

Langlade County Economic Development Corporation
Langlade County Broadband Commission Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2026

Attendance: Niel Schueller - Town of Summit, Eric Boman - Town of Upham, Doug Curler - Town of Neva, Melissa Kieper – LCEDC, Mike Cragoe – Town of Upham, Chris Crawford – Spectrum, Mark Leonard – WI Public Service Commission, Steve Maier – Langlade County Board Chair, Eric Reed – Verizon, Pat Anderson – Spectrum, Glenn Fishbine & Nancy DeGidio – Breaking Point

1) Meeting called to order at 12:03 pm

2) Introductions

3) Meeting minutes approved from June 16, 2026, Curler motion, Maier Seconded. All Ayes.
Approved

4) Breaking Point Presentation

- Glenn Fishbine and Nancy DeGidio presented to the group advising Breaking Point primarily focuses on broadband planning for current or future needs. Identify those left behind by BEAD, identify areas where broadband is needed, help with the data needed for grant applications inclusive of mapping, BSL lists, financial needs, support with ISP conversations, etc.
- Discussion ensued, the group requested Breaking Point provide a one page summary of services Breaking Point can offer, thoughts on Frontier pulling out services from rural residents, and options for the 269 unserved homes in Langlade County that were referenced on the service map.

5) PSC Update:

- BEAD grant agreements are in process with award recipients. Several in review for NEPA status. Once agreements are signed, grantees will have 4 years to complete buildouts ~ 2030. Approximately 60 total grant agreements state wide have been signed to date. Those that are interested may obtain additional updates via the PSC docket.
- Insight has declined their agreement; their original award is now in review for repurposing approx. 140 sites for contracts.
- The state FY2026 Broadband Expansion Grant has closed. Bertram and Brightspeed have both submitted applications; service areas will include ~ Antigo, Elcho, Parish, and Summit (approx. 115 locations. Applications are currently under review for eligibility and scoring.
- Broadband Forward ~ Under Wis. Stat. § 196.504(4) a city, village town or county may apply for certification as a Broadband Forward! Enacting the Broadband Forward! Community Model Ordinance and obtaining Broadband Forward! Certification ensures the local unit of government has streamlined its administrative procedures by appointing a single point of contact for all matters relating to a broadband network project, adhering to a timely approval process, charging only reasonable fees for reviewing applications and issuing permits, imposing only reasonable conditions on a permit and not discriminating between telecommunications service providers.

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<https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/Broadband/BroadbandForward.aspx>

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6) ISP Provider Update on current Projects

- Spectrum: Chris gave a construction updates re the RDOLF projects, advising crews have been laying fiber in the following areas ~ Freeman and the Lily Springs Fishery area; these sites should be live by Fall. Spectrum has run into some issues in areas located near the National Forest; they are working with the National Forest staff and the DNR to obtain proper permits, etc.
- Cirrinity: No Report
- Verizon: Eric reviewed recent inquiry re Verizon acquiring Frontier and the decision to discontinue voice service over copper.

“Verizon is investing in fiber-optic and wireless networks to support consumers current and future digital experiences. Copper infrastructure is many decades old, costly to maintain and vulnerable to damage and theft. Customers will transition from a copper-wire network service to another Verizon service (Fios fiber, mobile wireless or Voice Connect fixed wireless) or an alternative competitive service. We will waive equipment and installation costs for customers transitioning to another Verizon service. If customers lack access to an alternative service, they will remain on the copper-wire network as part of our Leave No Customer Behind pledge. This means that if an alternative service is unavailable (through Verizon fiber, Frontier fiber, Verizon wireless/fixed wireless service or a competitor's service like cable or mobile/fixed wireless), the customer will remain on our copper-wire network and still be able to make calls including for emergency services.”

For additional information ~ <https://frontier.com/resources/copper-discontinuance>

- Insight/Cellcom: Michael was unable to attend the meeting, however, he has indicated he will be in attendance at the December meeting and will provide an update at that time.

7) No Need to Convene into closed session in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes Section 19.85(1)(e), Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. Scoring of Internet Service Providers proposals that contain confidential or proprietary information.

8) Reconvene into open session ~ N/A

9) Consideration of action discussed during closed session ~ N/A

10) Next Steps ~ N/A

11) Any other business ~ N/A

12) Next Meeting Date: December 15, 2026 @ 12:00pm

13) Meeting Adjourned at 12:32 PM

Niel Schueller, Interim Chair

Melissa Kieper, LCEDC