**Governor’s Task Force on Broadband**

**August 4, 2020**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**WebEx/Conference Call  
Dial-in:** **1-619-377-3319 or 1-888-742-5095, Passcode 3249482049**

Meeting link:

[https://intercall.webex.com/intercall/j.php?MTID=m084c72bdb90f292b59fc021ac3ebd7de](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fintercall.webex.com%2Fintercall%2Fj.php%3FMTID%3Dm084c72bdb90f292b59fc021ac3ebd7de&data=02%7C01%7Cdiane.wells%40state.mn.us%7C06944eb8c7154b7173c508d82ffb0b50%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637312102553593820&sdata=kVInvbYI2Wxus8P9SMTSp9bLItalDI3wbFBPc%2Fb6BUA%3D&reserved=0)

PW: DEED

Meeting Number: 130 292 7338

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

**Task Force Members Absent:** Nolan Cauthen, Marc Johnson

**Others in Attendance:** Chuck Ackman, Dana Bailey, Deven Bowdry, Zach Cairns, Brent Christensen, Angie Dickison, Michael Diedrich, Brian Frederick, Sara George, Patrick Haggerty, Pam Lehmann, Daniel Lightfoot, Eric Lightner, Cassie Lovelle, Jarom McCallum, Ann Treacy, Alicia Waeffler, Diane Wells, Nathan Zacharias and several other unidentified participants by phone.

1. **Welcome, Task Force Introductions, Attendee Introductions and Approval of Minutes from June 24, 2020 Meeting**

Chair Bekele went over the agenda for the meeting. Roll call was taken. New Task Force member Jason Hollinday introduced himself. The minutes of the June 24, 2020 meeting were approved. Teddy Bekele noted that we had hoped to have the FCC join the meeting to do a presentation on their new mapping effort, but the FCC requested that it be delayed until the September or October meeting.

1. **Minnesota Department of Education Overview of CARES Act Funding for Distance Learning**

Sara George, ESEA/ESSA Title I Part A Program Specialist, and Michael Dietrich, ESEA Policy Specialist, provided an overview of education funding that can be used for broadband, including CARES Act funding distributed through GEERs (Governor’s Emergency Education Relief fund) and ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief fund). They responded to questions from Task Force members.

1. **Report out by Minnesota Model Subgroup** (Chair: Brian Krambeer; Members: Steve Fenske, Theresa Sunde, Paul Weirtz)

The subgroup emphasized three points with the full Task Force. The first two regard recommendations to the Governor and Legislature and include that the Office of Broadband Development should be fully funded and the Border to Border Broadband Infrastructure grant program should be funded, with funding prioritized over any policy changes. The third point was that there are many discussions going on across the state on broadband and the Task Force is not included in much of that conversation and should be.

1. **Report out by Barriers and Technology Subgroup** (Co-Chairs: Marc Johnson, Dave Wolf; Members: Nolan Cauthen, Steve Giorgi, Jim Weikum)

Dave Wolf reported out for the subgroup and identified barriers they are considering for inclusion in the annual report. Teddy Bekele acknowledged that we still need to hear from the satellite sector as this subgroup had recommended.

1. **Report out by Economic Development and Digital Inclusion Subgroup** (Chair: Bernadine Joselyn; Members: Dale Cook and Micah Myers)

Bernadine Joselyn reported out that while they have met since the June Task Force meeting, they do not have much new to report. They continue to work on their proposed recommendations. She also noted that the October Task Force meeting will be held jointly with the Blandin Foundation’s annual fall conference on broadband. Teddy Bekele asked that each subgroup should be looking at examples of how communities have flourished with good broadband and how others have struggled.

1. **Discussion of Report Writing Process**

Teddy Bekele indicated that the form of the annual report isn’t specified and that some task forces

submit long and in-depth reports and others have shorter reports. He is thinking that the report will have

an executive summary, sections for each subgroup output, and recommendations. He will work on an

outline for the next meeting. He is also hoping to identify three people to help with the report writing so

if you have suggestions to let him know.

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

Teddy Bekele asked if there was anything else to discuss. Steve Giorgi mentioned that the Rural Broadband Coalition was sponsoring a speed test available statewide. GEO Partners, the company contracted with to do the speed test, is doing similar testing in Washington and Kentucky. Steve Giorgi also noted that there is a lot of confusion over what CARES Act funding can be used for in terms of broadband and it would be nice to get clarification.

There were no public comments.

Chair Bekele thanked everyone for their attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.