



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

Thursday, April 28, 2022 7:00 pm

## MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Mr. Lawhorne, Chairman, Riverheads District  
Mr. Kirby, Wayne District  
Mr. Slaven, Board of Supervisors Liaison  
Ms. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator

**ABSENT:** Ms. Thornton, North River District  
Mr. Henderson, Vice-Chairman, Pastures District  
Mr. Powell, Middle River District  
Mr. Carter, South River District  
Mr. Miller, Beverly Manor District  
Ms. Carter, Board of Supervisors Liaison  
Ms. Kiracofe, Asst. Superintendent for Instruction & Technology

VIRGINIA: At the regular meeting of the Augusta County Internet Initiative (Broadband Committee) held on Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 7:00 pm in person.

### Call to Order

Meeting started at 7:00pm. A quorum was not present.

### Adoption of the Minutes

Minutes of the March 24, 2022 meeting were not considered due to lack of quorum.

### Comments by the Public

None

### 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. Permitting and construction work continued in project areas. Three permits were received from Dominion Energy and the areas were to construction. MGW is waiting on one SVEC permit and is going to submit three more permit requests. An extension is considered due to weather delays, staff out with COVID and now supply chain issues. For example, a small grummet piece on backorder will cause a delay. DHCD considers extensions in 6 month blocks. 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 12/31
McDowell	235	106
Morris Mill	288	94
Deerfield	508	143
Middlebrook	142	
Total	1173	343
% Completed		29%

Total Project Budget: \$1,814,876

Spent to Date \$518,739

Grant to Date \$363,117

Locality Funds to Date \$62,249

Provider Funds to Date \$93,373

Ms. Whetzel updated the Committee on the status of the contract with DHCD. The Board of Supervisors approved the Fiscal Agent Agreement on April 27, 2022. Concerns were raised regarding the accountability of the project as the oversight is under the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission and DHCD. Mr. Slaven summarized the actions of the Board related to the project. Citizens have been requesting service and the regional project is a way to expand the service coverage in the County. Universal coverage is defined as 97% of homes with access to 25/3 mbps. The project will make significant gains in coverage.

Economic Development will have an intern that can work on the mapping project.

Ms. Whetzel distributed a draft press release for the VATI2021 project. MGW will review.

The federal Communications Commission is seeking comment on preventing digital discrimination. Comments are due by May 16, 2022.

Ms. Whetzel attended a marketing research group meeting for BARC on March 25, 2022. Input surrounded how BARC can deliver services to the community as an internet provider.

Ms. Whetzel and Mr. Henderson attended a roundtable discussion on April 12, 2022 at Augusta Health with Senator Warner. The focus was telehealth and broadband.

DHCD issued guidelines for the Line Extension Customer Assistance Program. The program will support the extension of existing broadband networks to low-to-moderate income residents.

#### **Matters to be Presented by the Committee**

None

#### **Old Business**

None

#### **New Business**

None

#### **Adjournment**

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be determined at a later date based on business. With no further discussion by the committee, the meeting adjourned.