



# Oneida County Economic Development Corporation

February 12, 2024

Collette Sorgel – County Board Supervisor Broadband Liaison  
6463 Cedar Crest Ln  
Three Lakes, WI 54562  
608-516-1831

Dear Collette,

On February 6 we held an OCEDC Broadband Task Force meeting to discuss the current Bug Tussel broadband project, as well as preparation for the Federal BEAD Grant applications. Minutes were provided by Cindy Kelling.

## **Bug Tussel Update**

- John Sweeney (Project Manager) has approved the first engineering draw of \$300,000 as engineering commences with a May target for groundbreaking.
- Work continues on the six towers as well as the fiber infrastructure.
- OCEDC is waiting for the first draft of the Facilities Access Agreement by Bug Tussel. It is expected that this agreement will take six to nine months to complete once the draft is published.

## **Federal BEAD Grant Funding**

- Originally the PSC targeted January 16 to release maps showing eligible locations for BEAD grant funding. Unfortunately, the NTIA has not approved all Wisconsin PSC federal requirements. Our best estimate is now mid-March.
- The PSC and Wisconsin Broadband Committee have released as much information as possible, including county by county analysis. In viewing Oneida County, there are 30,352 Broadband Service Locations (BSL) with 12,671 locations viewed as under or unserved (42% of all locations).
- The PSC also removes locations that are anticipated to be served by previous grants and federal programs (Enforceable Funding Commitments – EFC). This reduces the total locations eligible to 5,752. This of course is subject to the challenge process to be conducted by the PSC.
- The Wisconsin Broadband Committee has been working with OCEDC on this process and initial maps. We believe that the western half of Oneida County should be eligible for BEAD funding in conjunction with the work we have already done to position Bug Tussel for post middle mile final mile hook ups. We are concerned however with approved RDOF funding for the eastern half of Oneida County. We will not know the results until the maps are released.



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- The Broadband Task Force will not meet again until the BEAD maps are released, expected in mid-March at the earliest. As such, there will most likely not be a broadband update at the March County Board Meeting.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Verdoorn".

Jeff Verdoorn  
Executive Director  
Oneida County Economic Development Corporation

PC     Scott Holewinski  
       Billy Fried  
       Pete Otis  
       Greg Miljevich  
       John Viste  
       Mark Foley  
       Ty Erickson  
       Richard Verch  
       John Sweeney  
       Sara Chiamulera