



**Lancaster County Broadband Authority**  
**Report to the Board of Supervisors**  
**November 19, 2020**

Complete minutes of the Broadband Authority's meetings are available online at [www.lancova-broadband.org](http://www.lancova-broadband.org), but this report will update you on important items that are in process.

1. The County's auditors gave the Authority a clean bill of health for fiscal year 2020. They made a management recommendation to note payments in the minutes and to facilitate payment tracking by connecting invoices to the actual payment documentation. For us to do that it would be helpful to have all the payment processes in one place. If it is acceptable to the Board, we ask that the County advance us our appropriated funds on a quarterly or semi-annual basis. We will deposit them in our business account and keep invoices and payment documentation together as suggested by the audit team.
2. Mark McKercher provided in kind support to the Board of Supervisors to prepare the CARES Act grant proposal and to provide information for the Board to make a decision on the scope of the project. That grant has been approved and, with assistance from Jim Cornwell, procurement actions are now underway. The Invitation to Bid closed on November 13, and vendor selection will take place as soon as possible. The grant will fund mounting a broadcast array on the existing privately-owned tower and purchasing 300 in home installation kits to be distributed on terms directed by the Board.
3. With approval of the Department of Housing and Community Development, 67 homes that lie within the CARES Act service area, but would also be served by the VATI grant will not be disqualified for VATI.
4. We are monitoring how the service provided by the CARES Act project might impact future RUS ReConnect Applications. At this time, our previous \$23 million application for RUS is still under active consideration.
5. The Authority is also pursuing an opportunity for a Community Connect grant. This is another Department of Agriculture grant program which funds community centers where computers can be placed for public use. Grant awards under this program are capped at \$3 million. We are exploring routes and options to use funds from this program to begin some work along Route 354. Applications for this program are due December 23.
6. We are pleased to recommend the appointment of Cherie Kiser to join the Authority. Cherie has a telecommunications background and responded to our invitation to apply in the Rappahannock

Record. If appointed, she will begin a 2-year term on January 1, 2021 and replace Margie Armen, whose term will end December 31. In addition to Cherie, one other Authority member will officially complete an initial Director's term. With the Board's approval, that person (either Mark McKercher or Michele Craddock) will then be reappointed to begin a fresh 2-year term. Going forward, all Directors will serve 2-year terms, and a staggered term schedule will be in place.