

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: LAURA QUALEY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

SUBJECT: GOODHUE COUNTY BROADBAND PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2021

BACKGROUND

Goodhue County has created a program from its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds designated toward broadband infrastructure in the county. With the impending water tower reconditioning project in 2022, the timing of applying for some funds from this program is quite timely. The project request in the application is to reinforce and expand the railing/ring on top of the water tower that accommodates the communication equipment that provides fixed wireless services to the surrounding area and Goodhue County currently houses their emergency communication equipment on the tower. The total project cost for the ring expansion is \$85,000. The application has been completed with an ask of \$42,500 from the county and a 50% match ask from the townships for \$42,500.

By expanding the railing, it will allow for additional tenants/providers to reside on the tower which will provide more coverage, options, speeds and pricing options for residents in and around the area reaching out into the six townships as well as Lake Byllesby area.

Each of the townships were contacted by Commissioner Anderson and Qualey fielded any questions the townships had regarding the matching funds, coverage area, etc. As of 12/16/21, not all of the townships had convened to formally discuss the topic, however, by the submission date for the application (January 3, 2022), a better estimate will have been collected to know what the participation match is. Vasa Township is the only one that has committed \$5000 toward the match, Cannon Falls Township has declined contributing funds. If the 50% match is unable to be met by the townships, the City of Cannon Falls will need to make up the difference for this part of the water tower reconditioning project expense or else the existing ring will continue to be utilized.

For reference, the ARPA funds that were allocated to the townships are as follows:

Cannon Falls Township -	\$120,000
Stanton Township -	\$130,000
Vasa Township	\$100,000
Leon Township	\$100,000
Warsaw Township	\$ 70,000
<u>Belle Creek</u>	<u>\$ 60,000</u>
Total	\$580,000

Requested City Council Action:

Requesting a motion to approve the submission of the Goodhue County Broadband Partnership Program application for the ring expansion on the water tower.

Application Cover Sheet Template

- Project Name:** Cannon Falls Broadband Communication Ring Expansion
- Applicant Organization Name:** City of Cannon Falls
- Applicant Organization's Mailing Address:** 918 River Road, Cannon Falls, MN 55009
- Applicant's Primary Contact:**
Neil Jensen, City Administrator, 507-263-9304, njensen@cannonfallsmn.gov
- Project Location:** The area that we are concentrating on serving is the Cannon Falls Area School District #252.
- List County/Township Served by Project:** This area will serve a portion of Goodhue County and also the townships of Leon, Cannon Falls, Warsaw, Stanton, Belle Creek and Vasa.
- List Community/Communities Served by Project:** Cannon Falls, Lake Byllesby, Vasa, Welch, White Rock and Randolph.
- Funding Request Amount:**
\$42,500
50% of total request
- Matching Funds Provided by Applicant:**
\$42,500
50% of total request
- Total Application Cost:**
\$85,000
- If Application Proposes a Public/Private Partnership, List Names of All Partner Companies/Entities:** N/A
- Funding Commitment provided by Each Partner:** N/A

Application Cover Sheet Template (Cont'd)

Total Number of Passings:

PASSINGS COUNTS	Households	Businesses	Farms	Community Institutions
Currently UNSERVED Number of passings expected to improve speeds to at least 25/3 as a result of the project.				
Currently UNDERSERVED Number of passings expected to improve speeds from between 25/3 & 100/20 to 100/20 and above as a result of the project.				

Application Includes:

[choose one]

- Last Mile Components Only
- Middle Mile Components Only
- Both Last Mile and Middle Mile Components

Type of Proposed Broadband Construction:

Fixed Wireless

Application Demonstrates Completed Outreach to Existing Providers:

- Yes
- No

Names of All Other Wire-line Broadband Service Providers Serving this Application Area:

- Hiawatha Broadband Communications
- Nuvera

- MetroFiberNet

- **State of Minnesota Vendor Number:** 0000201404

Application Main Body Template

Executive Summary:

The expansion of the railing on the water tower in Cannon Falls will allow for broadband service providers to add fixed wireless communication equipment to expand the coverage capability in the area; primarily in the territory of the School District #252 for Cannon Falls.

The reason that we are concentrating on serving School District #252 is because it is a defined area which encompasses the townships of Leon, Cannon Falls, Warsaw, Stanton, Belle Creek and Vasa. The city of Cannon Falls is fortunate enough to have fiber-to-the-home within the city limits, but for those residents that live beyond that area, internet service is challenging. Due to the topography of the landscape in the Cannon River Valley area, the bluffs and valleys make line of sight (LOS) difficult for many residents living in the township areas. With the location of the Cannon Falls water tower standing 148 feet atop one of the higher points of the city, the height of it allows for tenants' communication signals to spread far and wide.

Currently, there are a couple fixed wireless providers residing on the water tower along with the Goodhue County Emergency Communication equipment. The City of Cannon Falls has a reconditioning project slated for the spring/summer of 2022 and the ring expansion will coincide with this project. It is an opportunity for the current tower tenants to upgrade their equipment, but it is also an opportunity to add additional tenants to expand more options for residents in the area for fixed wireless coverage, speeds and pricing availability.

Although this reconditioning project has been in the planning process for a few years, the most recent worldly events have proven how broadband and its availability and reliability are a necessity in today's everyday life. With students of all ages (Pre-K thru College) learning from home and adults working from home, there has been no better time than now to put this plan into motion to make a plea for its urgency to increase the expansion and availability to residents in our rural areas. Even those not working or learning, have been educated on the benefits of telehealth/medicine visits with their clinician and have continued to virtually visit with their practitioners even though in-person visits have resumed. The pandemic alongside the civil unrest occurring to the north of Cannon Falls, has prompted people from the densely populated metro areas and suburbs to drift outward toward smaller, rural areas to settle. These folks expect to have the quiet life, but the speed of light service they are accustomed to working from home. This is our opportunity to continue to attract people to our region and increase our population that will support our area business owners and schools.

As mentioned before, Goodhue County currently houses their emergency communication equipment on the water tower that serves the region. The City of Cannon Falls felt it was an opportunity to approach the County for assistance to reinforce or expand the ring so we can accommodate more broadband providers to the region and expand the services to the residents. In speaking with the Townships, the lack of service or unreliable service that is in their area is of great concern and this could definitely benefit many people and change their lives for the better.

Part I – Key Project Data

1.1 Project Name: Cannon Falls Broadband Communication Ring Expansion

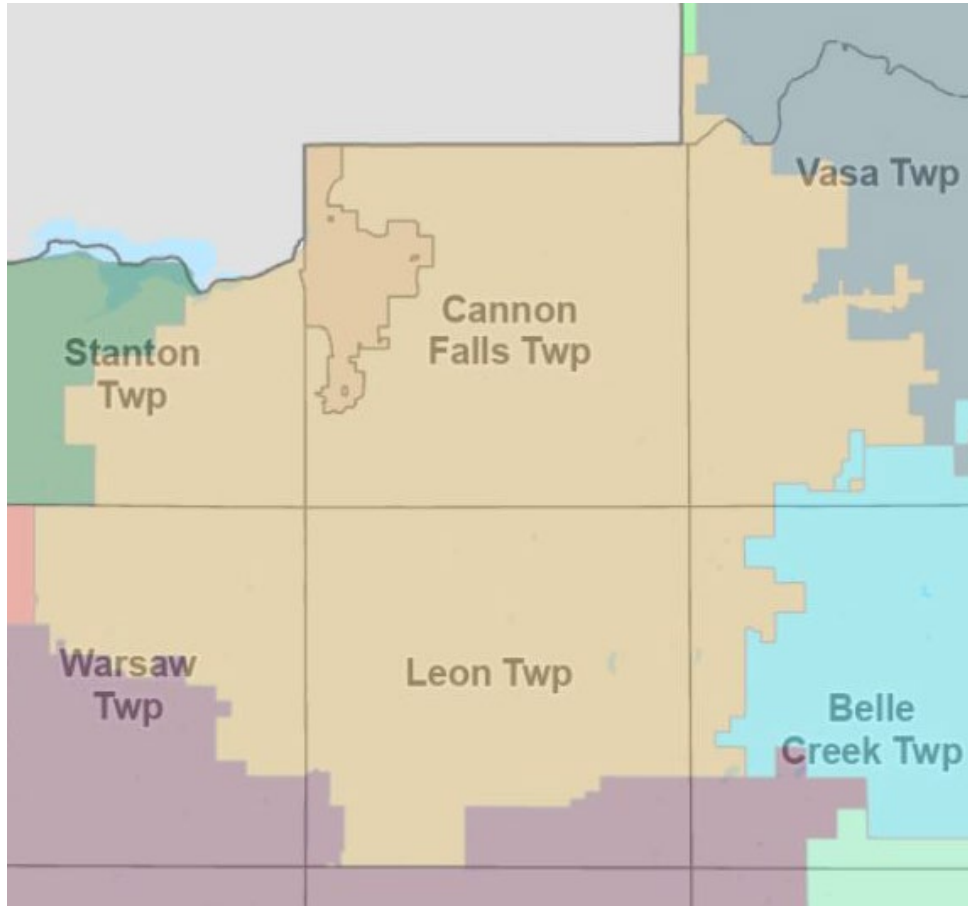
1.2 Applicant Organization Name: City of Cannon Falls

