

Gogebic Range Broadband Committee
September 25 2019 meeting notes

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

Participants: Norm McKindles (primary/secondary education), Brandon Yuchasz (Gogebic Range.net), Neil Martinko (Iron County), Jeanne Graham (Gogebic Community College), Richard Thiede (Oma Township), Joe Pinardi (Chairman, Iron County Board).

Gogebic County update: Brandon reminded the committee that applying for the Michigan Broadband Expansion grants for this round will not be possible. He indicated that Gogebic Range.net may get involved in a partnership in order to provide broadband to the industrial site near Wakefield. This project would likely not involve the grant process.

The Connect Michigan - Gogebic Range survey is still moving forward with the hope of getting closer to the goal 749 respondents. When available, weekly updates will be shared with the broadband committee members.

Iron County update: Tower updates: Saxon Harbor, Fisher Lake and Spider Lake tower construction is under a slight delay due to a slow response and financial reimbursement from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. The delay appears to be the result of a change in leadership and reimbursement procedures at the state level. Fisher Lake has recently been released by the DNR from the forest management program. Richard Thiede and real estate agent Kathy Tutt located a potential usable tower site in the Lake of the Falls area. The property is owned by the Town of Mercer. Efforts are being made to secure a lease agreement with the town in order to have the tower construction completed before winter.

Iron County Internet Access Survey: A brief discussion was held regarding the possibility of the Regional Planning Commission putting together an electronic broadband survey for the area.

Other: none

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm.