**Governor’s Task Force on Broadband**

**April 22, 2022**

**10:00 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.**

**Virtual Meeting via Teams**

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

**Task Force Members Absent:** Yvonne Cariveau

**Others in Attendance:** Chuck Ackman (Kobuchar), John Bassing, Carol Bossuyt, Deven Bowdry, Joe Buttweiler, Zachary Cairns, Tom Carr, Marianne Conboy, Liz Connor, Amanda Duerr, Brian Frederick, Jennifer Frost, Bradley Gustafson, Karrie Jansen, Ron Mitchell, Ida Rukavina, Ann Treacy, Mary Ann Van Cura, Diane Wells, Melissa Wolf

1. **Welcome, Task Force Introductions, Attendee Introductions and Approval of Minutes from March 24, 2022 Meeting**

Chair Bekele called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. The minutes of the March 24, 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, shared a slide with information showing the House and Senate are still quite far apart in the amount of funding proposed for broadband infrastructure:

* House Bill (HF 4366) proposes $25 million from the general fund for B2B grants
* Senate Bill (SF 4019) proposes $110 million from remaining Capital Projects Fund
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, presented on the following:

* Proposed changing from three to two subgroups instead this year. The subgroups would be 1) Funding, Mapping and Usage, and 2) Affordability and Adoption.

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| **Funding, Mapping & Usage** | **Affordability & Adoption** |
| Brian Krambeer | Jim Weikum  |
| Dave Wolf | Jason Hollinday  |
| Micah Myers | Marc Johnson |
| Paul Weirtz | Theresa Sunde |
| Steve Fenske  | Yvonne Cariveau |
| Steve Giorgi | Bernadine Joselyn |
| Nolan Cauthen | *<new appointee>* |

* Since Dale Cook resigned from the Task Force due to personal reasons, we have received interested applicants. The Governor’s Office will make the final decision. We will send more information when available.
* Discussion was held on drafting a letter to the legislators regarding the importance of passing broadband funding.
1. **Presentation from MMB regarding the role they have with IIJA, CPF & SLFRF funding**

Liz Connor, Tom Carr, and Marianne Conboy presented slides which will be posted on the OBD – Governor’s Task Force website regarding federal funding for broadband.

1. **Public Comment, Other Business, May Meeting Plans, Wrap-up**

Chair Bekele then asked if any members of the public wished to provide comments to the Task Force. A citizen, John Bassing, stressed the importance of funding broadband in his area of the state in Greenwood Township in NE MN.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.