**Governor’s Task Force on Broadband**

**Tuesday, September 19, 2023**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**DEED Headquarters in St. Paul and Virtual Meeting via Teams**

**Task Force Members Present In-Person:** Ini Augustine, Teddy Bekele, Steve Fenske, Adam Hutchens, Marc Johnson

**Task Force Members Present Virtually:** Bruce Crane, Gail Hedstrom, Daniel Lightfoot, Paul McDonald, David Wolf

**Task Force Members Absent:** Phil Stalboerger, John Twiest, Melissa Wolf

**Others in Attendance In-Person:** Chuck Ackman, Carol Bossuyt, Deven Bowdry, Hannah Buckland, Tom Karst, Bree Maki

**Others in Attendance Virtually:** Joe Buttweiler, Kirk Crowshoe, Andrew Curley, Orion DiFranco, Angie Dickison, Barbara Droher Kline, Steve Howard, Karrie Jansen, Megan Moudry, Taya Moxley-Goldsmith, Jennifer Salzwedel, Ann Treacy, Diane Wells, Mike Wimmer, Nathan Zacharias

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Bekele called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. Chair Bekele provided an overview of the agenda.

1. **Introductions and Comments from all Task Force Members**

Each Task Force member introduced themselves and stated why they wanted to be on the Task Force and what they hoped to get out of it.

1. **Broadband Overview**

Bree Maki, Executive Director for the Office of Broadband Development, gave an overview of the Office of Broadband Development. (The Power Point is posted on the Task Force Meeting Minutes and Materials website). The office was created in state law in 2013 and the first infrastructure grant round was awarded in 2014. The framework is around statutory broadband goals of 100 Mbps/20 Mbps. Connected Nation is the vendor for the mapping system used. The office administers the infrastructure grants and is now working on digital equity. Infrastructure grants administered are the Border-to-Border Broadband Grant, Lower Population Density Program, and the Line Extension Connection Program. Bree gave information on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) which includes the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD) and Digital Equity funding.

Hannah Buckland, Digital Equity Program Lead, gave information on the activity with the Digital Equity program. The Digital Opportunity Plan has been posted on our website and is undergoing a public comment period right now. The report is due to NTIA by November 30.

1. **Open Meeting Law**

Taya Moxley-Goldsmith from the Minnesota Department of Administration, Data Practices Office, gave a presentation on Open Meeting Law. (The Power Point is posted on the Task Force Meeting Minutes and Materials website). She went over the basic laws of the meetings of public bodies. Topics included types of meetings, closed meetings, technology for meetings, and violations.

1. **Legislative Process**

Deven Bowdry, Legislative Liaison for the Department of Employment and Economic Development, gave a presentation on how the legislative process works regarding broadband. (The Power Point is posted on the Task Force Meeting Minutes and Materials website). Topics included the biennial cycle, bills, committees, floor hearings, and rules of the session.

1. **NTIA Update**

Tom Karst, Federal Program Officer for NTIA, gave the Task Force an update from NTIA. (The Power Point is posted on the Task Force Meeting Minutes and Materials website). Topics included ensuring complete coverage of unserved locations and underserved locations (where funding permits), the timeline for the Initial Proposal, and goals of the BEAD program.

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

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 30. All meetings will have a virtual option, and some will be face-to-face at various venues. We won’t be doing a report this year, but may be writing a letter from the Task Force since the new Task Force was created late in this year. Chair Bekele asked for other comments from Task Force members and the public. The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.