

Le Sueur County BBC
Vision Meeting Breakout Group Notes
 June 11, 2020

Broadband

Assets	Barriers / Gaps
Enough densely populated areas to incentivize internet providers to provide quality service.	Enough non densely populated areas to not incentivize the providers. Requires federal, state, township \$ to inspire them.
Providers willing to work with us. BevComm and Jaguar and maybe others.	Providers who don't want to work in some of our areas.
Satellite in some areas where nothing else works. HughesNet and ViaComm	Extreme Cost of satellite providers.
County is willing to help us. Some townships, as well.	Reliability. Weather affects wireless carriers.
	Data Caps. Cost.
	Broadband and Cellular costs and reliability issues.
	Geographic issues. High elevations and low valleys.
	Wireless network depends on network of willing customers.

Desired Outcomes
More speed. More affordability. More reliability
For everyone.
Safe and secure alternative options when some places aren't available. Libraries, etc.
Better customer service.
Better broadband, as well as cellular service.
Timeliness of improvements. ASAP.
Sustainability. Future improvements. Keeping pace with technology gains in the future.

Advocacy

Assets	Barriers / Gaps
Colleges nearby.	Not all residents have local TV.
Le Sueur County News/Montgomery Messenger/Lake Region Life	Le Sueur County News - Not present to communicate the benefits of broadband
Le Sueur County Elected Officials Group	Do not have active participation by County Commissioners and outward communications to citizens by all levels of government. County, Townships and Cities.
KCHK Radio - Promotions Advertising	A different focus by local chamber of commerce offices.
Facebook Pages, Twitter Accounts, Blogs, Online Resident Groups	
Le Sueur County Broadband Facebook Group	
MN State University - Small Business Development Center	
Community Development Staff Person	

Desired Outcomes
Better Communications - Regular communication to the City Boards, County Boards, Township Boards
Elected officials group - Remain as a standing agenda item. Jean Keogh (Participant)
Emergency Management - How do they communicate with the citizens.
Telecommunications in Healthcare.
Consider having a Broadband Facebook group.
Fire district meetings? Attend these to seek the input from a larger demographic.
Write Grants to establish access to each rural home for sure.

Innovation:

Carl Menk, Facilitator / Cris Young, Recorder

Participants: Doreen Devoy, Sara Hewitt, Shane Bugeja

Assets	Barriers / Gaps
Great place to raise a family	Monitoring management
Many opportunities and activities	Targeted applications and resources
Have everything we really need consumer wise.	Need to be able to download security patches
Solid companies that are doing great things and changing their processes	Do not hear about the great things that are being done
Great agronomic base	Poor connectivity
Diversity and innovations in ag operations	Access to internet on the farm
Strong church community, food shelves, thrift stores, outreach, schools, Community Ed Programs	Getting messages across those "silos"
	Resources to help people understand how important it is to protect data/information - security!
	Housing for low income
	Knowledge of technology

Desired Outcomes
Resources for bandwidth & Security
Access to internet everywhere ; especially in areas with poor connectivity
Reserving plots, watching training, advertising--- Community garden or small community farm that could potentially feed into a school store
Resources to help improve business productivity; how to build Facebook page, market product, communications, make a logo, etc. How do we create that hub in the county to help foster the innovation
Service corp of Retired Executives to come in to help with educating people

Innovation Hubs/Innovative Workspace- Ag-Tech-Business Skills-Marketing-Brainstorming & Shared experiences. Brick and mortar locations in each community where these. Like Studio 118 in Monty. Co-Working spaces, SCORE Workshops, Conference Areas.

Meeting spaces where people could congregate and have someone there to facilitate and/or educate people; shared work spaces; training spaces

1 Million Cups - innovation <https://www.1millioncups.com/>

Hotel space, transportation, Uber, Lyft, sharing economy!! (tiller, farm equipment, clothing)

Calendar that everyone can see events happening for the county - 1 place to go for resource information

Knowledge Workforce:

Members: John Gliszinski (Recorder), Denise Reeser (Group Lead), Joe Green, Layne Wilbright, Bob Palmer, Brigid Tuck

Assets	Barriers / Gaps
Great Schools/Community Ed Programs	Broadband not up to standards, unable to attract workforce that expects this service
Hospitals in our Community	"Blue Collar" education and culture
Location, access to regional hubs	Affordable Housing
Real Estate value and access	Limited Communication via Government/Radio/Newspapers
Work Ethic, Ag based society	Long term planning for business development within the county, is this limited by lack of a fiber ring
Natural Resources, (lakes, rich farmland),	How does the community attract and retain a knowledge workforce?
Community assets, parks boards, nature center, lake Washington area	Support/resources for extracurricular events (Softball, youth programs, adult education, community events)
Libraries and strong library support	Knowledge of job opportunities in the County

Desired Outcomes
Coordinated county effort to attract workforce, connecting them to the assets that the county has
Access to education for Agri-business (Farmers) from their equipment, home, (training when they need it). Access to farm data on a real-time basis.

Digital Equity

Assets	Barriers / Gaps
Free public WiFi access – need to get the information to the county residents	<p>Sometimes even when you have the access, you don't have the technology skills. So, access includes education on the technology being used (hardware and software)</p> <p>Sometimes technology providers themselves such as Facebook make changes that users don't really understand how to implement.</p> <p>Sometimes signal coverage works in one part of the home, but not another. It may be that improved technical knowledge would help the end user solve the problem of how to get coverage throughout their home</p>
There is a wonderful Geographic Information System in the county Susan Rynda had asked for a map that shows that information – where to access information	Without everybody having access to internet, key decision-making stakeholders aren't available in a timely manner. This slows processes and approvals.
Everbridge system pushes out public information.	Bandwidth limits
	Not everyone knows where public WiFi access points are
	Perhaps we need some type of a technology hotline for the county to help people to work through technology issues

Desired Outcomes
<p>Get the Public Wifi Access map published</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish further public access sites based on a metric to be set. For example “an internet access spot every __ square miles”
<p>Identify partners to drive education and access into the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example: Chamber of Commerce
<p>Establish a county Facebook page</p> <p>Or, perhaps create a county website and turn it into an app</p>
<p>See if there are any counties with similar challenges to Le Sueur that have implemented effective solutions (sort of a search for a “best in class” county or two.</p>

Does it cost businesses more money to allow access to more users?