



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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PSC Names Two Broadband Regional Planning Teams Additional teams to be named for remaining regions

MADISON - The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) named two Regional Planning Teams to assist in the broadband planning efforts that are underway statewide, in connection with funding Wisconsin has received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the Recovery Act).

The teams named today, comprised of leaders from community, business and public sector organizations, will cover two regions that together include eight counties in northern and central Wisconsin. Region 2 covers Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida and Vilas counties and Region 4 covers Marathon, Portage and Wood counties. Seven additional regional teams will be named in the coming weeks.

Regional planning teams are multi-sector groups from each region who will provide input into the development of regional broadband plans. Planning teams will:

- Provide coordination with on-going existing broadband planning initiatives in each region.
- Contribute information about the counties, communities, demographics, economy and broadband needs of the area.
- Provide feedback on accuracy of current broadband maps and other regional data.
- Identify areas and sectors in the region that could benefit from increased broadband access and adoption.
- Determine priorities around which the region's broadband investment plan should initially focus to have the greatest impact for the region.
- Help identify data, resources and leadership needed to implement the chosen priority investment.
- Provide guidance to the LinkWISCONSIN staff in drafting regional broadband investment plans.

Area of Interest	Region 2	Region 4
Education	Chuck Komp, Manager of Education Delivery Nicolet Area Technical College	Chet Strebe, Chief Information Officer Northcentral Technical College
Libraries	Ed Hughes, Director Rhineland District Library	Lori Belongia, Director Marshfield Public Library
Health Care	Fred Bouwman, IT Process Analyst Ministry Health Care	Joe Brickweg, Director of IS Operations Marshfield Clinic

Econ. Dev./ Planning	Jim Brown, Vice President Grow North EDC	Barb Fleisner, Executive Director Centergy, Inc.
Regional Planning Commission	Dennis Lawrence, Executive Director or his designee North Central Regional Planning Commission	Dennis Lawrence, Executive Director or his designee North Central Regional Planning Commission
Business	Bart Lamers, VP - Finance & Operations One Prospect Technologies	David McHone Travel Guard
Agriculture	Scott Messner, IT Data Manager Frito-Lay Research Station Dan Ronis (alternate), Breeder - Geneticist Frito-Lay Research Station	Terry Geurink, Vice President – Agri Business United FCS
Government	Don Sidlowski, Chairman Town of Three Lakes	Gerard Klein, Director City-County Information Technology Commission
Public Safety	Jeff Hoffman, Sheriff Oneida County Sheriff's Department	Kelly Lenz, 911 Central Dispatch Wood Co. Sheriff's Department
Non-Profit	Chris Francis, CEO YMCA of the Northwoods	Kelly Lucas, Executive Director Community Foundation of South Wood County
Seniors	Dianne Jacobson, Director Oneida County Dept. of Aging	Bob Williams, Owner Idea Associates
Energy/ Environment	Tim Hintz, Account Executive Wisconsin Public Service	Chris Leslie, IT Support Specialist Midwest Renewable Resource Association
Telephone/ Comm. Co. (non-voting member)	Julie Berndt, Manager Frontier Communications	Jayne Lysne Solarus
Tribal	Bill Poupart Lac du Flambeau Band Patricia O'Neil (alternate) Executive Director, Northwoods NiiJii Ent. Comm.	

The PSC received Recovery Act funding to conduct a 5-year broadband mapping and planning project called LinkWISCONSIN. The broadband map will be used as a tool by the regional planning teams to develop and implement regional investment plans. The plans will focus on strategies to deploy broadband to un-served and underserved areas of Wisconsin, and to increase adoption and use of broadband in the state.

For more information on coverage areas, Wisconsin's interactive map and more information about broadband mapping and planning efforts, visit www.link.wisconsin.gov.

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