

## Richland County Finance & Personnel Committee

### Agenda Item Cover

**Agenda Item Name:** Broadband planning

<b>Department</b>	County Board	<b>Presented By:</b>	Melissa Luck
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	May 21, 2021	<b>Action Needed:</b>	Possible Vote on a Motion
<b>Disclosure:</b>	Open	<b>Authority:</b>	
<b>Date submitted:</b>	May 18, 2021	<b>Refer to:</b>	UW Ag & Extension

**Recommendation and/or action language:** Motion to refer to the UW Agriculture and Extension Committee a recommendation to explore development, funding, and audience for a broadband survey similar to Iowa County that would be sent to Richland County households outside of the city of Richland Center.

#### Background:

There have been questions from citizens and board members pertaining to the Rural Broadband Expansion grants available the past few years from the State. The attached report (Attachment A) summarizes the grants that have been awarded in Richland County as well as what data is available on the status of broadband in Richland County.

The current PSC maps for broadband availability are not very accurate. There seems to be some hesitation on the part of providers to share detailed maps of where they have fiber in the ground. Although the maps are useful for general information, the information is not necessarily accurate. In an effort to gain detailed knowledge of what the actual status of broadband is in their county, the Iowa County Board sent out a survey to their residents asking specific questions about broadband availability and quality.

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#### Attachments and References:

**Attachment A – Broadband Report**

**Attachment B – UW Extension Report**

#### Financial Review:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

*(summary of current and future impacts)*

**Approval:**

**Review:**

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Department Head

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Administrator, or Elected Office (if applicable)