

# Le Sueur County Blandin Broadband Communities Vision Meeting



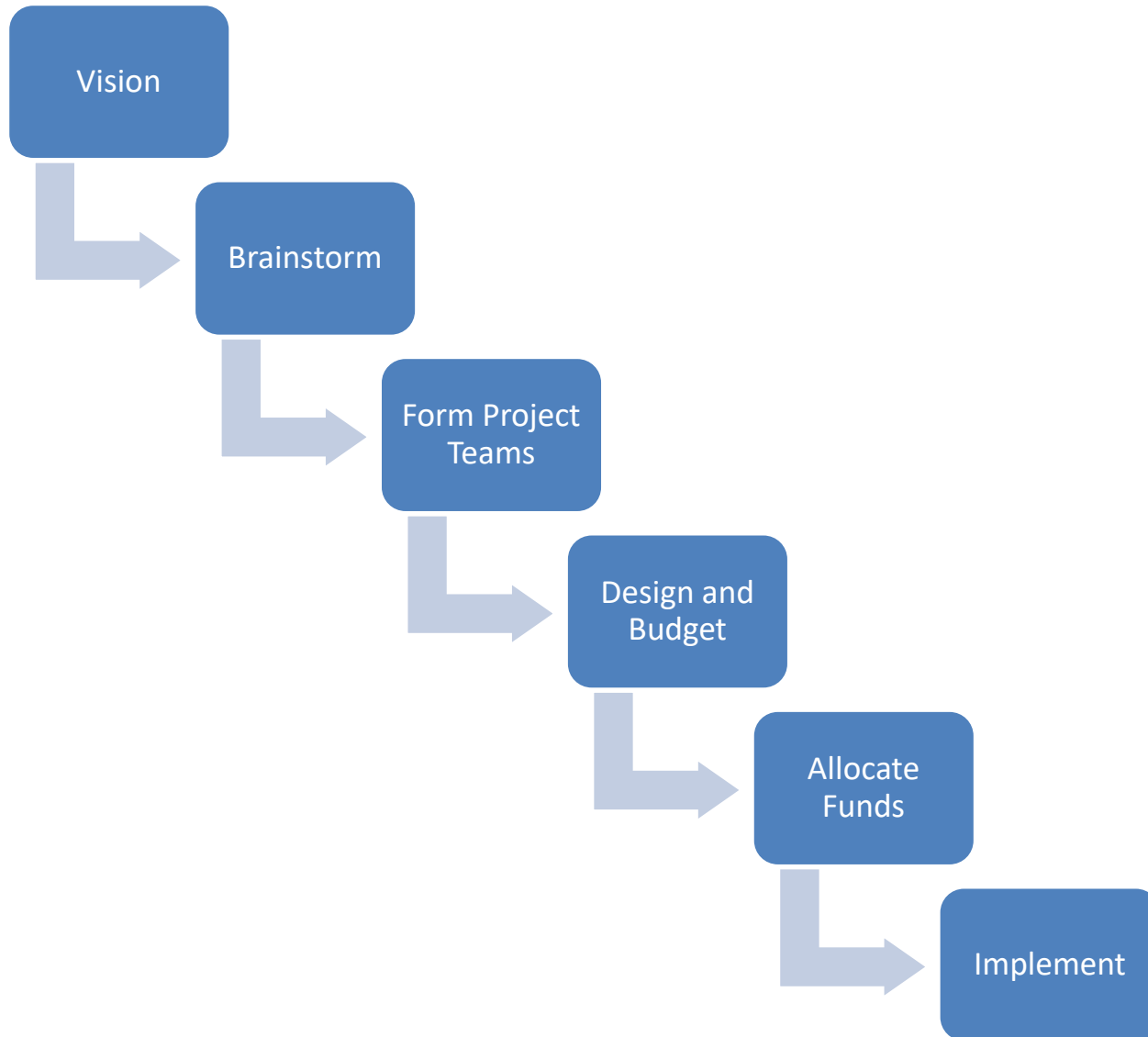
# Agenda

- Blandin Broadband Community Program
- Introduce Intelligent Community
  - Concepts
  - Le Sueur County perspective
- Community Discussion in small groups
  - Assets and Gaps
  - Desired Outcomes
- Group reports
- Closing
- Adjourn

# BBC Benefits

- Create goals
  - Better broadband access
  - More sophisticated technology use
- Community coaching from the Blandin team
- Develop and implement tech projects
- Up to \$75,000 in grant funds

