**Governor’s Task Force on Broadband**

**January 24, 2020**

**DEED – James J. Hill Conference Room**

**1st National Bank Building   
332 Minnesota Street  
Saint Paul, MN, 55101-1351**

**10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**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, Dana Bailey, Anna Boroff, Deven Bowdry, Cristina Diaz, Angie Dickison, Ryan Dutton, Allyson Hartle, Emma Keiski, Daniel Lightfoot, Bree Maki, Sayidaili Moalim, Ann Treacy, Diane Wells, Matt Wohlman and Nathan Zacharias

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

Members of the task force and others in the room introduced themselves. Chair Bekele went over the agenda. There were no public comments. The minutes from the December 10, 2019 meeting were approved.

1. **Review of Goals**

The goals that the Task Force members identified at the December meeting were listed and put into categories and available in the meeting packet. Members reviewed the list.

1. **Review of Goal Categorization and Sub-Committee Assignments**

Chair Bekele indicated that he had assigned the goal categories to three subgroups. He did not include the goals related to cybersecurity for assignment to a subgroup as the Governor’s Blue Ribbon Council on Information Technology is working on that topic. Chair Bekele also indicated he made preliminary assignments to the subgroups based on the goals identified by each member. The Task Force discussed the topics and subgroup assignments.

1. **Future Meetings, Venues, and Guest Speakers**

The February meeting will be at Land O’Lakes headquarters in Arden Hills. The Task Force discussed locations, topics and speakers for the remaining meetings in 2020.

The Task Force took a short break and because it was ahead of schedule, received an update from the Office of Broadband Development on the recently announced Border-to-Border Broadband Infrastructure grant awards. The Task Force also reviewed figures used to calculate broadband funding requirements used by the prior task force.

1. **Initial Subgroup Meeting Time and Lunch**

Over lunch, Task Force members then broke out into the three subgroups to discuss a name for the subgroup, a chair, topics, and deliverables.

1. **Report Out by Subgroup**

Results of the initial meeting of each subgroup: Subgroup 1 is the Minnesota Model. The chair is Shannon Heim and the members are Steve Fenske, Theresa Sunde, Brian Krambeer and Paul Weirtz. They plan to review the model and see if it can be improved; follow the mapping updates at the federal level; and would like the Office of Broadband to come in and talk about all that they do. Subgroup 2 is the Barriers and Technology subgroup. It is co-chaired by Marc Johnson and Dave Wolf. Other members are Nolan Cauthen, Jim Weikum and Steve Giorgi. They will discuss the broadband speed goals, look at the various broadband technologies and the speeds they can reach, and look into barriers. Subgroup 3 is Economic Development and Digital Inclusion and is chaired by Bernadine Joselyn. Other members include Dale Cook and Micah Myers. They plan to look at both the challenges and benefits of economic development and digital inclusion. In addition to the grant program, they will work to identify other tools in the toolbox, in part by reviewing recommendations of prior task forces.

1. **Presentation by the Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition**

Nancy Hoffman, Chair of the Rural Broadband Coalition, provided information on the work of the coalition: [Rural Broadband Coalition presentation](https://mn.gov/deed/assets/rural-broadband-1-24-2020_tcm1045-419838.pptx). She and Nathan Zacharias, lobbyist for the coalition, responded to questions.

1. **Discussion on a Letter to the Governor and Legislature**

Chair Bekele distributed a draft letter to send to the Governor and Legislature on behalf of the Task Force. Members discussed and edited the letter.

1. **Other Business**

Angie Dickison noted for the group that Pew Charitable Trusts has been doing research on state broadband efforts and will be presenting the results of that research in Washington D.C. in mid-February. Minnesota is one of the states that will be highlighted.

No additional business.

Meeting adjourned at 1:39 p.m.