

Gogebic Range Broadband Committee
November 28, 2018 meeting notes

McKindles opened the meeting in the Iron County Board Room at 12:03 noon.

Participants: Norm McKindles (primary/secondary education), Kelly Kline (Iron Co. Economic Development), Joe Bonovetz (Gogebic County), Mike Shouldice (Mercer resident), Amy Nosal (UW Extension), and Opal Roberts (Iron Co. Supervisor)

Gogebic County update:

Carnegie Library white space project stalled due to technical difficulties. Bonovetz reported that Northern MI has been granted an extension on the \$6.5 million package to bring broadband to the UP. 35 of the 64 sites are in place.

Iron County update:

Kelly has met with Jay Wendt from Bug Tussel about location of tower sites. The company plans to start construction of their towers next spring.

Brandon was not in attendance but due to weather the Spider Lake, Lake of the Falls, and Fisher Lake towers will not be constructed until next spring. Saxon Harbor tower is also on hold.

Discussed the broadband survey and it was suggested that the survey include Gogebic County. Kline asked for input on the survey questions. Should a question on Telemedicine be included?

Another suggestion mentioned was contacting the organizations that use telemedicine (Human services, Hospitals, VA) and offer to help them promote their available services.

Community Resources:

Amy reported not much happening on the Digital Divide project. Felivelife.org gong well and building sustainability. She will be working on how to evaluate success of the website.

The 4-H National Council is creating 4-H Digital Ambassadors, with adult leaders, to work with Microsoft to promote broadband literacy. This program will be in place sometime this summer.

“Business Bytes” held at the Mercer Community Center in conjunction with the Mercer Library had about 30 attendees. Lunch was provided. The topic was “Online Marketing”. The next program will be held Wednesday, January 9th, with the subject being Advertising for Small Businesses.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday January 30th, 2019 at noon in the Iron County boardroom.

Meeting adjourned at 12:52 pm.

Submitted by Opal Roberts