# Process



# Intelligent Community Framework



## Broadband

Communities need a broadband that supports a globally competitive economy

- Broadband is:
  - A marketing term
  - Refers to capacity, not a technology type
  - Can be delivered via fiber, copper or wireless
- Broadband goals
  - Federal FCC
    - 25 Mb/3 Mb
  - Minnesota
    - 25 Mb/3 Mb by 2022
    - 100 Mb/20 Mb by 2026
- Understand the differences between
  - Wired
  - Wireless





**Le Sueur County Broadband  
Initiative**

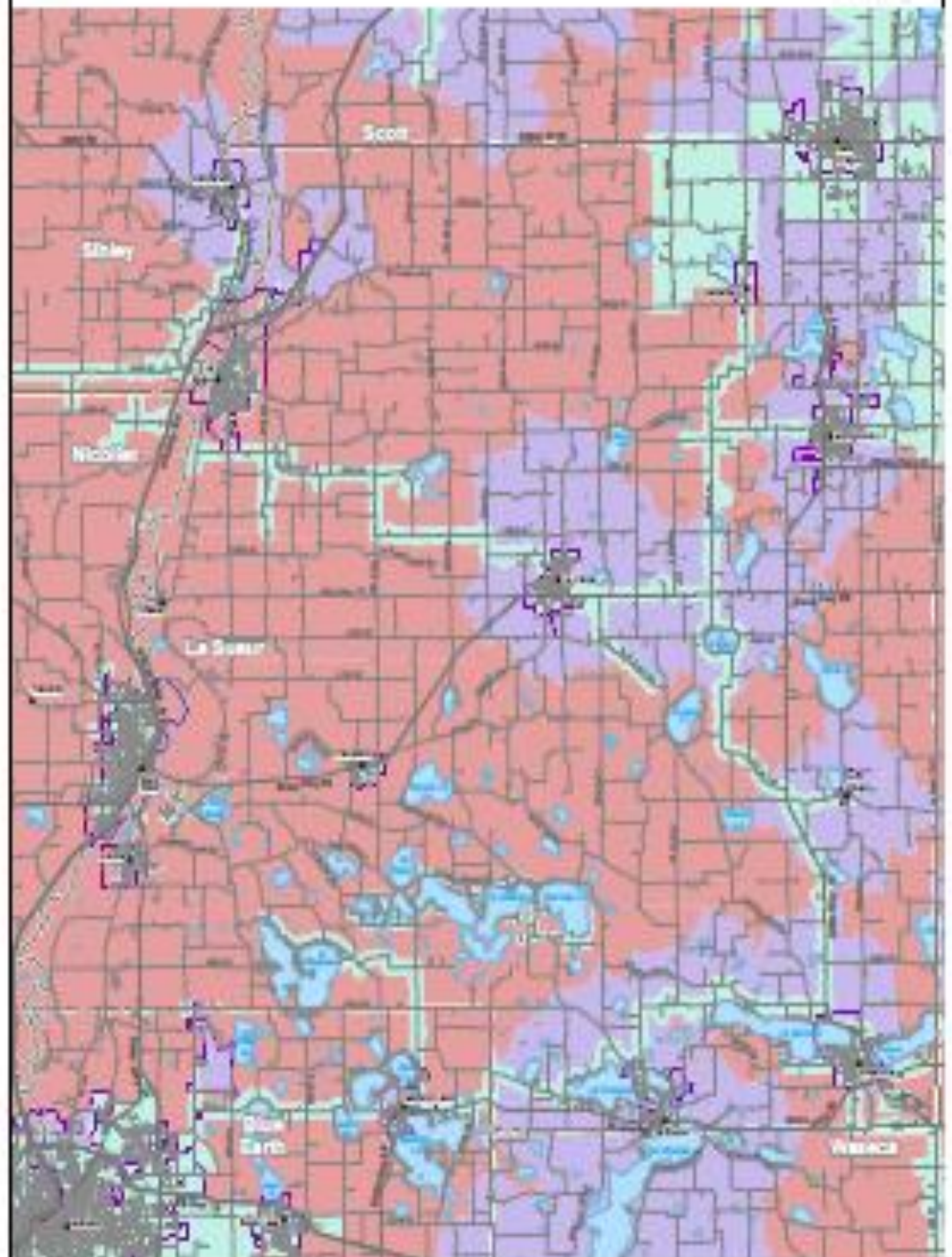


# Broadband In Le Sueur County

Red = Unserved

Purple = Underserved

Green = Served





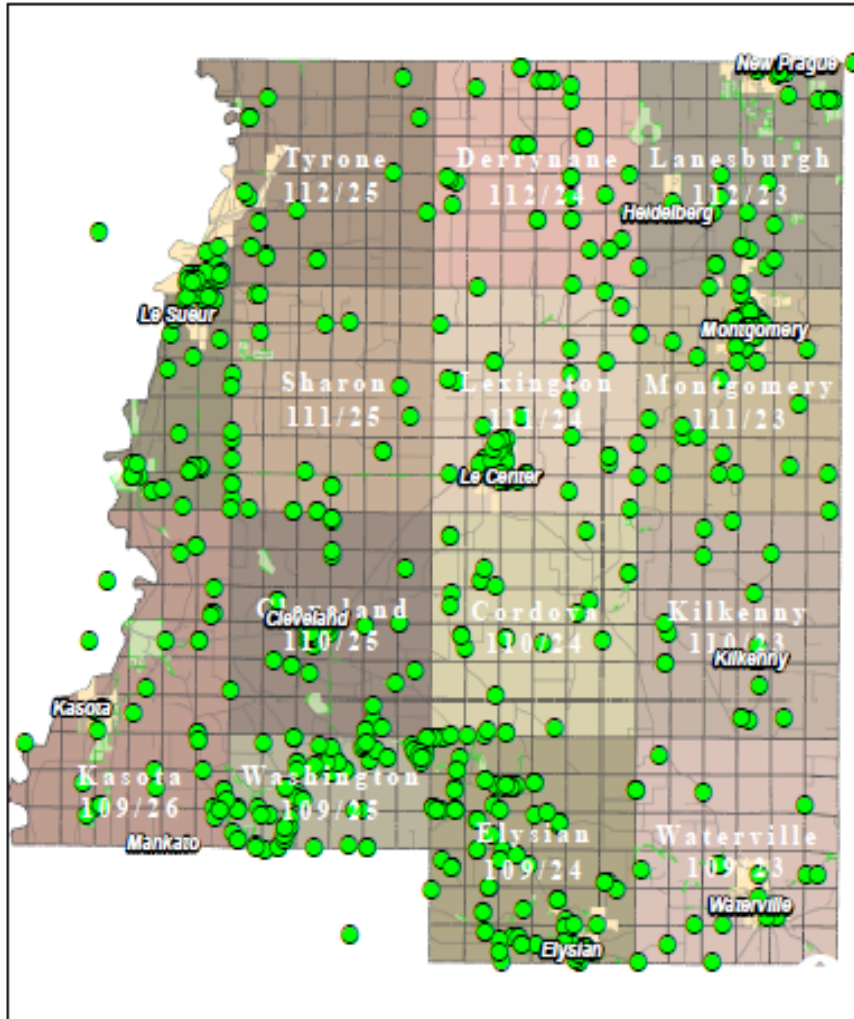
[https://www.southernminn.com/le\\_sueur\\_county\\_news/news/article\\_c2007f36-a5cc-5556-abb8-2b26b9b786ad.html](https://www.southernminn.com/le_sueur_county_news/news/article_c2007f36-a5cc-5556-abb8-2b26b9b786ad.html)

## Le Sueur County receives \$23 million state grant to bring high-speed internet to rural areas

By CARSON HUGHES [chughes@leusuercountynews.com](mailto:chughes@leusuercountynews.com)

Jan 22, 2020





## Broadband Internet Survey Locations

**Legend**

- Survey Location
- City Boundaries
- Subdivision
- Section

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 HARN Adj MN Le Sueur Feet  
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic  
 Datum: NAD 1983 HARN Adj MN Le Sueur  
 False Easting: 500,000.0000  
 False Northing: 100,000.0000  
 Central Meridian: -93.1333  
 Standard Parallel 1: 44.3000  
 Standard Parallel 2: 44.8867  
 Latitude Of Origin: 44.1947  
 Units: Foot US

Date: 5/19/2020

# Broadband Community Input

- Education equity concerns for both young and adult learners
- We pay a lot; our Internet is slow and unreliable so I can't work from home or attend online church
- Our Internet is good; we can both work from home as a result
- COVID 19 has shown that we need better Internet
- Cellular data works, but is expensive with the data caps
- Weather can affect our wireless service
- Farmers with limited access cannot attend online training

