

**DRAFT Minutes of Beaver Island Telecommunication Advisory Committee Meeting  
Peaine and St James Township, Beaver Island  
Meeting in person and videoconference – February 17, 2022, 4:30 pm at BIC Center**

**Present**

Kevin Boyle, Theresa McDonough, Wil Cwikiel, Vicki Smith, Gary Conant

**Absent**

Julie Gillespie, Dick Mulvihill

**ON ZOOM**

Chris Sorenson, Joe Moore, Neal Green, Cynthia Johnson, Chris Picciolini

Advisory Committee conducted a zoom conference call with two of Rep. Debbie Dingell's staff with intent to have an information sharing session. Introductions were made by Chris Sorenson and then Kevin Boyle reviewed key points with staff members. Please see Boyle's agenda. Open conversation followed and we were assured by Dingell's staff that they would support all efforts and as our island plans progressed, we should keep them posted.

Meeting called to order at 4:13 pm. All agreed that Sorenson did a great job connecting the BITAC with Representative Dingell and hopefully we are on the radar.

**Pools of Service/U.P. Link**

All equipment has arrived and NMU is testing it and the links. The BIC Center will be designated as licensee since they already have this in place (WVBI). It's an easy transfer process if changes need to be made in the future.

Boyle has been working with JT Tower and they have discussed combining other work on the island. JT Tower may be able to retrieve the 60' tower in Traverse City (KLT tower).

Boyle will also receive multiple bids for the tower work so he will have competitive bids.

Boyle will also share updated distribution plan for Ubiquiti and Mimosa equipment.

**NTIA Grant**

Unfortunately, there are no new announcements.

**Other Business**

Merit would like an update from Boyle and Mulvihill.

Lansing meeting: Cwikiel has communicated with Wayne Schmidt and Gary McDowell however McDowell advised visiting after the new Rural Development director was in office. Broadband will be a large part of this office. Discussion centers on how many might travel and that each township should have a representative. Time frame for travel could be mid-March to mid-April.

Discussion follows on how to build excitement in the island community for the future work happening.

We need to share that the changes will benefit the entire community!

Matela mentions the work being done on the Master Plan. Good timing for feedback.

Boyle suggests community discussions to be held at BICC.

Meeting closes at 4:50 pm

**Next Meeting Date:** March 17, 2022 at the BIC Center, 4:30 pm.