

**Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation
Meeting of the WEDC Entrepreneurship and Innovation Committee**

**WEDC
Teams Meeting**

**Thursday, July 30, 2020
1:00 - 3:00 P.M.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE:

- Co-Chair Becca Cooke
- Co-Chair Joe Kirgues
- Committee member Carl Ruedebusch
- Committee member Craig Dickman
- Committee member Eric Iverson
- Committee member Jignesh Patel
- Committee member JoAnne Johnson-Sabir
- Committee member John Miller
- Committee member Kelly Ryan
- Committee member Mike Kunesh
- Committee member Nancy Hernandez
- Committee member Sarah Lloyd
- Committee member Zach Halmstad

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:

- Committee member Fern Orié
- Committee member Larry Evinger

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Committee Co-Chair Joe Kirgues called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 5-28-2020 MEETING

Minutes from both the May and July meetings will be reviewed and voted on in the September meeting.

STATUS REPORT ON CONVERTIBLE NOTE PILOT

Committee Co-Chair Joe Kirgues reported that the WEDC full Board of Directors has reviewed and approved the E & I Committee pilot program as presented, using \$500,000 of available funds.

UPDATE ON RURAL TASK FORCE PILOTS

Committee Co-Chair Becca Cooke briefly discussed an update on the Rural Task Force Pilot recommendation.

BROADBAND STAKEHOLDER PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee Co-Chair Becca Cooke summarized and introduced the Broadband initiative discussion. WEDC Secretary and CEO Missy Hughes briefly discussed the Legislative Report, naming Broadband as one of the priorities to recovery from the COVID pandemic.

Becca introduced guests who presented briefly on Broadband needs and solutions in Wisconsin from their perspective:

Brittany Beyers, Executive Director of Grow North, and part of the Governor's Broadband Taskforce.
Paul Osterman, Co-owner of Northwoods Connect
Suman Bannerjee, UW Madison professor
Michelle Schuler, Microsoft TechSpark initiative Director
Anton Kapela, Edge Micro

Committee member Mike Kunesh presented a summary of his meetings with state and federal legislators. Suggests using the WI Regional Planning Commissions for information on location needs, and the need for \$8 million to succeed.

Becca led a general discussion of the committee in response to presentations. She led a discussion of what the next steps in procuring Broadband for rural Wisconsin should be.

WEDC Secretary and CEO Missy Hughes suggested WEDC leads by supporting the Public Service Commission and will meet with the PSC to get details on what WEDC can do.

Becca indicated more conversation is needed. She and Joe will gather each member's feedback and summarize regarding next steps at the September meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Co-Chair Becca Cooke requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Jignesh Patel and seconded by Erik Iverson. The motion to adjourn the meeting was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:01 PM.