

# ROCK COUNTY, WISCONSIN

**NOTE: This is a Teleconference**



**\*\*\*AMENDED\*\*\***

**8-6-2021**

**AD HOC BROADBAND COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, August 10, 2021 – 10:30 A.M.**

**CALL: 1-312-626-6799**

**MEETING ID: 870 4885 4124**

**PASSCODE: 413945**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87048854124?pwd=MDc2L213aWFoZTdnYmtpN0xyTndQdz09>

Meeting ID: 870 4885 4124

Passcode: 413945

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

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+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 870 4885 4124

Passcode: 413945

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcypUXKiyR>

Join by Skype for Business

<https://us02web.zoom.us/skype/87048854124>

If you are interested in providing public comments on items on this agenda, you must submit your comments by noon on Monday, July 26, 2021. To submit a public comment, use the following email: [countyadmin@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:countyadmin@co.rock.wi.us).

### **Join from a telephone:**

- On your phone, dial the phone number provided above
- Enter the meeting ID number when prompted, using your dial-pad.
- Please note that long-distance charges may apply. This is not a toll-free number.
- Supervisors: Please identify yourself by name
- **Please mute your phone when you are not speaking to minimize background noises**

Instructions for the hearing impaired –

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/207279736-Getting-started-with-closed-captioning>

Please contact Haley at (608)757-5510 if you are going to be late or if you will not be able to attend the meeting.

\*\*\*\*AMENDED\*\*\*\*

8-6-2021

**AD HOC BROADBAND COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2021 – 10:30 A.M.**

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Approve Agenda
3. Approval of July 27, 2021 Minutes
4. Discussion on Next Steps
5. ~~Discussion regarding county broadband needs and possible solutions~~
6. **\*Discussion and possible approval of Resolution to Contract with Nokomis Networking for consulting services**
7. Set next meeting time and place
8. Adjournment

The County of Rock will provide reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities. Please contact us at 608-757-5510 or e-mail [countyadmin@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:countyadmin@co.rock.wi.us) at least 48 hours prior to a public meeting to discuss any accommodations that may be necessary.

Please contact Haley at (608)757-5510 if you are going to be late or if you will not be able to attend the meeting.



## **AD HOC BROADBAND COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes – July 27, 2021**

**Call to Order.** Chair Bostwick called the meeting of the Ad Hoc Broadband Committee to order at 9:00 A.M. via telephone conference.

**Committee Members Present:** Supervisors Mawhinney, Richard Bostwick, Sweeney, and Davis.

**Committee Members Absent:** Supervisor Homan

**Staff Members Present via Phone:** Randy Terronez, Assistant to County Administrator; James Otterstein, Economic Development Manager.

**Others Present:** Supervisors Wilson, Beaver, and Stevens; and Russell Berg, Nokomis Networking.

**Approval of Agenda.** Supervisor Mawhinney moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Sweeney. ADOPTED.

#### **Introduction of Russ Berg, Nokomis Networking Consultant.**

The committee and other attendees introduced themselves. James Otterstein introduced Russ Berg. Mr. Berg summarized his background and qualifications, and a proposal that was distributed to the Committee prior to the meeting. Mr. Berg highlighted some funding opportunities that he was aware of and answered some questions regarding his ability to commit to helping Rock County while working with other counties. The Committee thanked him for his comments and proposal. Mr. Berg was excused from the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

#### **Discussion regarding county broadband needs and possible solutions**

Discussion was had and members expressed their perspectives on how to proceed including:

- Inviting Mr. Berg to return to the next meeting for further discussion.
- Inviting Bug Tussel Wireless to provide their perspective.
- Obtaining more information on Taylor County's work, particularly the needs assessment.
- Inviting a representative from the Towns Association to future meetings.
- Sequencing the project steps (needs assessment prior to bring in on overall project consultant? vice-versa? Simultaneous?).

#### **Set Next Meeting Time and Place**

The next Ad Hoc Broadband Committee meeting is set for August 10, 2021 at 10:30 A.M. to occur over Zoom.

**Adjournment.** Supervisor Mawhinney moved adjournment at 10:20 A.M., second by Supervisor Leavy. ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Terronez  
Assistant to the County Administrator

**NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.**

**NEXT STEPS**  
**BROADBAND COMMITTEE**

**August 5, 2021**

1. Determine Taylor County Sequencing (needs assessment, then overall consultant, etc.)
2. Invite Russell Berg, Nokomis Networking for additional discussion/clarification on proposal
3. Invite Bug Tussel for discussion on work across state
4. Consider other proposals on consultant services
5. Invite representative from Towns Association
6. Next meeting: 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, August 10, CCC, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Courthouse



**Authorizing Contract with Nokomis Networking for Broadband Consulting Services Utilizing ARPA Funds and Amending the 2021 Budget**

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FISCAL NOTE:

These programs will be funded with the County's ARPA allocation. No other County funds are required.

Sherry Oja  
Finance Director

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

Josh Smith

Josh Smith  
County Administrator

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to secs. 59.01 and 59.51, Wis. Stats. Professional services are not subject to bidding requirements of sec. 59.52(29), Stats. As an amendment to the adopted 2021 County Budget, this Resolution requires a 2/3 vote of the entire membership of the County Board pursuant to sec. 65.90(5)(a), Wis. Stats.

s/Richard Greenlee

Richard Greenlee  
Corporation Counsel

## **Executive Summary**

### **Authorizing Contract with Nokomis Networking for Broadband Consulting Services Utilizing ARPA Funding and Amending the 2021 Budget**

This resolution would contract with Nokomis Networking in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 for 158 hours of consulting service that will assist the recently created Ad Hoc Broadband Committee in undertaking its purpose: to evaluate potential uses of American Rescue Plan Act funding for broadband expansion throughout Rock County; coordinate with other local units of local government, the State, and private sector organizations; and serve as the focus of public input into broadband needs.

Funds would come from the American Rescue Plan Act source.