1.3 Applicant Organization’s Mailing Address: 918 River Road, Cannon Falls, MN 55009

1.4 Key Contacts:

- **Primary Contact:** Neil Jensen, City Administrator, 507-263-9304, njensen@cannonfallsmn.gov
- **Project Manager:** Neil Jensen, City Administrator, 507-263-9304, njensen@cannonfallsmn.gov
- **Application Author:** Laura Qualey, Economic Development, 507-263-9312, laura.qualey@cedausa.com

1.5 Map and Description of Project Area: The area that we are concentrating on serving is the Cannon Falls Area School District #252 which is shown in light tan.



1.6 Applicant Eligibility: Taxing Jurisdiction

1.7 County or Township Coverage: Cannon Falls, Goodhue County, Townships of Leon, Cannon Falls, Warsaw, Stanton, Belle Creek and Vasa.

1.9 Single Paragraph Summary Description of Project: The expansion of the railing on the water tower in Cannon Falls will allow for broadband service providers to add fixed wireless communication equipment to expand the coverage capability in the area; primarily in the territory of the school district for Cannon Falls.

Part II – Broadband Improvements: Unserved/Underserved Documentation

2.1 Anticipated Broadband Improvements:

Using the “Anticipated Improvements” table (see below), please provide the number of households, businesses, farms, and community anchor institutions that will be able to receive improved broadband services as a result of the proposed project.

Anticipated Improvements in Broadband Service

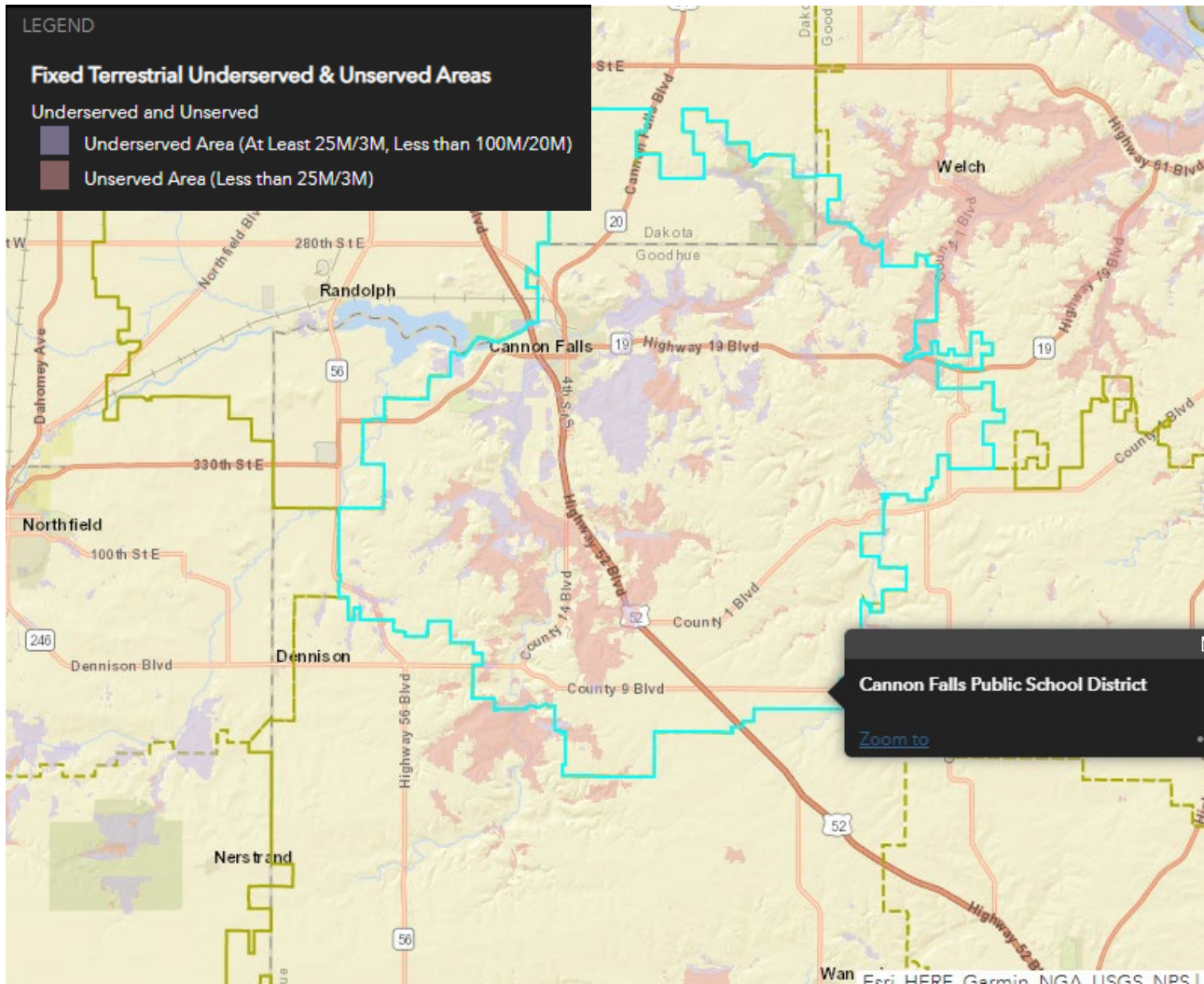
Based on this Application Project

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# of Passings	Speed Now:	0/0	≤10/1	0/0	≤10/1	25/3	0/0	≤25/3	<100/20
	Speed After Build:	25/3	25/3	100/20	100/20	100/20	1G/1G	1G/1G	1G/1G
Households									
Businesses									
Farms									
Anchors									
TOTAL									

2.2 Unserved and Underserved Documentation:

Provide evidence in the application to demonstrate that the proposed project is for an unserved or underserved area



Part III – Project Funding Request and Community Participation

3.1 How much money from Goodhue County is being requested for this application? We are seeking \$42,500 from Goodhue County. What percent of total eligible project cost does the funding request represent? This is a 50% cost of the total request.

3.2 How much in total matching funds from the Applicant – including any funding partners, if applicable – is being proposed? We have \$42,500 committed from surrounding townships within the school district area toward this project. What percentage of the total eligible project cost does the Applicant’s matching funds represent? The matching funds committed account for 50% of the total project cost.

3.3 Please list in detail all confirmed matching fund commitments by each project funding partner.

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Matching Funds Sources:	Funding \$ Commitment	Proof of Match Attached
<i>Applicant Name:</i>		
City of Cannon Falls	\$0	
<i>Funding Partner(s):</i>		
<i>Leon Township</i>	\$ Meeting is 12/21	
<i>Warsaw Township</i>	\$	
<i>Stanton Township</i>	\$	
<i>Cannon Falls Township</i>	\$ 0 Choosing Not to Participate	x
<i>Vasa Township</i>	\$ 5,000	x
<i>*estimated contribution</i>		
Total Matching Funds Goal	\$42,500	

3.4 Provide complete contact information for each application funding partner identified in Item 3.3 above.

Leon Township—Sandy Hanson, leontwpcclerk258@gmail.com

Warsaw Township—Darla Frandrup, warsaw.township.clerk@gmail.com,

Cannon Falls Township—Sue Safe, rsafe@sleepyeyetel.net ; Deb Hendrickson : Responded that they are not contributing at this time

Stanton Township— Cheryle Peters, stantonclerk@gmail.com

Vasa Township— Jim Hedeem, jshedeem@sleepyeyetel.net & Rick Samuelson ; responded they will contribute \$5000.

