

Connect  
Rural

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Broadband Summit

# Agenda

8:15-9:00am

**Registration & Networking**

9:00-10:00am

**Welcome & Introductions**

10:00-10:45am

**Broadband 101**

10:45-11:15am

**Provider Response Panel on  
Tech Trends & Community Partnerships**

11:15am-12:00pm

**Key Drivers of Broadband Use Panel**

12:00-12:45pm

**Lunch & Networking**

12:45-1:45pm

**Infrastructure Success Stories**

1:45-2:30pm

**Embracing the Technology Panel**

2:30-4:45pm

**Open Space & Action Planning**

4:45pm

**Final Remarks**

*Scheduled speaker U.S. Senator Tina Smith.*



### **10:00am Broadband 101**

An overview of the basics of broadband including the technology, impact on the region's current and future economy, needs of the region, and resources available to communities who want to improve their response to broadband needs.

*Presented by Bill Coleman, Owner, Community Technology Advisors*

### **10:45am Provider Response Panel on Tech Trends and Community Partnerships**

A cross section of providers will share their specific broadband technologies they use and how they form community partnerships.

**Featuring:**

Bill Eckles, *Chief Executive Officer*, Blue Earth Valley Communications

Mark Sharpless, *Manager of Network Engineering*, Consolidated Communications

Mike Wilker, *Chief Technology Officer*, Jaguar Communications

Julie Foote, *Sales and Marketing Developer*, MVTV

### **11:15am Key Drivers of Broadband Use Panel**

Representatives of healthcare, education and economic development will share the importance of broadband to the economic health of the region.

**Featuring:**

Kris Luhmann, *Operations Manager*, Center for Connected Care and Division of Thoracic Surgery, Mayo Health System

Jim Grabowska, *President*, Minnesota State Inter Faculty Organization

Samantha DiMaggio, *Community Development Director*, City of Le Sueur

Representatives of federal and state agencies will talk about resources available to communities to develop broadband access and usage.

**Featuring:**

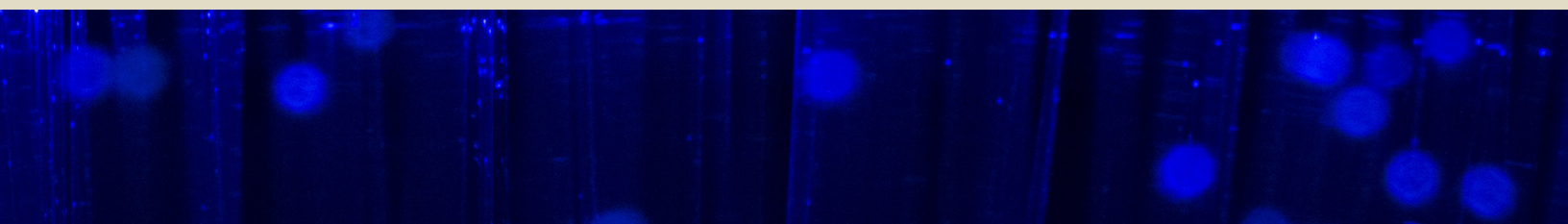
Brad Finstad, *Minnesota State Director*, USDA Rural Development

Diane Wells, *Telecommunications Manager*, DEED Office of Broadband Development

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If you have any questions or concerns, contact Ashley Aukes at [ashley@rndc.org](mailto:ashley@rndc.org) or (507) 389-8885.



### **12:45pm Infrastructure Success Stories**

Four stories from different places with different approaches will show the range of possibilities for how communities develop broadband infrastructure.

**Featuring:**

Kyle Oldre, *County Administrator*, Rock County Broadband Alliance

Jacob Rieke, *Vice Chairman*, RS Fiber Cooperative

Monty Morrow, *Regulatory/Legislative Coordinator*, NU-Telecom

Scott Higgins, *Coordinator*, Martin County

### **1:45pm Embracing the Technology Panel**

Two stories of communities that intentionally expanded the use of broadband and tracked the economic impact.

**Featuring:**

Dave Hengel, *Executive Director*, Greater Bemidji

Neela Mollgard, *Executive Director*, Red Wing Ignite

### **2:30pm Marketplace of Ideas and Action Planning**

A tried-and-true process to identify broadband champions and commitments to move communities forward.

*Facilitated by Bernadine Joselyn, Director of Public Policy & Engagement, Blandin Foundation and Jane Leonard, President, Growth and Justice*

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### **Thank you to the Connect Rural Broadband Summit planning committee:**

Bernadine Joselyn, Blandin Foundation

Bryan Stading, Regional Center for Entrepreneurial Facilitation

Jane Leonard, Growth & Justice

Jean Burkhardt, Independent Contractor

Jeff McCabe, South Central College, Center for Business & Industry

Jessica Beyer, Waseca County

Ray Gustafson, Watonwan County/Region Nine Commissioner

Roxy Traxler, Sibley County

Scott Higgins, Martin County

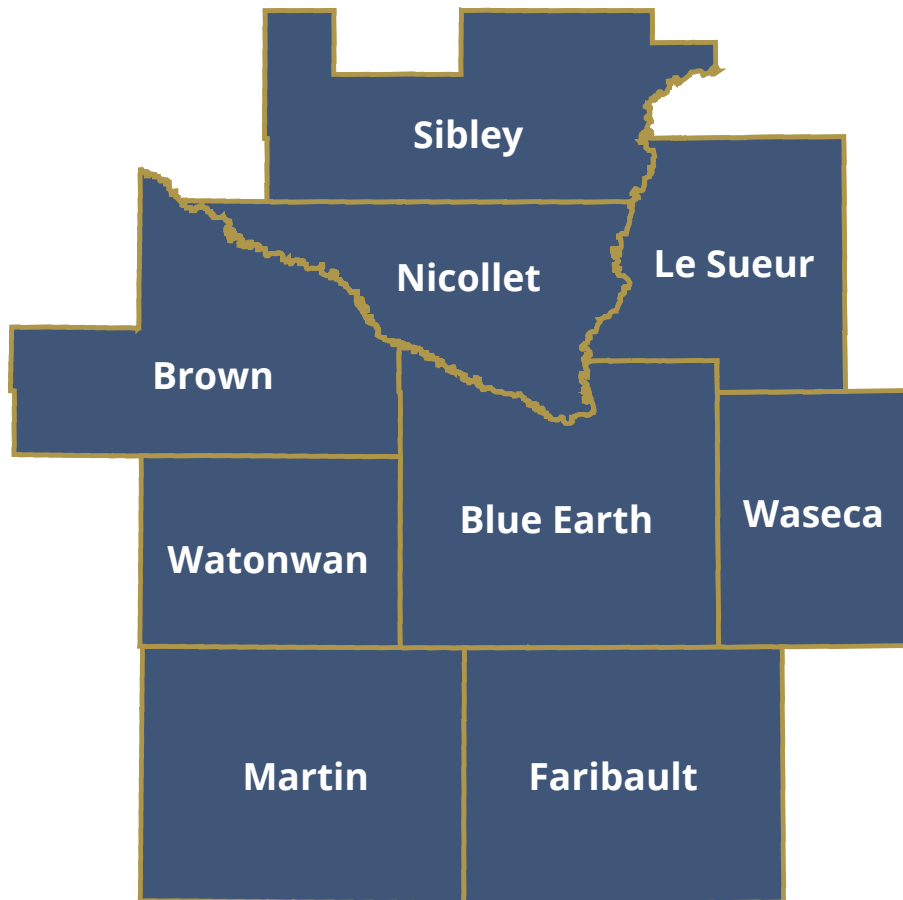
Region Nine Development Commission Staff

**Thank  
you!**

**Thank  
you!**



Region Nine Development Commission strives to promote the development of the region through intergovernmental cooperation, community and human development, long-range planning and technical assistance.



**9**  
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 Community Technology Advisors  
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 Department of Employment and Economic Development  
 Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce  
 GreenSeam  
 Growth & Justice  
 Hagedorn for Congress  
 Jaguar Communications  
 Kandiyohi County Economic Development  
 Lori Ann Clark for House 21A  
 Martin County  
 Martin County Broadband Committee  
 Mayo Health System  
 Minnesota State University, Mankato  
 Minnesota Valley & Winthrop Telephone Companies  
 MN Telecom Alliance  
 MVTV Wireless  
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Rock County Administration  
 RS Fiber Cooperative  
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