

**Gogebic Range Broadband Committee**  
**March 1, 2017 meeting notes**

**McKindles** opened the meeting in the Iron County Boardroom at 12:02 pm.

**Participants:** Norm McKindles (primary/secondary education), Kelly Klein (Iron Co WI Economic Development), Robert Blaskowski (Wakefield), Neil Klemme (UW-Extension), and Opal Roberts (Iron Co WI Supervisor).

**Committee updates:**

**Gogebic County:** Jim Lorensen, Joe Bonovetz, and others met last month to consider a MI grant opportunity. After reviewing the grant application it was decided that the application process would be too complicated without professional help. They are now looking at other grant options that may be available.

**Iron County:** Kline reported that the Pine Lake tower is in operation. The next step will be adding equipment to the county tower on Popko Circle in Mercer. The Springstead fire tower property transfer will be in effect by the end of April and work can proceed on that location. Between the Popko Circle and Springstead towers portions of the Flambeau Flowage may have broadband services available. Will need to wait and see the coverage area before considering tower placement in the north Flowage area.

The location of the tower at Saxon Harbor is being discussed with the Forestry Administrator since it needs to be incorporated into the Saxon Harbor rebuild plan.

Discussion will need to be held on projects for the next grant phase. There are no other "in place" towers that can be used for broadband equipment available in Iron County so we may be limited to one area at a time on future plans due to the requirement for tower construction. Island Lake and the Fisher/Spider Lake areas are being considered in future plans.

McKindles attended a Mercer Town Board meeting last month and explained where broadband has been made available in southern Iron County and the work now in progress to supply more/better coverage.

**Broadband Summit/Fair:** Richard Thiede, Mike Shouldice, and Librarian Teresa Schmidt had presented McKindles with an outline of a proposed fair at the Community Center in Mercer which would be held sometime in July or August. Consensus was to support the plan and give approval for them to move ahead with the draft plan.

Next meeting date will be Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> 2017 at noon in the Iron County Boardroom.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Submitted by Opal Roberts