3.5 Provide evidence of community support for the project. There are letters of support for this project from the Superintendent of the Cannon Falls School District #252, a couple of area residents outside of Cannon Falls that struggle with internet connectivity that do not have fiber to the home, Goodhue County Park Board members, and Congressman Angie Craig. **See Appendix 3.5**

Part IV – Project Readiness

Project Budget – Sources and Uses of Funds

4.1 What are the total eligible project costs? \$85,000

4.1 Please provide a list or schedule of all eligible elements to be purchased or utilized for the proposed project. A 20 foot radius railing will be installed and painted around the affected area including the labor and engineering costs for this project. This will occur during the reconditioning of the entire water tower structural repairs including but not limited to sandblasting and painting of the tower.

4.2 Utilizing total eligible expenses from 4.1, provide the following “Sources of Funding” summary detail for Applicant, and if applicable, for each additional funding partner:

Sources of Funding	\$ Amount	% of Total Funding
Townships	42,500	50%
Goodhue County	42,500	50%
Total	85,000	100.00%

4.4 By each identified budget category, provide the following “Use of Funds” detail for both Applicant and proposed funds:

Use of Funds	\$ Amount	Source of Fund	Date Funds Committed
Installation of Railing, Paint and Labor for the Project	32,500	Applicant	Spring 2022
Installation of Railing, Paint and Labor for the Project	42,500	GC	Spring 2022
Engineering	10,000	Applicant	Spring 2022
Total	85,000		

4.5 Will additional costs related to this proposed project that are not eligible costs be incurred in order to deploy broadband to this area? No. There will be other costs related to this project that are not eligible, but they are not related to deploy broadband.

Project Broadband Infrastructure

4.6 Please provide all budgetary engineering designs, diagrams, and maps that demonstrate the viability of the proposed project. [If separately attached, label as Appendix 4.6] N/A

4.7 Demonstrate that the installed broadband infrastructure is scalable to speeds of at least 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload. N/A

4.8 Identify the type of broadband construction for the proposed project. Fixed Wireless (Licensed)

4.9 This application is for last mile components only, middle mile components only, or a combination of last mile and middle mile components. Middle mile

4.10 If the proposed project is a middle mile broadband facilities project, or includes a middle mile facilities component, please describe why the new construction is necessary. Due to the topography of our region, the bluffs and valleys of the area make it very difficult for fiber to the home to become a reality for many residents in the rural areas. There are even people that live within a mile outside of the city limits that do not have

access to a direct connection to their home and rely on a satellite or wireless signal which is not always reliable or stable. This past year has definitely proven that students learning from home and parents or professionals working remotely have needed strong internet connection in order to conduct business or learn. Even those that may have not experienced instability or delays before experienced significant interruption to service when multiple users on multiple devices were utilizing service simultaneously. This project will allow more providers and also more equipment to reside on the watertower to increase the capacity available to those in the area.

Project Preconstruction Permits and Approvals

4.11 Have all required municipal/city/township/county/state approvals necessary for this project to begin construction from area planning commission/zoning authority/road authority/railroad crossing entity, etc. been identified and included in the project schedule? The City Council is supportive of this application to the County, and the Townships that are participating and contributing matching funds toward this project have all received support from their boards in order to proceed with this project.

4.12 Have all state environmental review requirements necessary for this project to begin construction been identified, if applicable? N/A

4.13 Due to its location, will the proposed project potentially impact local/state/federal historic architectural or archeological resources? N/A

Project Implementation

4.14 Will the Applicant offer the broadband services for a minimum five year period? Yes.

4.15 Provide the proposed pricing structure [by associated download and upload speeds] for all broadband services to be offered in association with this project. N/A

4.16 Please also provide the proposed stand-alone pricing for unbundled internet-only service at 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload, for 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload [if applicable], and for 1 Gbps download and 1 Gbps upload [if applicable]. N/A

4.17 Will any additional equipment be required – or any separately chargeable service installation elements apply – to activation or turn-up of individual customer locations? This project will only increase the capability and capacity for those that want access to broadband. It will be up to surrounding area residents to select their provider, speed, pricing and equipment.

4.18 Describe what initiatives the Applicant will undertake to communicate its proposed marketing plan to its prospective broadband services customer base. The State of Minnesota does have what is called *TeleCommuter Forward! Certification*. This is something that with the increased capacity of service providers on the water tower will enable the City of Cannon Falls to apply for this certification. By committing to being *Telecommuter*

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Forward! these communities are improving the quality of life in Minnesota and encouraging economic vitality and could open up the city to further broadband grant funding.

Project Schedule

4.19 Provide the proposed project schedule which must reflect all key planning, procurement, construction, installation, testing, and service activation milestones.

Name of Applicant: City of Cannon Falls		
Name of Project: Cannon Falls Broadband Communication Ring Expansion		
Overall Timeline for Project: <i>*Estimated start/completed dates may change</i>	Start Date: (month/year) April 2022	Complete: (month/year) July 2022
Individual Milestones for Project: Include all planning, procurement, construction, installation, testing and customer turn-up activities	Est. Start Date (month/year)	Est. Complete Date (month/year)
Relocate the current communication equipment	April 2022	
<i>Sandblasting, repairing and repainting water tower</i>	<i>May 2022</i>	
<i>Installation of railing</i>	<i>June 2022</i>	
<i>Reinstallation of communication equipment</i>	<i>July 2022</i>	<i>August 2022</i>

Project Financials

4.20 Provide a five year stand-alone financial plan for the proposed project, including a description of how the costs and anticipated revenue will result in the financial viability of the project over time. N/A

4.21 Describe why the proposed project would not be feasible without the award of the requested broadband funds. The project would have to be funded completely by the City of Cannon Falls and whatever funds the participating townships would be willing to contribute if the County does not grant the request for funding. Goodhue County Emergency Communication equipment has resided on the Cannon Falls water tower for many years free of charge. In order to allow for expanded broadband coverage to benefit the residents of the surrounding Cannon Falls area, it seems feasible that the County would allocate funds from the Goodhue County Broadband Partnership Program to aid in reinforcing and expanding the ring to accommodate all of the necessary services for its residents in this part of the county.

4.22 Is the Applicant leveraging all funding sources that may apply to the proposed project area? The City of Cannon Falls has leveraged the townships in the school district that would benefit the most from the expansion of fixed wi-fi broadband providers added to the water tower ring. There are six townships that are covered by our school district and they have been contacted by the County Commissioner Brad Anderson to consider participating in a match for this program. They can not be coerced, but the value of adding additional broadband providers has been explained to each of them so they can bring it to their boards for discussion and vote.

Part V – Project Sustainability Instructions

5.1 Provide technical expertise statement

N/A

5.2 Provide organizational support evidence

N/A

5.3 Provide audited financial statements

N/A

Part VI – Payment Information

6.1 State of Minnesota Vendor Number: 0000201404

- **Financial Contact:** Sara Peer, City Clerk, 918 River Rd, Cannon Falls, MN 55009, 507-263-9314
speer@cannonfallsmn.gov

6.2 Tax Identification Numbers

- **State of Minnesota Tax Identification Number** 00-8021053
- **Federal Employer Identification Number** 41-6005032

Part VII – Economic Development and Community Impact

7.1 Provide a listing of businesses in the proposed project area that will benefit from the broadband project.

Even though a majority of the reach of the fixed wireless customers would be outside of the city limits, there are many business people that work remotely and manage a business from their home these days than ever before. The pandemic has people continuing to work remotely and some may never go back into an office setting again, so even though it may not be a business owner working remotely outside of Cannon Falls, that does not mean that there is not a lot of business conducted remotely in the rural areas of the Cannon River area.

7.2 Provide a listing of farms and agricultural use customers in the proposed project area that will benefit from the broadband project. The list would be too long as to the number of farms and ag customers that utilize internet. These days, most of the precision planting, drones and other ag related services all use broadband for mapping, planting, fertilizing and harvesting.

7.3 Provide a listing of community institutions that will benefit from the broadband project. There are a significant amount of churches and non profit organizations that have added a streaming option to the services they provide due to the past year. Many now offer church services or virtual coffee chats so people can remain connected but still safe in their home.

7.4 Provide a listing of any educational locations that will benefit from the broadband project. The Cannon Falls School District #252 and its students and faculty will be huge benefactors of this project. Cannon Falls does not have a higher education institution physically within it’s borders, however there are many college students studying remotely earning their undergraduate degree as well as many grad students working on their Master’s Degree from home. Learning occurs everywhere these days.

7.5 Provide specific evidence of how health and public safety locations will benefit from the broadband project. Telehealth is another industry that has seen a significant increase in the use of technology over the past 24 months. There are many clinics that offered virtual visits with patients and even mental health and addiction counselors were only offering virtual appointments for patients. Cannon Falls is fortunate to have the Mayo Clinic Health System in its community and the technology to support pivoting to this platform for its patients without missing a beat during the pandemic. This has now become part of their model and those that are home bound have become accustomed to ‘tuning in’ to meet with their doctor instead of having to line up a ride to get to the clinic instead. Having the capability to have access to quality internet is key for this platform to be successful.

