



MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
13 December 2022 at 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
In-person at Library or on ZOOM
AGENDA

OPENING: Please introduce yourself
APPROVAL OF 11/15/22 MINUTES: emailed

Judy Rowe, Greg Lewis, Phil Dunn, 1336...186, Keith Walker, Kevin Niebergall, Debbie Falco, Jeff Beekho, Willie , Joe Syslo, Sherry Hamilton, Page Herbert, Sisso El-Hamamasy, Marshall Ruffin, Jedon Thompson, Bill Farmer,

Meeting called to order 9:02. Introductions. Bill Farmer CEO Aer Wireless, Bill Sawyer AER Wireless VP, Sisso El-Hamamasy CEO Major ??? Kevin Walker, CEO Next Connect.

PRESENTATION: Keith Walker. AER

Mathews County Stats – Mission to deliver fast and affordable broadband. Utilizes any vertical asset on the ground (i.e. trees, structures). Uses wireless frequencies to deliver tech to “hard to reach” areas. Deliver service of 100 down 100 up. Utilizes several partners: nexconnect and magenet-works. Wi-fi range of 2 kilometers. Capable of serving hard to reach areas new use of wi-fi tech that is being piloted in Warrenton, VA and Stafford VA. Will deliver high speed broadband streaming, tv, public wi-fi, and Gateway smart city business IT solutions. Makes it possible to walk, run, ride, and sometimes drive and still stay connected. States there is no discernible difference between 100 up and down and 1 gig up and down. The company already has agreements with Dominion Energy for pole attachments. Small footprint when installed on customer homes. When necessary, they can install their own poles utilizing solar panels and batteries that operate for up to 14 days w/o sunshine.

Kevin - Digital Lobby launched in 2016 has technology that sits on top of the wi-fi network. This is a unique platform that acts as a public wi-fi gateway. It enhances the Wi-fi experience through Awareness Signage, Integrated Media, Insightful Analytics, created Go Local. Provides information

for users. Every municipal location gets a dashboard for posting information about their business. Residents and tourists can find everything in one place (i.e. City Spotlight, Special Offers, Events, Places). Also, the system is compatible with all devices.

Phased Rollout Plan. Using Google Earth to design network then on the ground. Trad Wi-Fi must be stationary to use it. Not so with Mage Networks. Works well with digital medicine and precision farming....

Better/Cheaper than cable, DSL Satellite

OLD BUSINESS:

VATI Grants Update: Judy Rowe
Coming to the end of the VATI grant (1/20/23)
OBB extended to 8/23

Mil with OBB
7.2 mil with Breezeline shortage of pedestals have slowed install a bit.
Breezeline hub is being installed behind Mathews Elementary.

Powerpoint of OBB sites (towers) climbers have installed equipment 3 towers installed. 131 customers in Gloucester, 180 in Mathews LOS service. Total 642 homes.

Affordable Connectivity Program
There is a Line Extension Customer Assistance Program for long drive-ways. Check to see if you qualify.

Breezeline – Willie Mathews 01 complete Mathews 02, 04, 09 was damaged but is now back online. Walnut Acres, Blackwater, Hollow Point waiting on splicing. Tick neck 50% complete. Peach Point has not been started. We are nearing the end of first wave of VATI with Breezeline.

People are contacting Judy expressing their pleasure with getting connected.

Customer Addresses are listed for both grants: mathewscountyva.gov

Breezeline VATI address: phone number 844-574-8435

www.breezeline.com/VA-expansion

Open Broadband VATI address: openbb.net

Monopole Towers: Jeff Beekhoo (construction contracts)

Contractor has been selected and the project was presented to the BOS at their last meeting. They have 90 days to get both towers up once contracts have been signed. Hopefully by first week of January.

Bay Rivers Telehealth Alliance: Judy Rowe

Providers join this rather than the county. We will keep an eye on what they are doing, but this is not the best fit for us. This board's job is infrastructure. We do have some responsibility to explore these areas to keep the BOS informed.

Telemedicine: Marshall Ruffin, M.D. (models?) We need a project management approach to telemedicine and that must be a BOS responsibility to set up. If Mathews County wants the best telemedicine for its citizens, they must survey the county to identify needs and desires then interview providers. There are plenty of counties in the U.S. we can use as models. We could even seek to establish ourselves as a pilot site.

NEW BUSINESS:

Policy Committee: James Knighton, Chair; Nancy Welch,
Joe Syslo, Donnie Lewis, Greg Lewis

Judy presented to the Rotary Club last week. County still lacks a full-time IT person. Unfortunately, no county staff are attending today's meeting. The BAB Policy committee is not getting off the ground as expected.

Parade/Celebration in 2023 – We've missed all the parade opportunities to highlight broadband progress.

Marketing broadband – This is not our job and yet it is. We will work with Breezeline and continue meeting with four counties for another year. We need to also concentrate on the effects high speed broadband can have on

encouraging young people to stay in Mathews County. Perhaps even using it to increase enrollment in schools.

There exists the potential for another VATI Grant in 2023

Meeting Adjourned 10:05 am.,

Calendar:

BOS Meeting: Tuesday, 20 December 2022 @ 6:00 PM Historic CH

BAB Meeting: Tuesday, 10 January 2023; 9:00 AM Library or