# Knowledge Workforce

**Communities will thrive on their ability to create, support and attract knowledge workers**

- Knowledge workers have
  - Technology skills
  - Post-secondary degrees and certifications
- Knowledge workers
  - Earn living wage salaries
  - Start new companies
  - Are critical to the success of all businesses and community organizations



# Knowledge Workforce in Le Sueur County

- Colleges in St. Peter, Mankato and Twin Cities
- Manufacturing and agriculture jobs are predominant



# Knowledge Workforce

## Community Input

- Schools need to be good enough to attract families of skilled workers
- We have great trades schools that help our local manufacturers
- Lack of broadband hinders workforce development and telework opportunities
- TCU has strong school to work programs
- Low pay hinders ability to attract skilled workers
- Location between TC and Mankato a plus

# Digital Equality

**Digital equality means that everyone will have a computer, know how to use it and will have access to the network.**

- Increasingly, people cannot effectively participate in community without a network connection
- Health, education and government strategies to improve services and cut costs require the use of technology.



# Digital Equality in Le Sueur County

- Technology can be a powerful tool to create equity in schools
- Learning can happen anywhere any time
- Need to create a learning environment that is personalized and meets the learning needs of ALL students.
- Individual learning plans can be implemented for students
- Educational leaders and Staff can collect and utilize data to make more informed decisions for instructional practices and student learning.
- Lack of access can create and enhance inequities that have life-long impact.

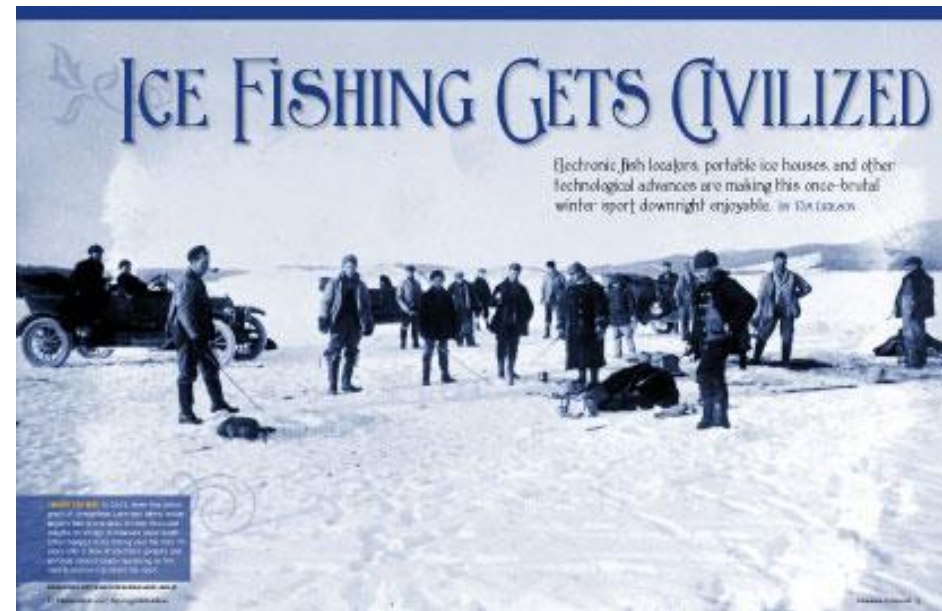
# Digital Equality Community Input

- Many people do not have devices or connectivity due to lack of income
- Lack of connection promotes the social, emotional and equity concerns that we are fighting to decrease.
- The pandemic highlights this problem
- Our confirmation students struggle with Internet connectivity
- Less fortunate people will fall further behind
- As a teacher, I see students falling behind
- We should not assume that everyone has the technology that they need.

