Governor’s Task Force on Broadband

Lake Lena, District 3, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

45749 Grace Lake Road, Sandstone, MN 55072

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Task Force members present: Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Maureen Ideker, Bernadine Joselyn, Danna MacKenzie, Fred Underwood, Shirley Walz, Paul Weirtz, Bao Vang, Tyler Middleton (for Duane Ring), Martin Ludden (for Richard Sjoberg)

Task Force members attending by telephone: Dan Richter, Steve Lewsader, Andrea Casselton, Matt Grose

Task Force members absent: Gary Evans

Others in attendance: Bill Hoffman, Diane Wells, Dennis Ahlers, Heather Rand, Laura Ziegler, Roxy Traxler, Jon Tollefson, Diane Gibbs, Al Hemming, Beth Thorp, Dave Minke, Joe Nayquonabe, Stephen Hallan, Kate Hensing, Wayne Gilman, Doyle Jelsing, Brian Estrem, Kirstin Sersland

1. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Margaret Anderson Kelliher, chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. The Task Force members and others in attendance introduced themselves. There was a motion by Bernadine Joselyn and a second by Fred Underwood to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2013 meeting. Motion approved.

Margaret Anderson Kelliher introduced Joe Nayquonabe in order for him to provide a welcome to the group and an overview of tribal activities related to broadband.

1. Welcome by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (MLBO)

Mr. Nayquonabe welcomed the Task Force and provided an overview of broadband efforts and needs of the MLBO. He highlighted that the Task Force was meeting in Lake Lena, an underserved area of the state, and how broadband is and would be essential to the economic growth of the tribe. He shared tribal efforts to secure new business opportunities that would need broadband access to be successful. He, also, talked about generational difference related to the view of broadband connectivity and the need for digital literacy training and adequate connectivity for younger tribal members.

A brief Q and A followed Mr. Nayquonabe’s presentation. The discussion centered on the economic necessity of having broadband to the tribe in order for economic growth to thrive in the East-Central area of the state as the tribe looks to expand business opportunities. In addition, the issues about use of technology in schools were discussed – and the need to assure connectivity at the residential level to maximize the impact of technology being employed at schools.

Diane Gibbs, District III (Lake Lena) Representative, welcomed the Task Force to her district and provided specific information on this part of the reservation. She also responded to questions from Task Force members.

1. East Central Broadband Initiative Presentations

Ms. Roxy Traxler (Mille Lacs County Administrator) and Mr. David Minke (Pine County Administrator) presented an overview of the activities of the East Central Broadband Initiative project – a regional, ad hoc committee comprised of representatives from Aitkin, Mille Lacs, Kanabec, Pine and Carlton Counties. They highlighted the reasons for the committee’s formation; the reasons adequate broadband is needed in the regions, and provided an overview of the state of broadband availability in the counties.

Over the past months, the Initiative has conducted a regional “Summit” as well and a number of meetings with regional stakeholders and business leaders. They emphasized that their efforts need to be ongoing; that they must continue to raise awareness, do more “lobbying” and explore last mile solutions by working with existing providers. Ms. Traxler and Mr. Minke responded to questions by Task Force members. A copy of the presentation can be found at [Presentation by East Central Broadband Initiative](http://mn.gov/commerce/images/ECBBpresentationjune11.pdf) (.pdf)

Mr. Wayne Gilman (Superintendent of Pine City Schools), Mr. Doyle Jelsing (Peoples National Bank of Mora), and Mr. Steve Hallan (Pine County Commissioner) followed Ms. Traxler and Mr. Minke to share their perspectives on the negative impacts of the region being underserved. The three presenters also responded to questions from Task Force members.

**Lunch Break**

1. Public Comment

Margaret Anderson Kelliher, chair, reconvened the meeting and asked if there was any public comment. Mr. Al Hemming from the Mille Lacs Band shared his experience of being underserved and asked the Task Force to continue brainstorming ideas related to what can be done to encourage providers to deploy in underserved areas.

1. East Central Broadband Initiative: Policy Recommendations

Mr. Mike provided a number of policy recommendations the Initiative believe should be adopted by the Task Force: 1) Focus on the state broadband goals; 2) Maximize the value and effectiveness of the new Office of Broadband; and, 3) Maximize the impact of the Governor’s Task Force on Broadband. A copy of the recommendations can be found at [Policy Recommendations by East Central Broadband Initiative](http://mn.gov/commerce/images/ECBIpolicyrecommendationsjune13.pdf) (.pdf).

1. Chair’s Update

Margaret Anderson Kelliher, chair, provided an update on issues related to the Office of Broadband. She shared that the Office will be housed in DEED, with some funding still allocated to the Department of Commerce, per the legislation. Also, the Governor’s Office is currently working on a position description for Director of the new Office of Broadband; and that any Task Force members who wish to share their views on the position description and Office should submit those to the Task Force Chair ASAP. Chair Kelliher informed that the next Task Force meeting would be on July 24, 2013 and that Ms. Diane Wells and Mr. Bill Hoffman would inform the Task Force of exact location in days ahead; and that Will Seuffert from the Governor’s Office would join the meeting to discuss integration of the new Office into the Administration’s broadband agenda.

Chair Kelliher then asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting so that subgroups could meet. Maureen Ideker so moved, with a second from Bernadine Joselyn and the motion was approved and the meeting officially adjourned.

1. Subgroups meet