



County of Augusta
Internet Initiative (Broadband Committee)
PO Box 590
Verona, VA 24482

Thursday, October 27, 2022 7:00 pm

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mr. Lawhorne, Chairman, Riverheads District
Mr. Powell, Middle River District
Mr. Miller, Beverly Manor District
Ms. Thornton, North River District
Ms. Melton, Asst. Superintendent for Instruction & Technology
Ms. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator

ABSENT: Mr. Henderson, Vice-Chairman, Pastures District
Mr. Kirby, Wayne District
Vacant, South River District
Ms. Carter, Board of Supervisors Liaison

VIRGINIA: At the regular meeting of the Augusta County Internet Initiative (Broadband Committee) held on Thursday, October 27, 2022 at 7:00 pm in person.

Call to Order

Meeting started at 7:00pm.

Adoption of the Minutes

Minutes of the March 24, 2022, April 28, 2022 and July 28, 2022 meetings were approved.

Comments by the Public

Mr. Meek commented on the challenges he has had on finding service at his home on Shutterlee Mill Road. He has contacted various providers and one may be able to install a temporary solution until the VATI2022 project connection.

Special Presentations

None

Matters to be Presented by Sub-Committees

None

Matters to be Presented by Staff

Ms. Whetzel provided an update on the VATI 2021 grant that is under construction by MGW/Lingo Networks. Work continues in all four project areas:

- **Middlebrook:** VDOT permit for 3 mile underground section was received. Crews have started mobilizing to this project area with work scheduled to begin in mid-Oct. FTTH installs continue in areas where fiber is available.
- **Morris Mill:** Additional Dominion permits submitted in this project area to facilitate last-mile fiber deployments. Make ready estimate or timeframe on construction will be determined when permits are received.

- **Deerfield:** Fiber construction will continue south from completed area toward the ISP's Central Office in Deerfield. Construction of service taps and drops continue on several side roads in the immediate area of the main line construction.
- **McDowell:** FTTH upgrades/installs continue throughout project area where mainline work is complete.

DHCD conducted an onsite assessment of the VATI2021 project on August 8, visiting the Middlebrook and Morris Mill Project areas. DHCD has added Quality Assurance and Inspection Report requirements for VATI2021. Ms. Whetzel reviewed the report from the County on first quarterly visit, utilizing the DHCD onsite visit date. DHCD also conducted a Risk Assessment inquiry for financial internal controls.

Ms. Whetzel will request a six month project extension, moving the project end date to June 30, 2023. The request is due to weather delays, staff out with COVID, delays in easements and supply chain issues. There was a flip from overhead fiber installation to underground fiber installation in a portion of the Middlebrook project area requiring a VDOT permit.

Forty -eight percent (48%) of the milestones have been completed to date.

Below is a summary of work to date. Please note that milestones are set on two month increments, so therefore the passings will be updated every other month.

Project Area	Total Passings	Passings to Date 6/30/22
McDowell	235	338 MGW Projects
Deerfield	508	
Morris Mill	288	140 Lingo Projects
Middlebrook	142	
Total	1173	478
% Completed		41%
Subscribers to date	97	

Total Project Budget: \$1,814,876

Spent to Date \$743,903

Grant to Date \$520,732

Locality Funds to Date \$89,268

Provider Funds to Date \$133,903

Ms. Whetzel updated the Committee on the status of the VATI2022 project. SVEC and Dominion Energy presented to the Board of Supervisors at the September 26, 2022 worksession. All Points Broadband and Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission presented to Board of Supervisors on September 28, 2022. Copies of the presentation was distributed and discussed by the Committee.

Ms. Whetzel reviewed the first draft of a Broadband coverage map for Augusta County. The map was built utilizing the FCC data for wireline services from June 2022, VATI 2021 and 2022 project areas, BARC and Firefly project information and CARES project information. Areas in white will be reviewed to determine if they remain unserved. DHCD provided data on the Beam abandoned addresses, which was overlaid with the wireline availability.

Matters to be Presented by the Committee

Mr. Lawhorne and Mr. Powell inquired as to the future status of the Committee. The Committee listed a few reasons for continuation: public relations, managing expectations of community, support for staff and

knowledge of Districts represented and broadband in general. The Committee will discuss this further at the January meeting to make a determination.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjournment

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be January 26, 2023. With no further discussion by the committee, the meeting adjourned.