



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

Thursday, April 27, 2023 7:00 pm

## MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Mr. Kirby, Wayne District  
Mr. Powell, Middle River District  
Mr. Miller, Beverly Manor District  
Ms. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator

**ABSENT:** Ms. Thornton, North River District  
Mr. Lawhorne, Chairman, Riverheads District  
Vacant, Pastures District  
Vacant, South River District  
Ms. Melton, Asst. Superintendent for Instruction & Technology

VIRGINIA: At the regular meeting of the Augusta County Internet Initiative (Broadband Committee) held on Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 7:00 pm in person.

### Call to Order

Meeting started at 7:00pm.

### Adoption of the Minutes

Minutes of the October 27, 2022 and January 26, 2023 meeting were not approved due to lack of a quorum.

### Comments by the Public

Mr. Korte thanked the Committee and Board of Supervisors for their interest and work on broadband over the years. He encouraged the Committee to provide updates on a regular basis. He also noted to add Starlink to the provider list on the website. Mr. Korte gave an example of a household seeking service and the challenges they faced.

### 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:** (1) only a small section of the project area remains incomplete, which includes 4-6 passings, and (2) FTTH installs continue in areas where fiber is available.
- **Morris Mill:** (1) SVEC pole attachment permit is under review by provider who is making final adjustment to design in order to send back for approval; per discussion with provider and SVEC Joint Use, the permit could be split into multiple permits based upon whether any made-ready work is needed or not. This will allow provider to begin construction in portions of the project area

while waiting on SVEC to perform the make-ready work in other areas. Getting the final design and permits prepared and back to SVEC has taken longer than desired; (2) FTTH installs continue in areas where service is available.

- **Deerfield:** Construction of service taps and drops continue on several side roads in the immediate area of the main line construction.
- **McDowell:** (1) construction of fiber service taps/laterals off the main line have enabled multiple side roads to have fiber available, (2) FTTH installs continue in areas where fiber is available

A six month extension was approved by DHCD, with the new deadline of June 30, 2023. Staff is discussing the need for extension or closeout of the grant depending on the number of passings reported in March and April. The delayed permit process in the Morris Mill area is one reason for a potential extension.

DHCD visited Middlebrook and Morris Mill areas on 2/22/23.

Fifty-six percent (56%) 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 2/28/2023
McDowell	235	430 MGW Projects
Deerfield	508	
Morris Mill	288	231 Lingo Projects
Middlebrook	142	
Total	1173	661
% Completed		56%
Subscribers to date		173

Total Project Budget: \$1,814,876

Spent to Date \$1,056,884

Grant to Date \$739,819

Locality Funds to Date \$126,826

Provider Funds to Date \$190,329

Ms. Whetzel updated the Committee on the status of the VATI2022 project. Low Level Design and materials procurement is underway. The Timmons Group and Davey Resource Group are in the field for pole fielding and make-ready engineering. Make-ready work includes measuring the poles and documenting what equipment is on the pole. Augusta is the initial focus of make-ready, the Fauquier. All Points is working with Dominion Energy on SCC petition. A regional office is to be set up. All Points is reviewing unserved areas against the updated National broadband map that includes data from new FCC reporting requirement. Staff will review the map and provide areas that may need to be addressed. For unserved locations outside the VATI grant area, solutions to extend service could include All Points investment, LECAP program or clean up VATI grant. All inquiries and address checks should be directed to APBfiber.com. No funds expended to date from State or Local Match. Staff will request an update to the Board of Supervisors in May or June.

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

Mr. Miller responded to the FCC National Broadband map, challenging the service availability at his address. T-Mobile was a provider available in this area. A notification was sent with a timeline of 60 days

to work out services. T-Mobile offered 4G with limited data. This did not satisfy the non-cellular service of the challenge.

Consensus was to continue for now as there may be more activity that drives questions as the large projects continue.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**Adjournment**

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be July 27, 2023. With no further discussion by the committee, the meeting adjourned.