7.6 Is the proposed project providing broadband improvements to an economically distressed area? This project will provide additional providers that each offer different service options that should suit the price and speeds at an affordable rate of their choice.

Part VIII – Broadband Adoption Assistance

8.1 Broadband Adoption Activities Planned for Project

Once the upgraded equipment and new tenants are installed/reinstalled on the tower ring, the City will be sure to have the local newspaper do an article about the added providers offering fixed wi-fi to the region as well as promoting in on our social platform and website. It will also be a great marketing opportunity for each of the providers to include in their promotions and marketing collateral platforms.

8.2 Broadband Technical Support or Training Associated with Project

The City will not offer any type of technical support or training with this project.

8.3 Low-income Broadband Assistance Program

The City will not offer any type of low-income assistance programs with this project.

Part IX – Applicant Affidavit

9.1 The primary Applicant must provide a signed, dated, and witnessed affidavit or resolution that shows official Applicant support for and approval of the application as well as a commitment to provide the Applicant’s matching funding. INSERT SIGNED RESOLUTION HERE LABELLED AS Appendix 9.1

Part X – Pre-Application Outreach Requirement

10.1 The Applicant must provide copies of all emails sent out and all emails received in response to this required outreach as part of the application.

Please INSERT ITEM marked as Appendix 10.1

10.2 The Applicant must summarize all the responses to its email distribution for this item, the information in the application must include that identified in the following example:

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Provider Name	Will upgrade	No plans to upgrade	No response received
<i>List all providers:</i>			
<i>HBC</i>	New to the tower		
<i>Southeast MN WiFi</i>	New to the tower		
<i>LTD Broadband</i>	New to the tower		
<i>Verizon</i>			X
<i>Northfield WiFi</i>	X		
<i>Nuvera</i>			X
<i>MN WIFI</i>			X

3.0 SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

Filing Review

Completed applications and all required supporting documentation must be received by Goodhue County on or prior to January 3, 2022 to be deemed eligible for the initial review.

Submittal Address

- Submit the complete application package at any time during the application period
- Package must include one printed hardcopy and one electronic copy on a USB drive
- Applications that arrive after all available funds have been dedicated will not be accepted
- Applications may be delivered by mail or courier service to:

Goodhue County
Attn: Broadband Grant Applications
509 W 5th Street
Red Wing, MN 55066

- Email submission is acceptable if the entire package, including attachments, is less than 5MB, and may be addressed to:

gcbgrants@co.goodhue.mn.us

Submittal Confirmation

If mailing or sending by courier, please email gcbgrants@co.goodhue.mn.us to confirm that each complete application package has been mailed or delivered for receipt on or before January 3, 2022.

Questions?

Email gcbgrants@co.goodhue.mn.us

4.0 APPLICATION SELECTION AND AWARD PROCESS

Introduction to Scoring and Award Process

Goodhue County will award partnerships to projects that demonstrate the highest return in public benefits for the public costs incurred and that meet all of the statutory requirements. To evaluate the applications for public benefits with respect to the costs incurred, the law specifies certain priorities that Goodhue County must consider.

To fulfill this requirement of reviewing applications in an objective and fair manner, applications will be reviewed and evaluated by a team composed by Goodhue County. This team will use the following criteria and associated point values to assist in systematically scoring and awarding funds. These criteria reflect information provided in response to this application’s questions. To ensure that your application receives the best possible score, please be sure to provide complete and comprehensive responses to all information requested in the application.

Selection Criteria and Partnership Scoring Categories

- 110 points possible w/out secondary funding source
 - 120 points possible w/secondary funding source
-

Anticipated Broadband Improvements: 0 to 20 points possible

Unserved or underserved total passings potentially served by project:

- Anticipated improvements in broadband speed offerings from pre-existing broadband service levels to proposed service levels – project must reach or exceed state speed goals (speed now vs. speed after)
- Number of total passings potentially served (# of passings)
 - Total passings include households, businesses, farms, and community anchor institutions
- Highest scores are awarded for largest broadband speed improvements
- If project includes both unserved and underserved passings, each will be scored separately, and the resultant scores averaged

Anticipated Broadband Improvements Scoring Table

# of Passings	Speed Now:	0/0	≤10/1	0/0	≤10/1	25/3	0/0	≤25/3	<100/20
	Speed After Build:	25/3	25/3	100/20	100/20	100/20	1G/1G	1G/1G	1G/1G
0-50	Points Awarded:	14	10	16	14	12	18	15	13
51-499		15	11	17	15	13	19	16	14
500+		16	12	18	16	14	20	17	15

Community Participation: 0 to 15 points possible

Additional scoring points will be awarded for the following:

- Verified financial commitment to the project from any qualified community partner(s)

[Community partner may be any public, non-profit, or philanthropic entity – this would include a township, city, tribal entity, or community coalition]

- Projects that propose to serve or partially serve federally recognized tribal lands, and the associated tribal entity has provided application documentation of project support
- Project applications that provide substantive evidence of community support for the project

Project Readiness: 0 to 25 points possible

Applicant has concretely demonstrated a comprehensive knowledge of – and detailed preparation for – the proposed project. Applicant has provided evidence of being fully prepared to build, implement, and operate the project:

- All budget material is provided in detailed, yet clearly understandable manner, sources and uses of funds is realistic, all project eligible elements are included, all funding partners are secured
- Other broadband infrastructure requirements are included – certified engineering design and diagrams, documentation of scalable equipment, and all preconstruction requirements are identified and included in the project schedule
- Project implementation requirements are provided – proposed speed tiers and service pricing, 5 year service commitment, and proposed marketing strategies
- Complete project schedule and financial requirements are provided

Project Sustainability: 0 to 25 points possible

Applicant has demonstrated strong internal capacity to effectively support and sustain its broadband infrastructure proposal:

- Demonstration of technical expertise – specific prior experience in providing broadband services
- Organizational support evidence provided – extent of organization and how organizational strength will sustain broadband service delivery and maintenance
- Financial statements provided – most current year’s audited financial statements, and supporting documentation where applicable, to demonstrate overall financial viability

Economic Development & Community Impact Review: 0 to 15 points possible

Applicant has demonstrated the economic development and community enhancement potential of the proposed project:

- Applicant has identified businesses, farms and agricultural use customers, community anchor institutions, and educational facilities in the proposed project area
- For businesses, farms and agricultural use customers, Applicant has identified how improved broadband speeds and coverage will enable the project area to become and/or remain competitively viable
- For community anchor institutions, Applicant has identified how improved broadband deployment will be incorporated into specific community programs
- For educational locations, Applicant has identified the proposed impact on e-learning
- For health and public safety locations, Applicant has identified the proposed impact on

telemedicine

- If project area in an economically distressed area, Application has demonstrated that the proposed project area has unemployment, poverty or population loss levels significantly greater than statewide average (Application may reference median household income or percent of students eligible for free or reduced school lunches for proposed project area)

Broadband Adoption Assistance: 0 to 10 points possible

Additional scoring points will be awarded for the following:

- Are broadband adoption activities planned for project?
- Will technical support or training on broadband be offered?
- Is there – or will there be – a low-income broadband assistance program offering?

**To be used only if the application provides a secondary funding source*

Partnership Funding Request Amount: 0 to 10 points possible

Percent of partnership request compared to total eligible project costs:

- Applicant matching funds of 55% or more will result in a higher application score for this category
- Any funding partner contributions are included in Applicant matching funds for points

Partnership Funding Request Amount Scoring Table

Percent of eligible project costs requested	Points
30% or less	10
31 to 35%	8
36 to 40%	5
41 to 45%	3
46 to 50%	0



Independent School District No. 252
Cannon Falls Area Schools
820 E. Minnesota Street
Cannon Falls, MN 55009

APPENDIX 3.5

Jeff Sampson, Superintendent of Schools
sampson.jeff@cf.k12.mn.us

Phone (507) 263-6800 * Fax (507) 263-2515

November 29, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the City of Cannon Falls grant application for our water tower project that will include internet capabilities. Educating children in today's digital age requires reliable internet services at home for children. The internet portion is vital to help reach our families in the bluff area portion of our school district. Roughly half of our district encompasses this area.

