



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

48

Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: November 14, 2017

Title of Item: Accept Blandin Broadband Community Grants

<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)	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing* <small>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</small>
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Submitted by: Ross Wagner	Department: Economic Development & Forest Ind
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Presenter (Name and Title): Ross Wagner, Economic Development & Forest Industry Coordinator	Estimated Time Needed: 10 Minutes
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Summary of Issue:
 As part of Aitkin County's participation as a Broadband Community in the Iron Range/Blandin Broadband (Iron Range BC) Communities program, we are once again eligible for grants to enhance broadband use and adoption in Aitkin County. Aitkin County is the administer of the Iron Range BC so the grant will be disbursed to Aitkin County. Aitkin County then in turn grants the funds to the individual organizations who are then in turn responsible for implementing their projects. The grants are listed below. This is the same program that we approved grants for in June. Aitkin County has previously authorized the application to become a Iron Range BC and to be the fiscal agent. This is what should be the final phase of this project.

- o Aitkin High School 4 Wi-Fi enabled busses, \$4,987.00
- o ECRL 14 mobile Wi-Fi hotspots, \$4,530.00
- o Long Lake Conservation Center Foundation, Wi-Fi and bandwidth, \$2,496.00
- o Palisade Wi-Fi Project-Berglund Park, \$4,600.00
- o Aitkin County Administrative, \$1,000.00 for programming and events
- o Total Project Costs are \$22,757.00 Grant is \$17,613.00 local match is \$5,144.00

This has been a great program for Aitkin County, previously we were able to administer grants of \$54,090.00 for Community Centers, Wi-Fi hotspots and more. A full report will be given after the projects are up and running.

Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:

Recommended Action/Motion:
 Accept Blandin/Iron Range Broadband Community Grants, authorize County Administer as signer.

Financial Impact:
 Is there a cost associated with this request? Yes No
 What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$
 Is this budgeted? Yes No *Please Explain:*
 These are grants directly from the Blandin Foundation that Aitkin County will pass on to the organizations.