

**Gogebic Range Broadband Committee**  
**April 26, 2017 meeting notes**

**McKindles** opened the meeting in the Iron County Boardroom at 12:05 pm.

**Participants:** Norm McKindles (primary/secondary education), Jim Lorensen (Gogebic College), Brandon Yuchasz (Gogebic.net), Loren Peterson (Superior Connections), Willie Lucas (Superior Connections), Joe Bonovetz (Gogebic County Board), Mike Shouldice (Mercer resident), Don Gladwell (Charter Communications), Tom Stephenson (Connect Michigan), Kelly Kline (Iron County Economic Development), and Opal Roberts (Iron Co WI Supervisor).

**Committee updates:**

**Gogebic County:** Jim Lorensen had asked Tom Stephenson to give a presentation to the committee on the Connect Michigan and the Gogebic Range Connected Community partnership to access the present state of broadband availability in the Gogebic Range. A survey of the existing broadband capabilities and what can be done to improve internet access, adoption and use is in progress. Don Gladwell explained that some Charter customers are being offered broadband at \$15 a month. Northern Connections is planning on towers for Ironwood, Bessemer, and Wakefield to supply broadband with a filtered internet and educational platform. The major intent is to supply internet to areas with no internet.

**Iron County:** Popko Circle and Pine Lake towers are online. Still waiting for lease on Sherman tower to be finalized. Saxon Harbor tower project is moving forward.

Discussion continued on what project should be included in the next round of grants. Brandon reported that in his observations of the Spider and Fisher lake areas the elevations and obstructions in those areas may require repeater equipment. Next round might be expanding the service west of Mercer along County FF in the Lake of the Falls, Musky Point areas. Timeline for the next round of grants will probably in late July or early August.

**Broadband Summit/Fair:**

Mike reported the Broadband Fair plans are moving along. The Fair date will be July 18<sup>th</sup> 4:00 to 8:00 pm, at the Mercer Community Center/Library. The target audience will be full and part-time residents, and tourists, with the stress on economic development. Subjects will be home businesses, working from home, education and career building.

Next meeting date is Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 at noon in the Iron County Boardroom.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Submitted by Opal Roberts