If you wish to have further information or wish to follow up with any questions, please feel free to email me at sampson.jeff@cf.k12.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Jeff Sampson, Superintendent
Cannon Falls Area Schools

December 9, 2021

Goodhue County:

I write in support of the application by the City of Cannon Falls to allocate Broadband Partnership Program funds to enhance wireless broadband capacity on the Cannon Falls water tower. I live in Vasa Township, and while private industry has received some public funding to expand fiber networks in our area, some of us are stuck at the “end of the line” where it still may not make economic sense for companies to invest in burying cable along miles of corn fields just for one or two potential customers.

My nearest neighbor and I work from home, but are disadvantaged when our tasks require more bandwidth than our trusty old copper phone wires can handle. The last two years have accelerated the migration of the workforce from dedicated offices to the home. This disruption brings opportunity for small cities and rural areas, as white collar workers can now consider residing away from urban areas. However, areas without up-to-date broadband infrastructure will not be able to compete.

My property is divided between the Cannon Falls and Red Wing school districts. My daughter entered the school system this year. However, school is no longer limited to brick walls and paper take-home assignments. Again, the pandemic has shown us how productive and resilient our education system can be in the age of the internet. But while families with students within city limits tend to have state-of-the-art broadband options, there are huge drop-offs in rural areas of the county. As nostalgic as I am for the true snow days I once enjoyed as a kid, I also want my country girl to have the same opportunity to keep up and succeed in school as her peers.

I have engaged with all of the current fixed wireless offerings in my area. Vasa sits just below a hill crest from the east, and thus a preferred provider offering relatively fast speeds based from Red Wing does not quite have enough signal. Another provider specializing in rural areas has a somewhat reliable connection, but the speeds are no improvement over DSL. A third, coming from the west, is just barely out of range, but the speeds would not be great anyway. I have no doubt if Cannon Falls were able to provide water tower access to a reliable provider my prospects would be much improved.

Thank you for your consideration. I am grateful to Goodhue County for recognizing the vital role broadband increasingly plays in all aspects of our economy and daily life, and for allocating resources to address broadband access inequity. If I can be of any additional assistance, please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

Mike Gesme
30505 148th Avenue Way
Welch, MN 55089
507-298-0147

April 29, 2021

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$4,280,000 in community project funding for the Goodhue County Broadband Expansion project in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is Goodhue County, 509 W 5th St, Red Wing, MN 55066.

Funding would allow Goodhue County to build out broadband to rural areas that continue to be unserved or underserved due to geography, remoteness, low population density, or other factors that have slowed the availability of fiber or that prevent easy access to fixed wireless antennae. Completion of these fiber-based projects would provide highspeed Internet to more than 500 homes and more than 1,100 individuals, as well as many farms and businesses. The Fixed Wireless portion of the project could potentially provide increased bandwidth to nearly 800 homes, 1,800 individuals, more than 1,300 farms and agricultural parcels, and as many as 60 schools, churches, public safety, and other municipal/public service locations.

The project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because expanding affordable, high-capacity broadband to Americans living in rural areas is essential in the 21st Century. This project would provide the essential connection to employment, educational opportunities, accessible healthcare, public safety, retail and commerce in rural Goodhue County.

In accordance with House Rules, I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Angie Craig
Member of Congress

FW: Letter of Support Request - Cannon Falls Water Tower Ring to Enable Internet Transmission

2 messages

Wed, Nov 17, 2021 at 11:53 AM

APPENDIX 3.5

From: Isakson, Greg <greg.isakson@co.goodhue.mn.us>
Sent: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 11:42 AM
To: Neil Jensen <njensen@cannonfallsmn.gov>
Subject: FW: Letter of Support Request - Cannon Falls Water Tower Ring to Enable Internet Transmission

Neil, we sent the following email to our Park Board. 7 of the 9 members of the Park Board responded. All 7 support Cannon Falls request for funding to replace the ring on your tower with a larger ring to allow internet providers to add an antenna and provide service to the park so we can remotely view security cameras and operate doors at the new pavilion.

From: Ziemer, Jennifer <jennifer.ziemer@co.goodhue.mn.us>
Sent: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 11:06 AM
To: Barbara Pratt <batbar18@hotmail.com>; Bernie Overby-Kenyon Twp <bernieoverby@gmail.com>; Anderson, Brad <brad.anderson@co.goodhue.mn.us>; Janie Farrar <janiefarrar@msn.com>; Mairi Doerr <doerrmairi@gmail.com>; Mike Melstad <mikemelstad@outlook.com>; Roxanne Bartsh <rbartsh@gmail.com>; Scott Roepke <trailmanager@cannonvalleytrail.com>; Greseth, Todd <todd.greseth@co.goodhue.mn.us>
Cc: Isakson, Greg <greg.isakson@co.goodhue.mn.us>
Subject: Letter of Support Request - Cannon Falls Water Tower Ring to Enable Internet Transmission

Goodhue County Park Board Members,

As you know, we are finalizing the design of the Pavilion at Byllesby Park.

That design includes security cameras and doors that we can open and close remotely.

We need to be able to communicate with those cameras and doors from Red Wing and that requires internet service of some sort. There is no fiber optic out there today and it would be expensive to dig in a line. The other option is to relay this service from an antenna. An internet provider, such as HBC, could provide this service if they can attach an antenna to Cannon Falls water tower.

The County has received Federal COVID Relief funds and supporting the expansion of internet is an eligible project for those funds.

The City of Cannon Falls has requested funding from the County to replace an antenna ring on their water tower that they are painting next year with a larger ring to accommodate additional internet providers' antennas.

Besides the park, internet service from an antenna on the water tower will reach other 'out of town' sites and thus allow internet expansion to other parties besides just the park.

I am requesting that you, as a Park Board member, support this request from Cannon Falls for funding to replace the ring on their tower with a large ring, so they can allow internet providers to add an antenna and provide service to the park so we can remotely view security cameras and operate doors at the new pavilion.

If the majority of you Park Board members support Cannon Falls' request, then I will forward this email to their Administrator with a record of how you as a group responded. I am hoping for unanimous support.

Thank you,

Greg Isakson

Public Works Director/County Engineer

Goodhue County Public Works

2140 Pioneer Rd

Red Wing, MN 55066

651-385-3025

NOTICE: This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are intended only for the use and viewing of the individual or entity to which they are addressed. If you are not the intended recipient, please immediately notify the sender of the transmission error and then promptly delete this message from your computer system. Please be advised that e-mail correspondence to and from Goodhue County may be public data subject to the Minnesota Data Practices Act and may be disclosed to third parties.

Rosie Schluter <mailrosie@me.com>
To: Laura Qualey <laura.qualey@cedausa.com>

Mon, Dec 6, 2021 at 1:32 PM

APPENDIX 3.5

To: Laura Qualey

We need help in Stanton Township.

Internet availability, particularly in the southwest section of Stanton township next to the city of Cannon Falls, is very limited. I personally have tried Frontier, Verizon and T-Mobile with seriously limited results.

Years ago, President Franklin Roosevelt created the Rural Electrification Act to force electric companies to run lines out into the country so all Americans could have electricity. Isn't internet the 21st Century equivalent?

Simply providing an extended signal on the local water tower is pretty "low text" and may just result in the area being more of a "back water town". Is there any money available in the recent infrastructure bill for such projects? Or other programs that would help us in this situation.

We want to remain in our homes and still be able to handle present circumstances in a productive manner. Thank you for your consideration.

Rosie Schluter and friends from Stanton Township

Goodhue County Broadband Partnership Program

APPENDIX 10.1

Good afternoon!

Tue, Dec 7, 2021 at 8:46 PM

I am in the process of applying for the Goodhue County Broadband Partnership Program Grant with the intent of seeking funding toward our water tower reconditioning project and also expanding the communication ring atop the tower. If you could please respond back to me with the info below ASAP, I would greatly appreciate it. I realize that you may or may not currently have a tenant lease agreement with the City of Cannon Falls, however, part of the process is to show the area providers and the coverage they can/could provide to the area. If you currently have a lease agreement with the City of Cannon Falls, you most likely have been notified that our project will be taking place in the Spring of 2022 so this also gives you an opportunity to upgrade any equipment that you may have at this time as well. I have included a map of our school district area which will be a significant piece of our application narrative.

Our application deadline is due January 3rd, so the window is closing in on us and the application is quite extensive.

Information on current broadband coverage:

- We do not currently provide broadband service in the area associated with this project.
- We do provide broadband service in all or a portion of the area associated with this project at speeds of ___Mbps download and ___ Mbps upload. Our records show approximately ___ locations in the proposed project area where we serve. (If only a portion of the project area is served, please provide a map showing where you currently serve.)