# Innovation

**Innovation refers to doing new things and doing old things in new and better ways**

- Innovation allows people to do things more effectively and efficiently
- Local innovation can focus on “catching up” as well as moving ahead





# Innovation in Le Sueur County

- WINCO & CAMBRIA
- Candies, Cakes & Coffees
- Banks – On-Line Presence
- MVEC – Smart-Grid Updates
- GIS Information & Surveying in Montgomery
- Winery & CSA: Next Chap, Monty Brewery & Chankaska Creek, Vintage Escape, Cedar Crate Farm, Eve's Orchard, My Minnesota Farmer, Montgomery Orchard
- GENEX & Area Co-ops for GIS-Sat Guided Field Mapping & efficiencies

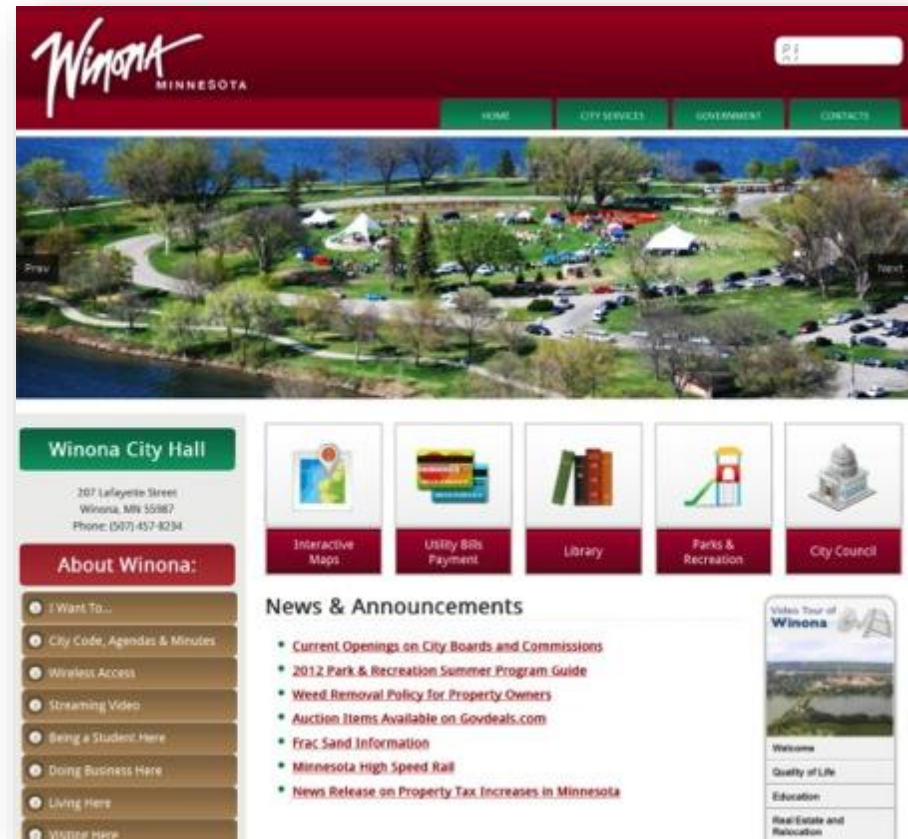
# Innovation Community Input

- Broadband is necessary to support innovation
- Le Sueur Co will need to show its adaptability to a changing work environment
- We need better support of education and health care
- County web site and GIS much improved
- Need to work together across communities
- No one has reached out to help our small high-tech company
- Communities/county not welcoming of innovation
- Doing poorly on innovation

# Advocacy

**Advocacy is the communication strategy that your community uses to motivate positive change.**

- Marketing is needed to attract people and investment
- Advocacy is targeted internally to promote community buy-in



# Advocacy in Le Sueur County

- Broadband group is strong advocate
- Community survey(s) used for two-way communication to and from community

# Advocacy Community Input

- Lack of broadband access detracts from our ability to attract people
- A more united, countywide approach to marketing would be beneficial
- I don't know what our marketing message is; I have never seen it
- "A county working to make connections for all"
- Should focus on improving existing business and lifestyle and not worry about attraction efforts
- Great location, beautiful area



Thank you community  
presenters!

# Next Steps

- Magically, we will move into small group discussion rooms by Intelligent Community element!
- Small group discussion agenda
  - Introductions
  - Discuss our ASSETS
    - What can we build on?
  - Discuss our GAPS
    - What are we missing?
  - Create set of Desired Outcomes
    - What will be different if we are successful?

# Discussion Rules

- Don't hog the screen time; get to your point!
- Better to have a big list of assets and gaps than to talk about one item in depth
- Don't argue the point; everyone has their own perspective.

# Intelligent Community Reports

Assets

Gaps

Desired Outcomes

# Next Steps

Brainstorm Meeting June 17, 10 am – 11:30

Online Project Voting June 22 – 26

Project Development and Budgeting

Grant Allocation

Project Implementation Goal – September 1



# Closing Remarks

Thank you!