

Gogebic Range Broadband Committee
October 31, 2018 meeting notes

McKindles opened the meeting in the Iron County Board Room at 12:06 noon.

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

Gogebic County update:

Merrit is in the test phase for establishing broadband service in Wakefield . This will feed the Industrial Park and, potentially, the mine.

Iron County update:

Kelly reported the PCS grant is locked in for the amount requested in the last application.

Brandon stated the DNR has released the land for the Spider Lake tower site and he hopes to have the concrete in the ground before winter. The Saxon Harbor tower site will be near the water tower location on the east side of the road. He plans for a spring completion. He is in conversation with the land owner at Lake of the Falls and this will also be a spring project.

A letter was received from the Mercer Treasurer stating they will deny use of the tax bills for mailing the broadband survey due to cost restraints. Kelly handed out a one page draft of survey questions. Discussion was held on ways to submit online and paper surveys. Once the three new towers are in operation and information on how CenturyLink's newly installed fiber will affect the service available in the Mercer area, we would implement the survey. This will be next September or October.

Community Resources:

Amy reported on the FeLiveLife.org project – 2019 will be the true test of the adoption of this service and is expected to be a little slow.

Human Services has a grant for tablets for the Senior to Senior program.

Kelly presented a flyer for the first in a series for programs on how to use broadband in business. The program will be held at the Mercer Community Center on November 14th at noon. This will be a business luncheon and the subject will be about how to use the online marketplace. Future programs will address the use of social media in business, and on marketing small businesses. These programs will take broadband to the next step by teaching businesses and individuals the advantages of broadband.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday November 28th, 2018 at noon in the Iron County boardroom.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Submitted by Opal Roberts