Information on planned improvements to broadband coverage:

- We have no plans to improve the broadband service in the area included in the proposed project to speeds that meet or exceed our speed goals prior to August 2022.

- We do have plans to improve the broadband service in the project area by August 2022. **We are not current tenants on the Cannon Falls tower but hope to be with a lease agreement in 2022.**

The broadband service speeds that will be provided after that date will be at speeds of 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload. (If the speeds that will be offered vary across the project area, please provide a map showing which speeds will be available in which locations.)

Name and contact information for person completing this form:

Name: Nick Jablonske
Title: Southeast MN Wifi, LLC, Owner
Address: 314 Vermillion Street, Hastings, Minnesota 55033
Phone: 651-237-4100
Email: nick@semnwifi.com



Laura Qualey
Community & Business Development Specialist
Community and Economic Development
Associates

m: 651-329-5116
e: laura.qualey@cedausa.com
w: www.cedausa.com

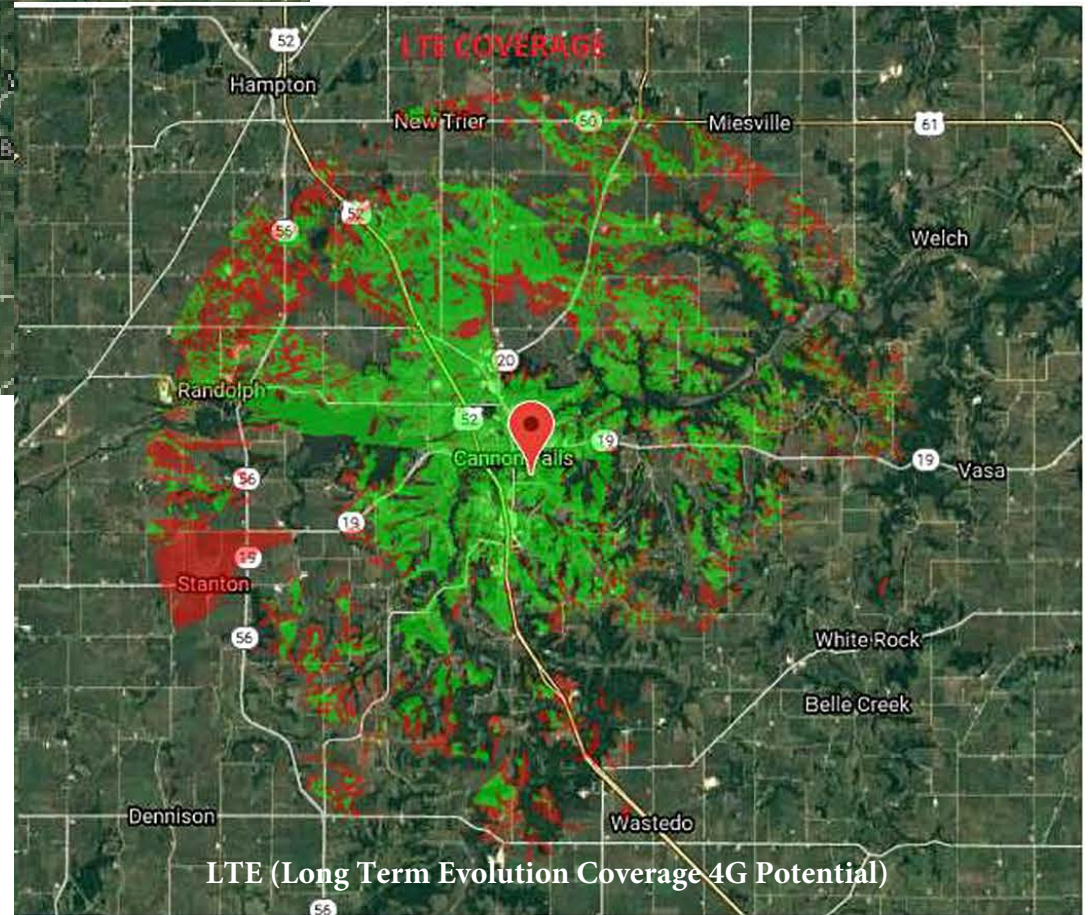
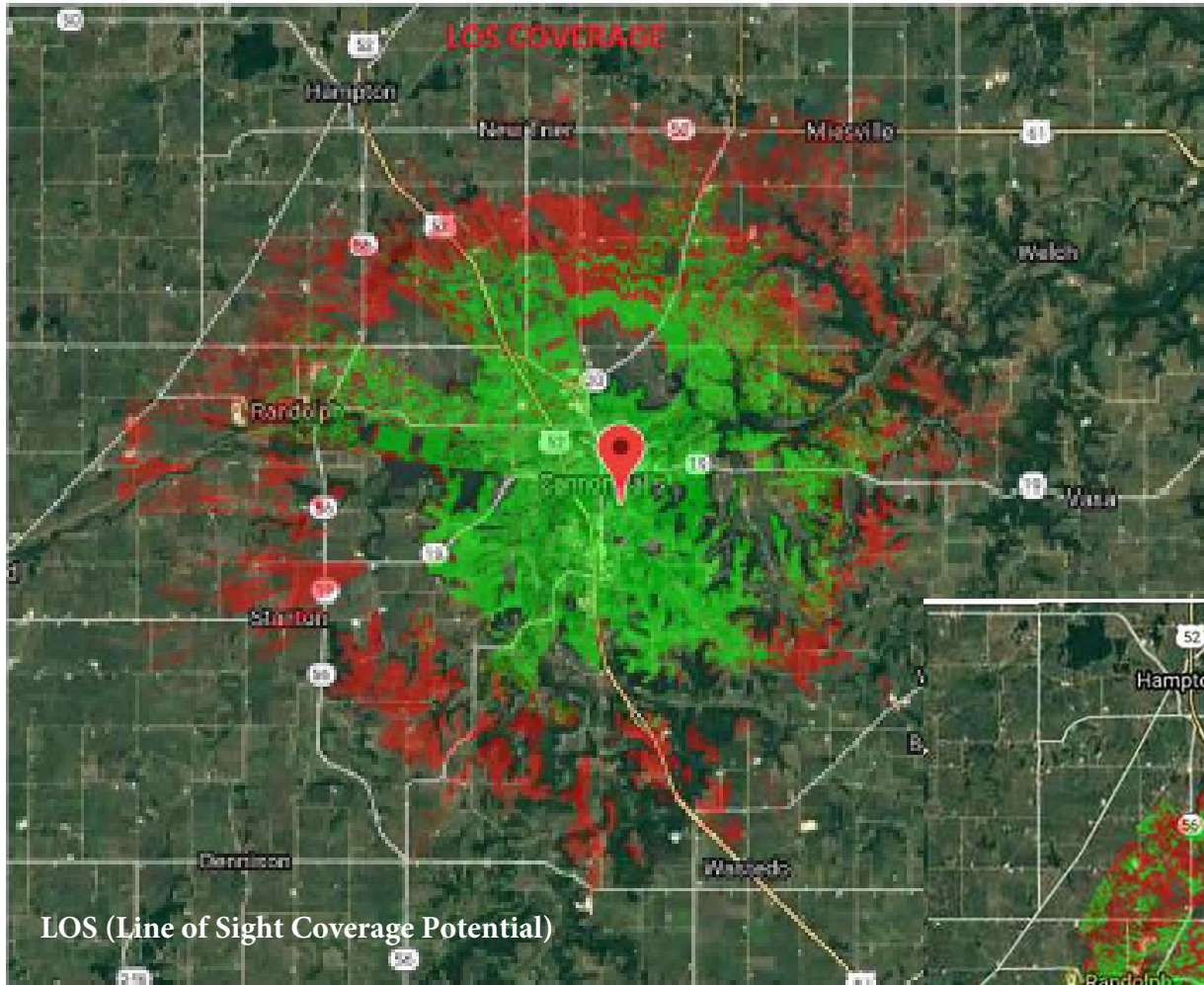
Serving [Cannon Falls, MN](#), [Mantorville, MN](#) and
[Dodge County](#)

Evening Laura,

See attached a couple of propagation maps for the different systems we use.

Background info, one of the maps is for an LTE system, the other is for LOS (line of sight) equipment.

The LOS equipment provides 119 mi² coverage for a popula on of 6553.
The LTE equipment provides 244 mi² coverage for a popula on of 8707.



Broadband Coverage for Cannon Falls

APPENDIX 10.1

Wed, Dec 15, 2021 at 1:11 PM

Good afternoon!

