille Lacs.



MIIGWECH!

Any questions?

