

**Lincoln County Broadband Commission Meeting**  
6:30 PM, Thursday, February 22, 2024  
Room 255/257/260, Lincoln County Service Center  
801 N. Sales Street Merrill, WI 54452  
Join by Phone: (US) +1 862-283-0266 PIN: 419571710  
**Meeting Link:** <https://meet.google.com/vvz-szuh-ipi>

AGENDA

Attendance: Sherry Hulett, Ken Wickham, Bill Bialecki, Pat Voermans, Renee Krueger, Andy Faust, Gordon Sennet,

Virtual: Jennifer Bishop, Lisa White, Earl Welker, Jerome Ziegelbauer, Julie Allen, Laurie Olhoff, Travis Spoehr, Elsa Duranceau

1. Call to Order: 6:30PM
2. Introductions
3. Approve January Minutes. Pat Voermans motions to approve. Bill Bialecki seconded. Motion carried.
4. Status/Updates of Lincoln County Broadband Efforts
  - a. LCEDC Summit Update: Ken Wickham and Andy Faust will present our final plan, process, and what's next on March 14 around 2:00PM
  - b. Central WI Days: Elsa Duranceau had a chance to connect with other EDC Directors re: their broadband experiences. Met with Maryanne Lippert who graciously offered to meet with us. We encourage other commission members to join us in this initial conversation.
  - c. Tomahawk Library Survey:
  - d. BEAD Challenge Process Update: No Update
  - e. Outreach Opportunities:
    - i. Home, Sport, Travel, & Health Expo – Elsa will reach out to WJJQ to get a booth. April 15 & 16 <https://www.wjjq.com/pg/home-sport-travel-show>
    - ii. Oneida Co Expo, March 07: <https://business.rhinelanderchamber.com/events/details/up-north-community-expo-03-07-2024-14164>
5. Broadband Plan Final Draft Review by Andy Faust:
  - a. Slideshow
  - b. Affordability Program

- i. Affordable Connectivity Program – projected to end soon
    - ii. Lifeline – PSC program
    - iii. Some internet service providers have their own programs
    - iv. PSC – Internet Discount Finder <https://apps.psc.wi.gov/InternetDiscountFinder>
  - c. Broadband Goals – Chapter 7 (pg 51)
    - i. Find Funding
    - ii. Develop relationship with ISPs
    - iii. Keep goals general
  - d. Funding: Private Sector, Fed & State Programs, Tax incentive credits, bond financing, grants from foundations.
  - e. Recommendations: Engage providers, public, and non-profits (gather and disseminate information). Gather letters of support from anchor institutions.
  - f. We need to know ISP build plans so we can advocate for areas that aren't included. Ask ISPs for updates as well as attending our meetings.
  - g. Glenn Fishbine (OptiDesign) will provide input if we have projects happening.
- 6. Internet Speed Testing Update: 13.2% participation rate! Anyone can continue to take the speed test. We won't have access to the information after April 1, 2024.
- 7. Next Meeting Time/Date
  - a. March 28, 2024 – 6:30PM – 7:30PM
- 8. Adjourn: 7:35PM