I am in the process of applying for the Goodhue County Broadband Partnership Program Grant with the intent of seeking funding toward our water tower reconditioning project and also expanding the communication ring atop the tower. If you could please respond back to me with the info below ASAP, I would greatly appreciate it. I realize that you may or may not currently have a tenant lease agreement with the City of Cannon Falls, however, part of the process is to show the area providers and the coverage they can/could provide to the area. If you currently have a lease agreement with the City of Cannon Falls, you most likely have been notified that our project will be taking place in the Spring of 2022 so this also gives you an opportunity to upgrade any equipment that you may have at this time as well. I have included a map of our school district area which will be a significant piece of our application narrative.

Our application deadline is due January 3rd, so the window is closing in on us and the application is quite extensive.

Information on current broadband coverage:

- We do not currently provide broadband service in the area associated with this project.

We do provide broadband service in all or a portion of the area associated with this project at speeds of ___Mbps download and ___ Mbps upload. Our records show approximately _5_ locations in the proposed project area where we serve. (If only a portion of the project area is served, please provide a map showing where you currently serve.)

Information on planned improvements to broadband coverage:

- We have no plans to improve the broadband service in the area included in the proposed project to speeds that meet or exceed our speed goals prior to August 2022.

- We do have plans to improve the broadband service in the project area by August 2022 . **__35__Mbps download**

The broadband service speeds that will be provided after that date will be at speeds of **__35 Mbps upload**. (If the speeds that will be offered vary across the project area, please provide a map showing which speeds will be available in which locations.)

Name and contact information for person completing this form:

Name: **Rebecca Shields**

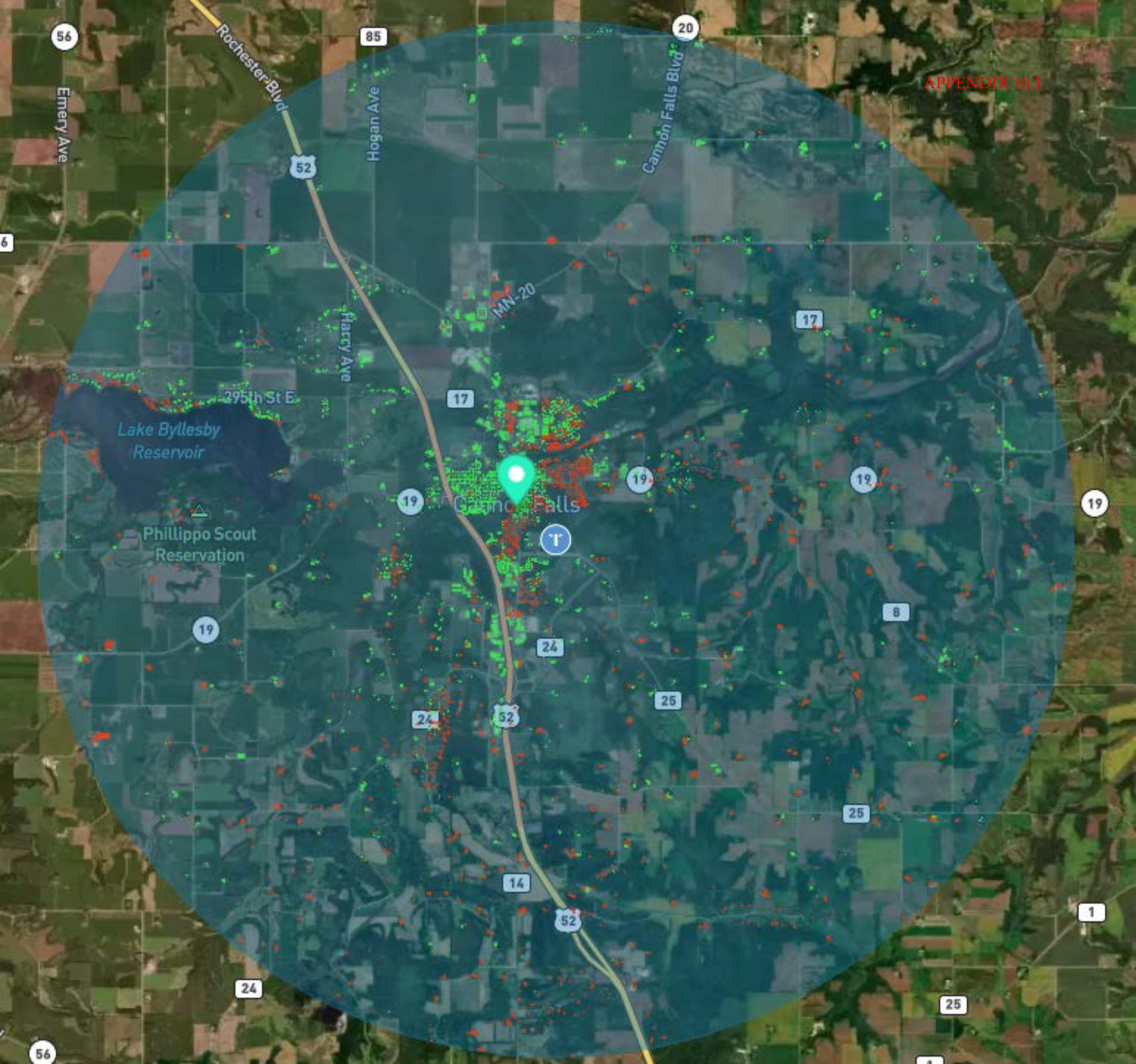
Title: **Connection Specialist**

Address: **310 W 7th St building 2, Albert Lea, MN 56007**

Phone: **507-410-0446**

Email: **rebeccashields@ltdbroadband.com**

Thank you for your time and prompt response! Having the ability to better serve our surrounding area will make the Cannon Falls area a better place to live, learn and work.



Broadband Coverage for Cannon Falls

APPENDIX 10.1

Thu, Dec 2, 2021 at 3:09 PM

Good afternoon!

I am in the process of applying for the Goodhue County Broadband Partnership Program Grant with the intent of seeking funding toward our water tower reconditioning project and also expanding the communication ring atop the tower. If you could please respond back to me with the info below ASAP, I would greatly appreciate it. I realize that you may or may not currently have a tenant lease agreement with the City of Cannon Falls, however, part of the process is to show the area providers and the coverage they can/could provide to the area. If you currently have a lease agreement with the City of Cannon Falls, you most likely have been notified that our project will be taking place in the Spring of 2022 so this also gives you an opportunity to upgrade any equipment that you may have at this time as well. I have included a map of our school district area which will be a significant piece of our application narrative. **Our application deadline is due January 3rd**, so the window is closing in on us and the application is quite extensive.

Information on current broadband coverage:

We do not currently provide broadband service in the area associated with this project.

We do provide fiber-optic broadband service in all or a portion of the area associated with this project at speeds of 1,000 Mbps (1 Gbps) download and 1,000 Mbps (1 Gbps) upload. Our records show approximately 1,600 locations in the proposed project area where we serve. (If only a portion of the project area is served, please provide a map showing where you currently serve.) **These locations are within the city limits of Cannon Falls and in the Castle Rock area.**

We also provide fixed wireless broadband service in all or a portion of the area associated with this project at speeds of 60 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload. Our records show approximately 1,000 locations in the proposed project area where we serve. (If only a portion of the project area is served, please provide a map showing where you currently serve.)

These locations are throughout the project area with small gaps in coverage due to geographical challenges that cause line of site issues. (If we are given access to the Cannon Falls tower, we will eliminate many of the service gaps.)

Information on planned improvements to broadband coverage:

We have no plans to improve the broadband service in the area included in the proposed project to speeds that meet or exceed our speed goals prior to August 2022.

We do have plans to improve the broadband service in the project area by August 2022.

