

BEAVER ISLAND
JOINT TOWNSHIP TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Outline of Meeting with Charlevoix County Officials

On Wednesday May 8, 2019, Kitty McNamara, Dick Mulvihill and Kevin Boyle of the committee met with Charlevoix County Board Chairman Chris Christianson and County Administrator Kevin Shephard to follow up on the conversation we had with Kevin in March.

- A. ReConnect Plans. Essentially, we learned that the County has no current plans to apply for reconnect funding
- B. GIS Mapping. It does not appear that the county GIS folks are able to provide the desired geo-coordinate info we need to take an automated approach to rebutting service level claims for wired service on the island. However, from more careful study of the maps supplied by NMU for their ReConnect grant application, it no longer appears necessary to pursue this issue.
- C. GLE Meeting. Chris and Kevin S. plan to meet with GLE on May 21 to discuss opportunities for the county to cooperate with GLE's broadband buildout. They contemplate raising the issue of fiber to the island. Chris envisions the cost to be substantially less than what has previously been discussed with members of our committee, but this still seems like a long shot at this stage. Our participation in the meeting was discussed. It seemed that Chris wanted to have the meeting one on one. We will follow up with our own meeting.
- D. County Building Connectivity. Chris and Kevin both expressed interest in developing higher speed connectivity at the new Donegal Bay Road County Building than is available from TDS. Chris had a preference for using the existing CMU link for this, but Kevin S. seems to remain interested in an alternative link to the UP so that there is back-up capability.
- E. NLEA Membership. Chris encouraged us to join in the NLEA's efforts to address the "internet issue" in northwest lower-Michigan. Kitty is reaching out to them about this.

- Jean Pauk from TDS State Government Affairs
- Mark Hoferle, Manager – Business Development TDS Telecom
- Kitty McNamara and Kevin Boyle, BI Telecommunications Advisory Committee

We are anxious to understand TDS's current and future broadband plans on the island.

They are committed to the island for the long haul. No plans to pull out. They have a commitment to at least 2028 per ACM funding obligations.

What about fiber loop?

There is fiber around the island connecting the nodes (DSLAMs) – they do not plan to put fiber to the homes from the nodes. They plan to continue to connect homes to the nodes using existing copper twisted pairs. Speed increase will come from improved signaling technology in the nodes paired with improvements in customer premises equipment (home routers). . Their fiber goes around the perimeter of the island on east and west side drives with an extension on Fox Lake Road.

Notes:

Jean:

- TDS serves 1,000 locations on BI.
- FCC 2017-2029 ACM Fund \$ for helping to provide access where traditional for profits not likely to go; must provide 75% of customers with 25/3 and at least 10/1 to other 25%
- TDS not planning to seek USDA grant
- Upcoming upgrade will see 50 mbs service to some parts of the island by this fall

Mark:

- 50m to 100m currently in some locations by bonding 25m service together
- 2018 Fall – First project of ACM fund obligation completed
- 1 gig would be great but not likely in near future

Both:

- They are open to talking further about what community may be able to do to increase capacity
- Not planning to pursue USDA grant

2019

By Fall of 2019 up to 50mg available for many areas of island. Small number of customers only 10mg.

New modems to all customers by fall 2019 will increase speed