

PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2020

Supervisor	Present	Absent	Late	Time In
Shwartz	X			
Jones	X			
DiVeronica	X			
Magliocca	X			
Lawrence	X		9:15	

PRESENT:

Committee: **Eve Ann Shwartz**, Dave Jones, Rocco DiVeronica, Joe Magliocca and Fred Lawrence.

Absent:

County Staff: Christine Coe, Mike Ellis, Scott Ingmire, Samantha Field, Kipp Hicks, Paul Lutwak, Joseph Mallek, Mark Scimone, and Gwen Williamson

Additional Present: Andy Lukasiewicz and Joe Starks from ECC Technologies, also Jeff Brooks and Kurt Frenzel via phone conferencing.

Meeting called to order at 9:06 A.M. by Shwartz

The specific and particular purpose of this meeting was to review with ECC Technologies a potential projected project task list for the purpose of determining feasibility and viability of submitting an application for the Reconnect Grant Project. This determination is largely based on survey results and data collected from the county's recent BAAT Program completion, the professional guidance from ECC Technologies, and the culmination of experience and abilities of those present at this meeting along with those who sit on the MCPLUS Committee and the Board of Supervisors.

ECC presented a Projected Project Task List and it was reviewed. Discussion throughout the meeting included a detailed breakdown of what tasks would be required (for grant application) and who would be responsible for seeing those tasks are completed. It was noted that having completed the BAAT survey program gives the County an edge because we have real and current data. This survey also shows community input and interest. One of the areas to address first would be the financial ratios that will need to be met. Jeff Holtmann is the project manager contact with ECC regarding the PFSA (Proposed Funded Service Area). Service territories need to be defined; who will be served and what services we are proposing. The focus must be on non-served and/or seriously under-served areas. The County is focusing on fiber based coverage. Joe Starks noted that typically a service partner would provide the operations services, the grant would provide the infrastructure (with 30% match), contracts would be negotiated for the actual building of the infrastructure and Madison County would be the owner of it.

There was much discussion, very detailed questions and answers regarding many aspects of this consideration.

The check list will be posted to the portal and ECC will continue throughout the process to monitor it. Once the PFSA's are in the portal, there are several more layers to accomplish: including narratives, operational business plan and financial business plan – all of which need to “tie back” to the portal. ECC will provide baselines for the narratives as a starting point. Jeff explained that the financial ratios that must be met are: Debt service, Interest earned and Current. These three ratios will be scrutinized and checked throughout the entire process to be sure that they are met. The ratios are based on the entity that owns the project – which must be agreed upon right away NOTE: Once the grant money is awarded the financial model will have to be expanded into a detailed project plan – which will be mostly already done during the business plan process. Jeff from ECC will work with Mike Ellis (Real Property) on GIS mapping and posting that mapping to the portal. It was requested that Scott Ingmire (Planning Department Director) would take on the role of grant writer/ contact person for the grant process. Andy and Joe from ECC will work with Scott to assign consultants to access the USDA Portal. Paul Lutwak (Director of Information Technology), Mark Scimone (County Administrator), Kipp Hicks (Director of MC Industrial Development Agency), and Samantha Field (Public Information Officer) will all help in their areas of expertise.

Joe Starks anticipates the County will need to commit to 40 working days or approximately 20 hours per week for this project.

Time line: Upfront work – The first is to determine ownership and begin immediately to identify mapping lines to be drawn. Administratively, there are County documents and letters of support from the State, Towns and businesses to gather.

There was discussion regarding whether or not the grant award is or is not affected by the Spectrum Build-out.

The Committee unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the Chairman to apply for a USDA Reconnect Grant on a **MOTION** by Jones and seconded by Magliocca at 10:30 A.M. 5/0/0

The Committee unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with ECC Technologies on a **MOTION** by Magliocca and seconded by DiVeronica at 10:32 A.M. 5/0/0

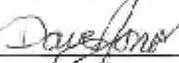
The next MCPLUS Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 20th at 1:00 P.M, however, it may be moved to the 25th in order to re-establish the practice of meeting the same day as the Planning Committee. Email notices will be sent out.

It was decided that this committee will not meet next Thursday January 16th, as originally planned. Mark Scimone agreed to keep everyone informed as necessary until the February meeting.

The meeting was adjourned on a **MOTION** by Jones and seconded by DiVeronica at 10:38 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by Gwen Williamson.

Sign in Sheet

PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	
Date of Meeting:	10-Jan-20
Eve Ann Schwartz	
Dave Jones	
Rocco DiVeronica	
Joe Magliocca	
Fred Lawrence	* 

Others Present:

Joe Starks ECC technologies
 Scott Inguice
 Andy Lukaszewicz
 Presul Lopez → 
 Joseph Mallett
 Samantha Field
 Mark Simond
 Kipp Mills
 Mike Ellis
 * FRED LAWRENCE

Also:
Christine Coe

