



## MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING 19 October 2021 9AM - 10AM on ZOOM MINUTES

Present: Judy Rowe, Greg Lewis, Rob Quartel, Jeff Beekhoo, Donnie Lewis, Joe Syslo, Willie Love, Sandy Wanner, Jullie Kaylor, Page Herbert, Amy Dubois

The Chair called the regular BAB meeting to order. Judy said the minutes from the last two meetings will be available at next meeting.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Judy requested updates on BAB projects. David was not available to report on the ABB/VATI/4 County project. Nancy is in DOE meeting this morning but Julie reported things are moving on schedule. Judy reported that she heard from Carol Steele that OBB is working in Gloucester now. They are using additional ARPA funds to provide more service than what the VATI project will provide. Their BOS approved more money.

Greg reported her had good news on the MiFis To Go. They doubled their supply of equipment with Emergency Connectivity Fund/ARPA funds of \$18,000+ to purchase 25 MiFis plus service for these through June of next year. They are a great stop-gap. They are still circulating at full capacity and actually providing all the help. Despite all the funding that we have received, no-one is yet connected.

The Digital Literacy program is still waiting on funding. It was expected a few months ago but is still held up in the General Assembly.

Willie reported that the Radio System engineering is done; the equipment for the microwaves on order to be able to get connected next year

### NEW BUSINESS:

Jeff presented a very conservative schedule to complete the towers by September 2022. Not setting expectations too high because anything can happen such as environmental issues. Jeff asked Julie to set up RFPs according to Mathews County's procure policy.

Information out to the public: The Triad presentation still needs planning. Bette Dillehay and Greg Lewis invited us to present to the Mathews Rotary Club 10/28. Judy and Jeff will cover this one. Page Herbert asked if someone would come to the West Mathews Community League Fall Fair. Jeff volunteered to go. Judy noted the opportunity to have displays: at County Administration Building, Julie suggested checking with Kevin Zoll, building official. Other location could be Visitor's Center.

VMRC issue considered a crabber's letter to the editor which has now appeared in the Gazette-Journal. Willie called Judy and suggested contacting VMRC to sign on with us to reach out to the General Assembly. Judy is writing a letters to General Assembly and to VMRC.

Greg reported that Library has reached out to VMRC's Stephanie Iverson. They are coming to train the Library staff to help. It is an all web-based portal. There is no cell phone app. Oysters were mandatory January 2021 but crabs become mandatory January 2022. Judy congratulated Greg. Mathews is the first Library to reach out to them. Iverson was thrilled.

Willie urged that we get word to the waterman. Greg said VMRC will reach out them. Willie further said we an't just go top down but we need to go from the bottom up. He applauds VMRC for taking the initiative.

Rob is working with a company in Maine working on federal requirement for marine reporting. He will contact VMRC and put them in contact.

The new BAB Meeting Requirements are a quorum needed, five voting members. Total of nine. We are missing some of the voting members. In Bylaws the Chairman may appoint a replacement for missing Voting Members. Julie said everyone could bring own device and could use Historic Courthouse. Sandy noted we need to change next meeting from Election Day.

BTS is working on finding funding for tower expansion and back haul . RFPs must involve county attorney. Jeff is working on a plan with Nancy for providing the back haul. Jeff reported no changes with 700 million but there are many efforts to have it support middle mile.

Carol Steele had reported that the Gloucester attorney was writing a letter. Judy is writing a letter with broadband moments

Judy will get back to everyone with meeting details and a calendar.

David Blanks will report at BOS meeting for Judy He will report on ABB progress.  
Kudos to everyone

**ADJOURN** There being no further business Joe Syslo moved to adjourn, Rob Quartel seconded the motion.

*Submitted by: Judy Rowe, serving in place of Cynthia Hayes.*