



MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

14 July 2026

MINUTES

*Judy Rowe; *Willie Love; *Greg Lewis; *Page Herbert; *Marshall Ruffin, M.D.; David Walsh, BOS; Tyler Beekhoo, BTS; Jeff Beekhoo, BTS; Joe Syslo, EDA

*Voting Member; Quorum = 5 voting members

Call to order: 9:00 AM

June Minutes emailed: Greg motioned to approve, Willie seconded.
Introductions

OLD BUSINESS

The Chair welcomed attendees to the July Mathews Broadband Advisory Board Meeting. Emailed June Minutes were approved with Marshall Ruffin's correction that he had attended the May meeting. With this correction, the 5/12/2026 Minutes were approved as corrected. Willie moved; Greg seconded.

Our Monopole Towers

Jeff reported that we are still waiting for the lease/license agreement from T-Mobile. Still in legal department. They have sent drawings of the placement of equipment in the compound at Hudgins, Once they install equipment, the payment will begin.

Jeff noted working with the new Planning and Zoning director, Joshua Bsrlett.

BEAD Funding: Tyler reported that 19 of the 23 Virginia contracts have been approved. He has not gotten clarification from DHCD. Once projects start they have three years to complete. Non-deployment is still out there. They have not made announcements.

RiverStreet: Judy reported that she and others had talked to Robert Taylor. He promised to connect with us in a few weeks. It is now past that. Mathews, nor Gloucester is mentioned on their website.

FCC: They are pushing to limit localities/counties overseeing projects. VACO and NACO pushing. David has talked with Joe Schumacher, Aide to Congressman Wittman. We will not have any recourse if this is passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Revenue Budget: Willie reported more than \$60K to date.

Telehealth

Judy reported on looking for possible people to join the group to organize. Grant money is not that available right now following the problems with BEAD Funding. Marshall reminded everyone that the medical systems will ask what will we contribute to the project. We will need to be organized. We will need to provide equipment and training to citizens. Judy reminded everyone about two of the non-deployment projects that we submitted for BEAD Funding: telehealth at the library and an equipment and training regional Geek Squad.

David suggested County Administrator or her Deputy, the Mathews Volunteer Rescue Squad, the Middle Peninsula Planning District, as the possible person or non-profit that would have responsibility for the grant. A discussion ensued about the possibilities. Judy suggested the YMCA and Home Health Care companies. Marshall offered to take this offline. He noted Karen Reuban asked "What will you do?" Marshall: "The word organize is the key."

Verizon Wireless Towers Update:

Cobbs Creek monopole is up with equipment being installed in the compound. No antennas have gone up yet.

Gwynn's Island monopole is next.

Gwynn's Island and Beaverlett VZW monopole tower locations have already performed balloon test for historical properties.

County Property Tour Coverage Assessment

Cobbs Creek, Gwynn's Island and Beaverlett towers are due to go on private property. The BAB is focused on having future towers go on county owned property to provide more revenue for the county or for first responders. Tyler posted a map of county properties that were not listed on the original map. These are managed by the Middle Peninsula

Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority. Judy did multiple rideouts to look at many of these particularly in the New Point and Diggs areas with the help of Chris Miller. Judy noted a piece in Diggs that is owned by the Mathews Fire Department. She has been to their board to ask them for permission to list it in our letter and map to go to Verizon Wireless.

OPEN BROADBAND

The company from our VATI Grant with Gloucester has gone belly-up. The few customers that they had notably Marsha Carlton, Jackie Ingram, and Randall Casciello who live near that North End Tower have been quite happy with the service. Judy called Greg Reid with OBB. He did not know much more. Jeff is going to reach out to their customers. Tyler is reaching to Chandler Vaughn at DHCD.

AT&T

Judy called new Planning and Zoning Director for Mathews, Joshua Bartlett and learned that AT&T had applied for a CUP for property at Beaverdam Road for construction of a monopole tower. We want to offer them space on our towers, if possible a property 170 feet.

Radio System

Judy talked with Bob Brown to give him information about extra county property that might help him in the Cobbs Creek and New Point areas.

BAB Website

Correction needed: Separate Verizon vs. Verizon Wireless

Connectivity Guide: Call from Maria and Carey show people are looking there to find service.

Marshall wanted satellite companies to be ranked.

Jeff: fiber not as much; wireless more available.

Adjourned 10:05 AM

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Rowe