



**MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
7 September 2021 9AM - 10AM on ZOOM
MINUTES**

Present: Judy Rowe, Rob Quartel, Nancy Welch, Jeff Beekhoo, Donnie Lewis, Joe Syslo, Willie Love, Debbie Falco, Sherry Hamilton, Julie Kaylor.

MINUTES: Minutes from the 3 August and 17 August 2021 meetings were approved as emailed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Joe Syslo sent a point paper about the accomplishments of the Mathews Broadband Advisory Board to Congressman Rob Wittman to keep him informed. We want to keep Chris Hall informed, as well.

OLD BUSINESS: Updates

VATI Grant with ABB - There was no update.

VATI Grant with OBB - There was no update.

Radio System – All permits have been sent in and frequencies reserved. Willie reported that they were still in the engineering phase and moving through all of that.

MiFis To Go – Greg reported the library is waiting to hear from the FCC about the funding to double the MiFis available. The Library should have the funding in September.

Signs and Website –Dee Russell was not on the meeting.

Market Days: cancelled

Judy asked where else the BAB can provide information to the county.

Carol Steele had offered to make posters. ABB sent four 30-second commercials for us to use. OBB sent flyers to pass out. All BAB projects were going to be showcased.

Deb Falco noted that people who did not have broadband and could not get it through ABB at this point would be angered by seeing these advertisements. “I’m sure it will make it better in your house, but you can’t even get it.” “We’re helping out a company that is not willing to help out the community they’re serving.”

NEW BUSINESS:

Towers – Jeff stated we are looking at getting the two Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) to begin the construction of the towers. This process usually takes about 6 months to complete. With all the help of our BAB, it is happening quickly. Judy, Joe, Jeff and Tyler have been meeting with MVFD and MVRS to create each MOU. They and the boards of each group are meeting with Interim County Administrator, Sandy Wanner to finalize the draft of these MOUs. Sandy Wanner and Joe Syslo have been working together on the wording. Once each

group has approved their own MOU there will be a signing by their presidents. The MOUs will then go before the BOS for approval for the county to sign each MOU.

Back haul into Mathews – Funding: without major cost influx. By \$700 million from the Governor. But VATI is handling this. VATI has many restrictions. Jeff thinks there will be other funding coming along. Back haul is required to get the last mile. Attorneys from Hampton Roads are have gone to VATI to convince them. Jeff is putting costs together to be ready for when the money becomes available.

Telehealth: Triad Health and Safety Fair has been cancelled for this fall. Alice Stewart asked that the BAB come and present to the Triad Board. Rob, Donna Givens and Donna Hale will be contacted to work on this. Jeff noted our conversations in the past to partner with a university like VCU for potential telemedicine projects. EVMS, CNU, William and Mary and VCU to be contacted. Rob is contacting a dean at VCU.

Ways to get the word out: where can we do this?

Broadband Moments continue to come. These are stories of desperation.

The next meeting is Tuesday, 21 September 2021 at 9:00 AM on Zoom.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Rob Quartel made a motion to adjourn, Greg seconded it.