

**DRAFT Minutes of Beaver Island Telecommunication Advisory Committee Meeting
Peaine and St James Township, Beaver Island
Meeting in person and videoconference – August 19, 2021 4:30 pm at BIC Center**

Present

Kevin Boyle, Theresa McDonough, Gary Conant

Absent

Kitty McNamara, Neal Green, Vicki Smith, Wil Cwikiel

Others

Dick Mulvihill, Jim Flanagan, Adam Kendall and Kate Leese, Michael Reen, Jim Selby, Boris Kokotovic

Meeting called to order at 4:34 pm. We do not have a quorum, however, board will still proceed with some updates.

The NTIA grant was filed. Mulvihill as well as GLE both thought the grant was well done. The awards will be named on Nov. 29. The recipients will have a year to build on it and/or ask for extensions if needed.

Update on the Pools of Service and UP Link

The consortium has met and they voted to fully fund the project. After the consortium met, the NMU frequency coordinator reported that we may need more equipment to make the connection work. We will continue to move forward and make this work. Individuals may step up with contributions to help fund additional equipment, if necessary.

Fiber to the home discussion, Plan B

Jim Selby, CEO of Aspen Wireless/CMU Alumni and Boris Kokotovic, Senior Vice President of Quality at Commscope (and a 20 year visitor to the island), <https://www.commscope.com>, spoke to the board, shared their experience and insight on our project.

If the NTIA grant is not successful than a possible Plan B strategy is to push tax payer dollars to achieve the infrastructure and technology that Beaver Island needs. Kokotovic has connections for funding options as well as access to grant writers and Selby is experienced with the wireless environment and could assist with Pools of Service.

Kokotovic would like to research and review some network options that could resolve our island needs. Conversation with Selby about Rural LTE program and CBRS options (crowncastle.com) that could be licensed to the community. Mention of Traverse City using this method.

Meeting ends at 5:23 pm

Next Meeting Date: September 16, 2021 at the BIC Center, 4:30 pm.