

Gogebic Range Broadband Committee
October 25, 2017 meeting notes

McKindles opened the meeting in the Iron County Board Room at 12:10 pm.

Participants: Norm McKindles (primary/secondary education), Brandon Yuchasz (GogebicRange.net), Kelly Klein (Iron Co Economic Development), Joe Bonovetz (Gogebic County), Jim Lundburg (Merit Networks), Richard Thiede (Oma resident), Mike Shouldice (Mercer resident), and Opal Roberts (Iron Co WI Supervisor).

Gogebic County update: Discussed the proposed MI legislation about the ability of governmental units to provide broadband.

Gogebicrange.net request to the city of Ironwood: McKindles had sent a letter of support to the Ironwood City Commission for the proposed installation of equipment by GogebicRange.net on Mt Zion. The City Commission sent this project to their Parks and Recreation department for review. Brandon explained his proposal to install equipment on existing light poles on Mt Zion. This would not directly benefit the city of Ironwood but is aimed at residents on the northwest side. Northern MI proposal is to place a tower on Mt Zion. This tower would cover a wide area and be very visible from a long distance. Northern MI's main focus is providing educational content.

Iron County update: Public Service Commission announced another round of grants with applications due in January. The new state budget included about \$7 million for broadband expansion. We will submit our original application with additional letters or emails of support from potential clients, especially anyone who would be doing work from home or would use it for medical purposes. McKindles will contact Spider Lake residents and Thiede will email the Lakes Alliance members.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday November 29th at noon in the Iron County boardroom.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm.

Submitted by Opal Roberts