

Gogebic Range Broadband Committee
June 26 2019 meeting notes

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

Participants: Norm McKindles (primary/secondary education), Kelly Kline (Iron Co. Economic Development), Jim Lundberg (Merit Network), Amy Nosal (UW-Extension), Anne Kretschmann (MSU Extension), and Jeanne Graham (GCC Student Services)

Gogebic County update:

Lundberg talked about “white space”. This technology is not used much as it needs to get better.

Merit will hold a broadband summit in September. Moonshot program will be discussed. This program is much more accurate than the current system. Also look at what communities are doing.

Iron County update:

Tower updates: Gogebic Range.net is behind by four weeks due to delay in tower manufacturing.

McKindles reported on the CenturyLink upgrades. Some people are now getting better service while others are still at the slow or no speeds they had before.

Internet Access Survey:

Due to delay in tower construction it may make sense to delay survey. There will be more discussion on this next month.

Community Resources:

Amy Nosal talked about FeLiveLife.org project is going well.

MSU Extension update by Anne Kretschmann on Gogebic County youth as digital ambassadors to teach digital skills. Found that some students are lacking in these skills. Surveyed students on what skills are needed. Some include banking, searching for jobs, and creating online content. Found out some students have to take their computers to another location to complete their homework due to lack of internet availability.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday July 31st, 2019 at noon in the Iron County boardroom.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm.

Submitted by Opal Roberts