

Science/Technology/Innovation (STI) Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 12, 2016

The Science/Technology/Innovation (STI) Committee meeting was held in the Madison-Jefferson County Extension office conference room at 7:00 a.m., Thursday, May 12, 2016. Participants were Gerry Keogh, Tom Harrington, Lee Good, Ed Handl, Tom Phillips, Cory Kirsch, Marcy Lamb and Leonard Wortman.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 am. April minutes were reviewed and approved.

1. Lee G. discussed he had recently attended a technology conference that had many new and innovative ideas. He mentioned new equipment has been purchased for the low power television. Streaming capability has increased with the fiber internet capacity. The low power radio can be backup during emergencies using the internet. Discussion occurred on what is a gigabyte community and how the current capability in Whitehall and Boulder potential could be a business recruitment advantage. The capability for Boulder would be available if the fiber line was spliced and would also help increase capacity with a shorter distance to travel. Ed H. talked about how to capitalize on this capability and inform businesses that this internet infrastructure is available.
2. The fiber to the home project in Whitehall is progressing and will use some existing cable lines and then transition to fiber with actual connections being completed in the near future. Questions on internet pricing were raised and more research is needed so that active marketing can be pursued.
3. Discussion on video streaming of various meetings was discussed and is a potential with current cameras. This expanded capability would be a good way to reach out to others unable to attend the meetings and could help increase public involvement.
4. Discussed the data center marketing plan needs to be developed. The planned testing of data storage for Jefferson County is on hold pending the hiring of a new county IT technician which should be accomplished in the next couple of weeks.
5. Discussed the wind development project at the business park is still moving forward with a prototype wind tower planned this spring.
6. Tom P. indicated GSM has additional laptops for the school robotics program.
7. Marcy L. indicated there would be some new staff at the school with recent turnovers. Roof heater contract was awarded and parking lot repairs will be done this summer. New telephone system is being installed that could incorporated voice over IP. School enrollment is down in the high school.
8. Leonard updated the group on the Pipestone Creek project. The Kountz Bridge is being planned for construction this fall and will help reduce flooding in Whitehall.
9. Other Items: Ed H. updated Rotary will be giving two scholarships and sponsoring attendance at Boys/Girls State.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 a.m. The next meeting will be held in the Extension office conference room Thursday, June 9, 2016 at 7:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Harrington