

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
COUNTY OF PIERCE

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**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE  
ARPA Adhoc Committee  
December 20, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.  
Meeting held remotely via Zoom  
In person for Committee Members in County Board Room;  
124 N. Oak St. ELLSWORTH, WI  
2022 – 06**

**1) Meeting Convened**

The Pierce County ARPA Adhoc Committee met in County Board Room & via Zoom. Committee Chair Jon Aubart called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

**1a) Those Present**

A quorum was established acknowledging all members present.

Members present:

Kris Sampson	District #1
Jon Aubart	District #3
Jason Matthys	Administrative Coordinator
Michelle Drury	Assistant Finance Director
Kathy Fuchs	Treasurer

Members excused:

None

Others present: Dean Bergseng-Co. Board District #8, Cyndi Kern-Deputy County Clerk, Greg Weaver-Administration, AZ Snyder-Public Health Director, Nathan Boettcher-Pierce Pepin Cooperative, Sarah Nigbor-Pierce County Journal, Joe Folsom-Economic Development Director, Paula Lugar-Spring Valley Resident, Carah Koch-Federal Program Officer State of WI

**1b) Public Comment**

D. Bergseng noted that 48% of the county's population resides in the townships and feels ARPA funds should be spent on broadband.

**2) Establish & Adopt Agenda**

Motion by J. Matthys/K. Fuchs to approve the agenda as presented; motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**3) Approve Minutes**

Motion by J. Matthys/K. Fuchs to approve the minutes of August 16, 2022 as presented, motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**4) Presentation by Carah Koch on Broadband expansion activities and opportunities.**

Carah Koch, Federal Program Officer for Wisconsin, provided background information regarding the Internet for All initiative. Koch also reviewed and answered questions on the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program which aims to close the access gap for unserved and underserved areas and community anchor institutions with grants as well as the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program aimed to ensure individuals and communities have the skills and tools needed for full participation in the society and economy of the United States. Koch also highlighted the need for residents to review the new interactive map which shows availability of service at individual addresses and urges those who dispute the maps to submit a challenge to the FCC. Challenges must be submitted no later than January 13, 2023.

**5) Discuss/take action to adopt an updated Project Scoring Matrix.**

J. Matthys and G. Weaver gave an overview and answered question regarding the updated matrix and the intended process. J. Matthys noted there is approximately 4.3M of the ARPA Funds that have not been allocated yet with a growing list of project submissions currently totaling over 30M. Motion by K. Fuchs/K. Sampson to proceed with Phase 1 of the matrix for the existing submissions; motion carried unanimously by voice vote. J. Matthys to provide paper copies of all submission to committee members.

**6) Review requests submitted since last meeting**

J. Matthys noted there were 5 new requests since the last meeting. Three (3) received from the Ellsworth County Club requesting funds for shed maintenance, irrigation upgrade and shoreline restoration. Submission received requesting funds for revitalization of the Diamond Bluff Historic River Front Town Hall. Mel Pittman gave brief overview on his request for additional compensation for Pierce County Law Enforcement Officers working dispatch, jail and the sheriff's office during COVID.

**7) Future Agenda Items**

- Review requests submitted since last meeting

**8) Next meeting date**

To be determined.

**9) Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m. by motion of K. Sampson/M. Drury; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by: Cyndi Kern, Deputy County Clerk