

MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

2 March 2020 7:00 p.m. Mathews Volunteer Rescue Squad Building

Present: Judy Rowe, William Vrooman, Willie Love, Hal Bourque, Lori Buchanan, Amy Dubois, Greg Lewis, Joe Syslo, William Terry, Marge Terry, Earl Adcock, Charlene Winter, Robert Hutson, Dennis Gryder, and Cynthia Hayes.



MINUTES

I. OPENING:

Chairperson Judy Rowe called the meeting to order and introduced new members: Dennis Gryder, Marg and William Terry, Earl Adcock, and Steve and Terry Cooper (not present).

II. STAFF UPDATE:

The community Broadband Survey update that was presented to the Mathews County Board of Supervisors was shared with the group. It was noted there were 1,220 survey respondents, and those households/businesses using DSL or satellite will benefit most from our efforts. Judy noted the full CIT insight is on the County's website, and questions were addressed from new members about tower locations. Bill Vrooman asked if the group should consider a hybrid service when writing grants. Also noted was a Gazette-Journal article that talks about the decline in Mathews County Public Schools enrollment, and the lack of Internet service in some areas as a contributing factor.

III. MINUTES:

Judy explained that Minutes from the February 3, 2020 meeting were distributed electronically to reduce paper usage for the group. The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as presented, and the motion carried.

IV. Kudos & Thanks:

Judy acknowledge the following for their contributions to the PowerPoint presentation: Chuck Huntley, Thomas Jenkins, Willie Love, Rob Quartel, Betsy Burkhard, Barbara VanOver, and Amy Dubois for creating questions for the Board of Supervisors.

V. OLD BUSINESSS:

- a. Survey – Judy highlighted the report made to the Board of Supervisors.
- b. Broadband Moments – the newest featured Buzz Lambert. Judy said she is waiting for next fall to for student interview/conversations.
- c. Letters – Letter for support of rural broadband need to go out to Hodges, Lewis, and Wittman, Kaine, and Warner. The form letter is posted on the website, and members are encouraged to print, sign, and send to these representatives. Thank you letters are going out to Chesapeake Bank, the Senior Active Lifestyle Center, the Treasurer's Office, Chamber of Commerce, and the 25+ businesses who joined in the effort for distributing/collecting surveys.
- d. Policy and Management Teams – Members of the **Policy Team** include Mindy Conner, Thomas Jenkins, Julie Kaylor, Chuck Huntley, Amy Dubois, and Jackie Ingram. The **Management Team** includes Nancy Welch, Rob Quartel, Hal Bourque, Joe Syslo, Willie Love, Greg Lewis, with Chuck Huntley serving as liaison to the Policy Team. The Board of Supervisors voted to approve the teams' appointments and move forward with a Request for Information.

- e. Decision Points Document – Judy noted the full document is available on the website.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Next Steps – Judy discussed the next steps in this process.
- b. RFI Work Session – Judy wants to arrange RFI Work Session on March 4, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. Several members will gather and include CIT staff (via telephone). Greg agreed to provide the meeting space for the session. See the handout emailed to members from Judy.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. Joe Syslo asked about the Charter for the Management and Policy Teams, who are the team leaders, and what is the action plan for BBAB. Amy responded that Thomas Jenkins has agreed to serve as the lead for the Policy Team, and the Management Team is involved in looking at and applying for grants. Judy stated the Management Team does need to meet soon and decide what should go into the RFI. Judy plans to ask Nancy Welch to head-up the Management Team because of her experience with RFIs and proposals. She plans to speak with Nancy in the morning. It is Judy's hope the Teams will meet and be prepared to report back to the Board at the March 30, 2020 meeting.

VIII. Adjourn:

A motion was made by Hal Bourque and second by Lori Buchanan to adjourn. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned.

SAVE THESE DATES:

Supervisors Meeting Tuesday, March 24, 2020
1:00 pm Historic Courthouse

BAB Meeting Monday, March 30, 2020
10:00 am Mathews Memorial Library