

**HIGH SPEED INTERNET ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES
DECEMBER 5, 2023**

Attendance: Chris Martin, DI Executive Director and Committee Co-Chair; Chris Scharrer, DCS Technology/Consultant; Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, Iosco County Controller and Committee Co-Chair; Fred Lewis, Plainfield Township Supervisor; Fred Overholt & Tyler, AuSable Valley Community Mental Health; Cindy Schwedler, Oscoda; Terry Dutcher, Iosco BOC and DI VP, Chris Young, DI Communications Officer.

A. Project Status

- a. The committee reviewed the status of the project. Point Broadband withdrew its Quad County/ROBIN Grant initial award that included Iosco County due to MIHI (Michigan High Speed Internet Office) decisions in the grant award process.
 - i. Link to MIHI: <https://www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/mihi>
- b. Chris Scharrer talked extensively about mapping and the process to prepare for the next round of grants; to include who the other internet service providers (ISPs) are.
 - i. Some areas of overlap in the Curtis/Mikado townships were identified during the challenge period and that area is not updated on the map (now have access to the entire USDA map). That area is funded but nothing has been done there yet. ISP is unknown at this time.
 - ii. RDOF Grant – Bright Speed (formerly Century Link) scheduled to lay fiber in both Burleigh and Reno townships beginning in spring 2024; to be completed by end of 2025.
<https://www.brightspeed.com/internet.html>
- c. Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski requested specific action steps and a detailed plan be developed by DCS Technology for the HSIAC to prepare the County to move forward with next steps.

B. Next Steps

Main Goal → Prepare for BEAD grant which opens February 1 (challenges can likely go through April/May, Chris Scharrer was unsure of exact date)

1. Validate Mapping (Find data that conflicts with FCC data on record today)
 - a. Check parcel list to be provided by DCS to CM/JS by January 15
2. Hold next HSIACC committee meeting
 - a. Use process outlined by DCS to check parcels
 - b. Divy up list and identify response deadline
3. Identify bulk challenge plan based on DCS guidance
 - a. DCS can't file challenge; need plan for bulk challenges from Chris Scharrer

C. Wrap Up Comments

- a. Arnie LeRiche stepping away from mapping validation project; will keep informed via meeting notes
- b. BEAD funding will address black dots on the map
- c. Community Anchor Institutes (CAI) need to be identified
- d. Need to determine when new Letters of Support will be due for the BEAD application

Respectfully submitted