

## MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 3, 2009

The Caswell County Board of Commissioners met in special session at the Historic Courthouse in Yanceyville, North Carolina at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 3, 2009. The purpose of the meeting was to meet with Excelsio Communications representatives to discuss the County Broadband Propagation Study. Members present: Jeremiah Jefferies, Chairman, George W. Ward, Jr., Vice-Chairman, Erik D. Battle, Nathaniel Hall, and Gordon G. Satterfield. Absent: William E. Carter and Kenneth D. Travis. Also present: Kevin B. Howard, County Manager. Wanda P. Smith, Clerk to the Board, recorded the minutes.

### MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

Chairman Jefferies opened the meeting with a Moment of Silent Prayer.

### COUNTY BROADBAND PROPAGATION STUDY

Mr. Karl Edwards, Chief Operating Officer, Excelsio Communications, Ms. Sherry McCuller, Consultant with Excelsio Communications, and Mr. Nick Dido, Professor with the University of North Carolina came before the Board to discuss the County Broadband Propagation Study. Mr. Edwards stated that they would like to present a brief summary of their activities to date and what the strategy is to move forward.

The following presentation on the Caswell County Broadband Feasibility Study was made by Mr. Edwards, Ms. McCuller, and Mr. Dido.

## Overview

- Focus Groups Summary
- Rural Broadband Success Stories
- Broadband Mapping Strategy
- Network Design Summary
- Broadband Stimulus Strategy
- Caswell County Involvement



## Focus Groups Summary

- George Daniel
- Caswell County Schools
- Piedmont Electric Cooperative
- Chamber of Commerce
- Economic Development Board
- County Department Heads
- Board of Commissioners



## Rural Broadband Success Stories

- Rural health care system–
  - Increased bandwidth by 25 times, no increase in cost
  - Decreased throughput time to send medical images and records from an hour (by vehicle) to less than 12 seconds
  - Established fully redundant hospital network, uptime service level 99.9997% (carrier grade)
- Public and charter schools (7 school districts in regional model)–
  - Savings to schools: Over \$60 million below market pricing
  - Schools own and control network and choices of content and application



## Rural Broadband Success Stories

- Private equity invested by land development company to bring “Triple-Play” (video, voice, Internet) to real estate communities in unserved mountain areas.
- Shared use network provided for fiber contribution for public/charter schools and library in area.



## Broadband Mapping Strategy

- Online Survey
- School Survey
- Newspaper Survey
- Distribute surveys at key County sites
- Public Service Announcements to publicize the survey
- Need County to actively publicize this survey



## Network Design Summary

- See Fiber Survey
- Meeting with other stakeholders on Friday
- Network Design Considerations - Discussion



## Broadband Stimulus Strategy

- 2200 Round 1 Applications Submitted August 20th
- Round 2 NOFA and Applications Expected November/December 2009
- Need to position Caswell County to ensure best chance of getting funding
  - Potentially two applications to RUS and NTIA
  - Remainder of study will determine the best strategy



# Caswell County Involvement

- Provide infrastructure information and drawings
- Identify community stakeholders
- Assist in identifying general areas known to be served only with dial-up and satellite
- Actively promote the study
- Request that residents support the project by completing surveys or participate in interviews



Mr. Edwards provided the Board with a copy of *Public/Private Alliance Opportunities under The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act* (“ARRA”).

## THE ADJOURNMENT

At 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Ward moved, seconded by Commissioner Battle to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

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Wanda P. Smith  
Clerk to the Board

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Jeremiah Jefferies  
Chairman

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