

Gogebic Range Broadband Committee
August 29, 2018 meeting notes

McKindles opened the meeting in the Iron County Board Room at 12:00 noon.

Participants: Norm McKindles (primary/secondary education), Kelly Kline (Iron Co. Economic Development), Brandon Yuchasz (GogebicRange.net), Amy Nosal (Iron County Extension), Mike Shouldice (Mercer resident), Dick Thiede (Oma resident), and Opal Roberts (Iron Co WI Supervisor).

Gogebic County update:

No attendees from Gogebic County. Yuchasz reported that the Mt Zion site went online last month. Shouldice stated he had heard the Carnegie library is moving forward on the white space project. The city of Ironwood is donating work for the installation.

Iron County update:

Kline reported that the PSC grant will be awarded in September. The project for Fisher Lake will depend on how much we receive from the grant. The remaining funds for the Lake of the Falls project should be approved in the current grant so work will begin on that soon.

Discussed doing a survey but decided it might be best to wait and see how much available coverage Iron County residents have access to after GogebicRange.net has constructed the towers and equipment for the projects currently on the schedule.

Yuchasz stated the DNR is in the final stage of approving the use of three acres for the Spider Lake site. As soon as the land is released the work can begin this fall.

The tower at White Cap may benefit people in Anderson Township and Gurney if locations are in a high area. There may be a business case in Gurney but would need at least a 100' tower.

Tower at Saxon Harbor put on hold since the county may not be able to build the proposed campgrounds where originally planned. A water tower is to be constructed to serve the harbor and there is a possibility they may allow the construction of a broadband tower on the same site.

The County Board has approved the Telecommuting Resolution at their July board meeting. Angie Dickinson, State Broadband director, presented Iron County with a Telecommuter Forward Certification plaque on August 23rd. This certification will be used to promote Iron County as a place to live and vacation while working remotely. Kline was given a logo by Dickinson to use in advertising telecommuting opportunities. Kline will send letters to real estate agents to let them know Iron County has the telecommuting designation.

CentryLink is doing upgrades to fiber at a number of locations in Mercer. There is no information available as to what the result of this might be.

Community Resources:

Amy Nosal said she is not sure where the digital broadband center is now that the extension office is under the umbrella of UW-Madison. The community web site project is sort of stuck with lack of engagement where it is needed most. Cold Iron Brewery is presenting programs on technology. Kline asked if the programs done at Cold Iron could also happen in Mercer at the new Liberty Brewing, or online streaming. Nosal said she will check on that.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday September 26th 2018 at noon in the Iron County boardroom.

Meeting adjourned at 12:58 pm.

Submitted by Opal Roberts