

Four Towns Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes

A teleconference meeting of the FHMS Four Towns Broadband Committee took place on Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 4:30 pm. (Note: This meeting was recorded.)

In Attendance: *

- Hawley: Lark Thwing* & Rick Kean
- Florida: Christine Dobbert* (absent)
- Monroe: David Gagne* (absent)
- Savoy: John Tynan*
- DesignNine: Jack Maytum
- WiValley: Brian Foucher
- Otelco: Trevor Jones (absent)
- Interisle: Steve Harris & Fred Goldstein

Minutes
Approved,
FHMS Four-Towns
Committee,
June 17, 2021

*Voting Members

Additional Teleconference Participants:

Cindy Bosley	Jason Burdick
Melanie Glynn	413-212-0481 (N. Adams)
Eric Leclair	

Note: there may have been other callers who did not identify themselves.

➤ **Quorum, Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm.

➤ **Review and approve minutes from the March & April meetings.**

Minutes of the March 4 & April 8 meetings could not be approved due to the lack of a quorum.

➤ **Project updates:**

- **Status of haw-ehr meter installation – Brian**

Power is on, site connected this morning.

- **Summary of completed Phase 4 sites - Brian**

Completed installation of all planned Phase 4 sites, with the final three becoming operational in the next three weeks.

- **Summary of sav-mha, sav-mhd and flo-scr sites - Brian**

Florida sites are completed. The mha & mhd sites were inspected today & should be operational within a week and all of Phase IV completed.

Total installed customers and totals by town - Brian

A total of 272 customers have been connected:

- 69 in Florida;
- 84 in Hawley;
- 28 in Monroe; and,
- 91 in Savoy.

- **Average delivered speeds from 100+ tested customers - Brian**

Most customers coming on at 25/3. CBRS will probably change that, helping with existing lower performing 900 MHz customers. Customers slated for Borden Mountain have necessitated connections to secondary sites.

- **Update on CBRS buildout - Brian**

Chapel site is running, with a handful of customers connected. Equipment for Florida has been finalized and will be installed at Bliss site, to roll out installations in Florida.

- **Network problems and outages including 900 MHz issues - Brian**

There is still some interference affecting 900 MHz customers. For the most part serious problems have disappeared, with scattered, intermittent problems remaining.

- **Network rings being created - Brian**

We are adding more network rings and are connecting a second fiber this week. There is a new access point for Otelco for service out of the Florida town hall. When MBI turns it on it should improve service by offloading Savoy & Florida traffic. The added network redundancy will permit service rerouting in the event of interruptions.

- **Additional 500 meg added to Florida - Brian**

That backhaul support has been put in place and is only waiting for MBI to make the connection to the middle mile.

- **Customer service issues, Otelco and WiValley - Brian**

Cindy Bosley asked about problems on the Hoosac Tunnel section, including poor, intermittent service. The signal has deteriorated as the leaves came out, and WiValley is looking to install a taller steel mast atop the wooden pole to alleviate the problem.

- **Questions from meeting attendees - Lark**

Customers are asking if a new antenna will be required to switch to CBRS – the answer is “yes” but the switch is relatively simple. It was asked if taxes will be added to bills. There will be taxes plus the CBRS fee which will be allocated among all customers, not just CBRS ones.

- **Any other issues to come before the Committee?**

Lark reported that he has requested MBI to find out what additional Covid-related and other broadband grants may be available to bring us up to 100% coverage at higher speeds.


- **Schedule the next meeting date.**

The date for the next meeting was set for Thursday, June 17, 2021, at 4:30 pm. Meeting will be remote.

- **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



To access the recording, use this link: <https://fccdl.in/gUOLyxadXb>