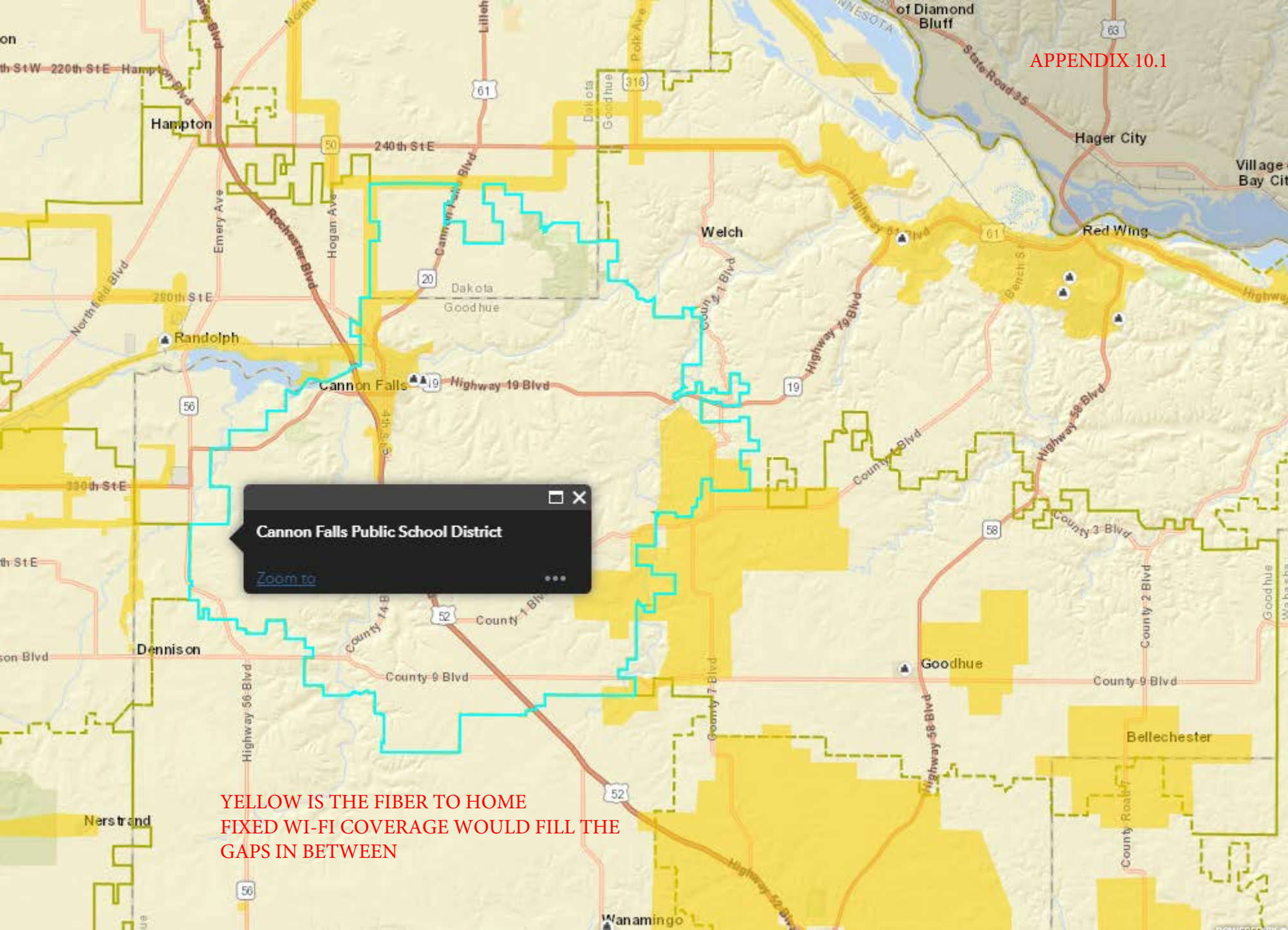
The fiber-optic broadband service speeds that will be provided after that date will be at speeds of 10 Gbps download and 10 Gbps upload. (If the speeds that will be offered vary across the project area, please provide a map showing which speeds will be available in which locations.)

The fixed wireless broadband service speeds that will be provided after that date will be at speeds of 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload. (If the speeds that will be offered vary across the project area, please provide a map showing which speeds will be available in which locations.)

Name and contact information for person completing this form:

Name: **Dan Pecarina**Title: **President**Company: **HBC (Hiawatha Broadband Communications)**Address: **58 Johnson St, Winona Mn 55987**Phone: **507-474-5805**Email: **dpecarina@hbc.com****Laura Qualey***Community & Business Development Specialist***Community and Economic Development
Associates**laura.qualey@cedausa.comwww.cedausa.com

m: 651-329-5116



YELLOW IS THE FIBER TO HOME
FIXED WI-FI COVERAGE WOULD FILL THE
GAPS IN BETWEEN

Broadband Coverage for Cannon Falls

APPENDIX 10.1

Thu, Dec 2, 2021 at 1:19 PM

Good afternoon!

I am in the process of applying for the Goodhue County Broadband Partnership Program Grant with the intent of seeking funding toward our water tower reconditioning project and also expanding the communication ring atop the tower. If you could please respond back to me with the info below ASAP, I would greatly appreciate it. I realize that you may or may not currently have a tenant lease agreement with the City of Cannon Falls, however, part of the process is to show the area providers and the coverage they can/could provide to the area. If you currently have a lease agreement with the City of Cannon Falls, you most likely have been notified that our project will be taking place in the Spring of 2022 so this also gives you an opportunity to upgrade any equipment that you may have at this time as well. I have included a map of our school district area which will be a significant piece of our application narrative.

Our application deadline is due January 3rd, so the window is closing in on us and the application is quite extensive.

Information on current broadband coverage:

We do not currently provide broadband service in the area associated with this project.

We do provide broadband service in all or a portion of the area associated with this project at speeds of **500Mbps download and 500Mbps upload**. Our records show approximately 5 locations in the proposed project area where we serve. (If only a portion of the project area is served, please provide a map showing where you currently serve.)

Information on planned improvements to broadband coverage:

We have no plans to improve the broadband service in the area included in the proposed project to speeds that meet or exceed our speed goals prior to August 2022.

We do have plans to improve the broadband service in the project area by August 2022

The broadband service speeds that will be provided after that date will be at speeds of **1900Mbps download and 1900Mbps upload**. (If the speeds that will be offered vary across the project area, please provide a map showing which speeds will be available in which locations.)

Name and contact information for person completing this form:

Name: **Nathaniel B. Lyon**
Title: **President and Founder**
Address: **1403 Heritage Drive Suite A, Northfield MN 55057**
Phone: **(507) 403-9767**
Email: **nate.lyon@nfldwifi.net**
--

Thank you for your time and prompt response! Having the ability to better serve our surrounding area will make the Cannon Falls area a better place to live, learn and work.

[END OF APPLICATION PACKAGE]



Laura Qualey <laura.qualey@cedausa.com>

Township participation in broadband project

Debra Hendrickson <DHendrickson@nwasphalt.net>
To: Laura Qualey <laura.qualey@cedausa.com>

Thu, Dec 9, 2021 at 2:50 PM

Hi Laura

We met last night and the township has decided at this point they would not contribute. If it were next year closer to the end of the time to use that money we might have a better feel but right now we have a number of things were tossing around to use it ourselves. Sorry

Deb hendrickson

Cannon falls township

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Laura Qualey <laura.qualey@cedausa.com>

[Quoted text hidden]



Laura Qualey <laura.qualey@cedausa.com>

Township participation in broadband project

James <jshedeem@sleepyeyetel.net>
To: Laura Qualey <laura.qualey@cedausa.com>

Wed, Dec 15, 2021 at 10:30 AM

Laura

At it's December 24th meeting the Vasa Township Board of Supervisors passed a motion to contribute \$5,000.00 of its ARPA funds to the City of Cannon Falls to help pay for a new support ring to be added to the city water tower for the purpose of adding Broad Band antennas which would add needed coverage to part of Vasa Township.

Jim Hedeem

Vasa Township Clerk

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

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Hi Jeremy,

[Quoted text hidden]

**CITY OF CANNON FALLS
GOODHUE COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2600

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE
GOODHUE COUNTY BROADBAND PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Cannon Falls act as the legal sponsor for the Broadband Communication Ring Expansion project contained in the Goodhue County Broadband Partnership Program to be submitted on January 3, 2022 and that the City Administrator is hereby authorized to apply to Goodhue County for funding of this project on behalf of the City of Cannon Falls.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Cannon Falls has the legal authority to apply for financial assistance, and the institutional, managerial, and financial capability to ensure adequate project administration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the sources and amounts of the local match identified in the application are committed to the project identified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Cannon Falls has not violated any Federal, State or local laws pertaining to fraud, bribery, graft, kickbacks, collusion, conflict of interest or other unlawful or corrupt practice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of its application by the County, the City of Cannon Falls may enter into an agreement with the County of Goodhue for the above referenced project(s), and that the City of Cannon Falls certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulation as stated in all contract agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the undersigned is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the project on behalf of the applicant.

**ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CANNON FALLS ON THIS 21ST DAY OF
DECEMBER, 2021.**

SIGNED:

John O. Althoff, Mayor

ATTEST:

Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator