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, MVT

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 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**

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!
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.
Organizations present at today’s event:

Arvig
B&R Dairy Equipment, Inc.
BEVCOMM
Blandin Foundation
Blue Earth County
Bolton and Menk, Inc.
Center for Rural Policy and Development
City of Le Sueur
City of Lewisville
City of Northfield
City of St. James
City of Trimont
City of Windom Telecom Department - Windomnet
Community Technology Advisors
Connect the Grey
Consolidated Communications
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
Neutral Path Communications
NU-Telecom
Office of Senator Klobuchar
Office of Senator Smith
Office of Congressman Tim Walz
Ottawa Township
Redwood County
Redwood County Technology Region Nine Development Commission
Regional Center for Entrepreneurial Facilitation
Rock County Administration
RS Fiber Cooperative
RUS Telecommunications
Sibley County
South Central College
South Central Service Cooperative
South Central SBDC
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation
Spring Lake Township
Tracy Economic Development Authority
Traverse des Sioux Library Cooperative
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USDA Rural Development
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Waseca County Townships
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