



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

3A
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: September 27, 2016

Title of Item: Blandin Broadband Community Application

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*
Submitted by: Ross Wagner		Department: Economic Development & Forest Ind
Presenter (Name and Title): Ross Wagner, Economic Development & Forest Industry Coordinator		Estimated Time Needed: 20 minutes
Summary of Issue: <p>Funding is being made available for the Blandin Foundation to select 4 communities to become Blandin Broadband Communities, (BBC). I would recommend that Aitkin County apply to become one of the 4 new BBC's. Once selected, Blandin Broadband Community teams will receive planning and facilitation support, and the opportunity to apply for grant funding for locally developed projects that address community identified needs. Blandin Broadband Communities may apply for matching funding over a two-year period, with the average amount of grant support anticipated to be \$65,000 per community. In addition, communities will be able to apply for up to \$25,000 to conduct a Robust Network Feasibility Study which requires a 1:1 cash match. Grant funding is not guaranteed.</p> <p>Significant commitment on the part of the Blandin Broadband Communities will be expected and required throughout the two-year grant period though there is not a financial commitment required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities must commit to recruiting and supporting an inclusive community steering committee that reflects community composition. • Steering Committee members must be able and willing to commit time and attention to planning and project development and management. • Steering Committee members must participate in virtual and in-person meetings with other BBCs. <p>http://broadband.blandinfoundation.org/_uls/resources/BCBP_Fact_Sheet_2015__2.pdf for the BBC Fact Sheet</p>		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:		
Recommended Action/Motion: Approve request to submit grant an application for Blandin Broadband Community Grant.		
Financial Impact: <i>Is there a cost associated with this request?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$</i> <i>Is this budgeted?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i>		