

Gogebic Range Broadband Committee
March 29, 2017 meeting notes

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

Participants: Norm McKindles (primary/secondary education), Tom Bergman (Ironwood), Jim Lorenson (Gogebic College), Jim Lundberg (Merit), Richard Thiede (Oma), Brandon Yuchasz (Gogebic Range.net), Jim and Ruth Brennan (Morse, Ashland Co.), and Opal Roberts (Iron Co WI Supervisor).

Mr and Mrs Brennan were present to obtain information as to how we formed our committee and inquired about possible funding sources. Brandon suggested they try to get Mellen involved because grant sources like to see collaboration between various entities.

Committee updates:

Gogebic County: Jim Lorenson, reported that Gogebic is doing a reassessment of broadband needs in the county to determine current status and, after evaluation of this assessment, will develop action plans and projects to improve their broadband environment. Several counties in the UP have decided not to join in the broadband project.

Iron County: Popko Circle and Pine Lake towers are online. Brandon is not advertising the Popko Circle tower because he is going on vacation. Still waiting for lease on Sherman tower. Saxon Harbor tower location has been decided on and that project is moving forward.

Discussion is continuing on what project should be included in the next round of grants. Possibilities are the Spider, Long and Fisher Lake area. As much as we would like to see broadband service in the Island Lake area the location of a tower and so few residents may be a concern.

Economic Development will not be able to contribute to the matching funds in the next grant cycle due to revenue cuts.

Broadband Summit/Fair: Richard Thiede and Mike Shouldice drew up an event schedule for the broadband summit in Mercer. Insurance for the event will need to be obtained. The event mailing will cost approximately \$1,000 and several entities who may donate to the expense will be contacted. Several vendors have expressed an interest. The summit will be held on July 18th from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. It will consist of two 2-hour sessions with 15 to 25 minute breakout sessions. Food will be available.

Next meeting date is Wednesday, April 26th, 2017 at noon in the Iron County Boardroom.

Meeting adjourned at 12:37 pm.

Submitted by Opal Roberts