**Governor’s Task Force on Broadband**

**July 13, 2022**

**1:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.**

**Virtual Meeting via Teams**

**Task Force Members Present:** Teddy Bekele, Yvonne Cariveau, Steve Fenske, Steve Giorgi, Jason Hollinday, Marc Johnson, Bernadine Joselyn, Brian Krambeer, Micah Myers, Phil Stalboerger, Theresa Sunde, Jim Weikum, Dave Wolf

**Task Force Members Absent:** Nolan Cauthen, Paul Weirtz

**Others in Attendance:** Jessica Barthel,John Bassing, Anna Boroff, Joe Buttweiler, Zachary Cairns, Santo Cruz, Angie Dickison, Barbara Droher Klein, Jennifer Frost, Patrick Garry, Carter Grupp, Bradley Gustafson, Garreth Hubbard, Karrie Jansen, Benya Kraus, Melinda Miller, Josh Netland, David Savolaine, Jennifer Simms, Ann Treacy, Diane Wells, Sukari Wright

1. **Welcome, Task Force Introductions, Attendee Introductions and Approval of Minutes from May 20, 2022 Meeting**

Chair Bekele called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. The minutes of the May 20, 2022 meeting were approved. Chair Bekele provided an overview of the agenda.

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

Diane Wells, deputy director of the Office of Broadband Development, provided an update on the status of applications for federal funding for digital equity and broadband infrastructure, the open Border to Border grant round, and the hiring status for the Digital Equity Lead and Executive Director positions.

1. **Affordable Connectivity Program**

David Savolaine, Consumer Affairs and Outreach Division, FCC, provided an overview of the FCC’s Affordable Connectivity Program and responded to questions. His presentation slides are posted on the OBD-Governor’s Task Force section of DEED’s website. Mr. Savolaine responded to questions from Task Force members.

1. **American Connection Corps Updates in Minnesota**

Benya Krause, Lead for America Co-Founder and ACC Executive Director; along with Garreth Hubbard from Land O’Lakes; Carter Grupp, ACC Fellow in Otter Tail County; Patrick Garry, ACC Fellow in Redwood County; and Santo Cruz with CentraCare, discussed the work that ACC has been doing in communities with a focus on capacity building. They responded to questions from Task Force members. A copy of the slides used by Mr. Grupp and Mr. Garry are posted on the OBD-Governor’s Task Force section of DEED’s website.

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

Yvonne Cariveau provided an update on the Affordability and Adoption Sub-Group. Regular meetings have been set up for the third Tuesdays of the month.

1. **Funding, Mapping and Usage Subgroup**

Steve Fenske provided an update from the Funding, Mapping and Usage Sub-Group. Chair Bekele reminded both sub-groups that if they have speakers in mind for future Task Force meetings to let him or Diane Wells know.

1. **Governor’s Task Force on Broadband Update**

The Task Force discussed sending a letter to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in support of opening a proceeding to address the expanded eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) designation that the Commission had awarded to LTD Broadband last year. A majority of members supported sending the letter; with a few members representing providers wishing to abstain (Brian Krambeer, Theresa Sunde and Paul Weirtz). The letter will be finalized and submitted in the Commission’s E-docket system.

1. **Public Comment, Other Business, August 29 Meeting Plans, Wrap-Up**

The chair asked if any Task Force members had items to bring forward. Steve Giorgi raised the issue of Minnesota falling behind, concern with the Office of Broadband being able to prepare a five-year plan, and the greater amounts of funding put towards broadband by other states. The Chair asked if any members of the public on the call wished to raise any issues and there were none. Chair Bekele mentioned the ceremonial signing by Governor Walz of the bill that contained funding for broadband at a farm in Benton County attended by Task Force members Steve Fenske, Marc Johnson, Bernadine Joselyn and himself. The next meeting is August 29 and may be in person.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.