



**MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
21 September 2021 9AM - 10AM on ZOOM
MINUTES**

Present: Judy Rowe, Greg Lewis, Jeff Beekhoo, Tyler Beekhoo, Donnie Lewis, Joe Syslo, Willie Love, Debbie Falco, David Blanks - Sandy Wanner & Julie Kaylor could not log in.

Video pass code *#4Hqx&P

MINUTES: Minutes from 9/7/21 BAB Meeting not available.

OLD BUSINESS:

Updates

VATI Grant with ABB - David Blanks reported news from the Project Managers meeting. Walkout for Mathews is now complete. Everything is going as planned. No issue with materials since they ordered early. All is on schedule. Their group meets every two weeks.

VATI Grant with OBB - Joe had no information. Carol Steele will let us know more.

Radio System - Harris is doing the tower surveys for the microwave backhaul and the primary core and backup core in King and Queen and Essex. They will be meeting every month through December and then weekly when equipment starts arriving and getting installed.

MiFis To Go - 2 point attack: more equipment for the Mifi to go program and equipment for the digital literacy program Greg reported equipment ordered to provide training remote locations outside of the library when Covid limitations end.

Go VA - Joe reported on brainstorming session with teachers and businessman RCC material for students on technology Michell Williams didn't have enough time to get permission for her students to log on with Dahlgren opportunities. Joe requested recordings of Dahlgren sessions.

Aquaculture and other water business but greatest piece is lack of broadband.

Workforce development regionally included Melvina Robinson from Middlesex High School CTE. Judy: "Joe is a master at facilitating brainstorming."

NEW BUSINESS:

Towers –

Expansion of coverage from towers –

Back haul into Mathews –

Exciting news: Jeff reported that a year ago we went on a search for tower sites to die univproversal coverage. Many of the sites did not pan out. Tyler did mapping to find ideal locations: Bohannon Fire Station and Rescue Squad Building locations could reach 100%. The tower companies did not pan out either. When funding came out, we began looking at building the towers ourselves. MOUs signed by both the Fire Department and the Rescue Squad and Sandy Wanner, the interim county administrator. It usually takes six months and we got it done in 4 weeks - record time. We are now ready to move forward.

Donnie reported that the fire department was excited about all of this. Revenue will go to each.

Actual plot to show easements and get core samples. Send to tower companies then RFPs will go out. Jeff has already started working on it.

\$700 million: Governor's office is still working on how the money will be distributed. Having the MOUs makes the towers a reality. Now we can apply for a VATI grant for repeater sites. RFPs will go out to find service providers.

The BAB would like to provide information to county organizations. Tyler, Jeff and Judy are working on a Power Point to get this done. School Board meeting was not possible this night. But BAB is on the Agenda of the November School Board Meeting.

ADJOURN There being no further business Greg Lewis moved to adjourn, Joe Syslo seconded the motion.

Submitted by: Judy Rowe, serving in place of Cynthia Hayes.