



Board of Supervisors

1800 Sandy Hook Road
Goochland, VA 23063

Meeting: 05/03/22 02:00 PM
Department: County Administration
Category: Presentation
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**SCHEDULED
INFORMATION ITEM**

(ID # 5367)

**FIREFLY FIBER BROADBAND REGIONAL INTERNET SERVICE
EXPANSION (RISE) PROJECT PRESENTATION AND UPDATE**

Strat Goal 1	Efficient, effective, and transparent government; emphasis on customer service excellence	
Strat Goal 2	Balanced development that contributes to the welfare of the community and preserves its rural character	
Strat Goal 3	Excellence in Financial Management	X
Strat Goal 4	High Quality Core Services including Education, Public Safety, and Community Health	X
Strat Goal 5	Positive Work Environment with a Highly Qualified, Diverse Workforce	

Board Action Requested

No Board action is requested, for information only. The Board will receive a presentation and information update from Firefly Fiber BroadbandSM regarding their Regional Internet Service Expansion (RISE) project and including their 2022 Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) and their USDA ReConnect broadband grants.

Summary of Information

Goochland County, Central Virginia Electric Cooperative (CVEC), and Firefly Fiber BroadbandSM, a wholly-owned subsidiary of CVEC, have collaborated and partnered on broadband expansion efforts both within and outside of CVEC’s service territory since September 2019. This includes pursuing federal and state broadband grants in 2020 and 2021.

Dominion Energy Virginia, Firefly Fiber BroadbandSM, a wholly-owned subsidiary of CVEC, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC) and the Counties of Albemarle, Appomattox, Buckingham, Cumberland, Fluvanna, Goochland, Greene, Louisa, and Powhatan have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding in 2021 to advance a regional broadband partnership known as the Regional Internet Service Expansion (RISE) project that aims to deliver fiber-optic broadband service to unserved and underserved households and businesses in areas of Central Virginia, subject to regulatory approvals. This partnership is enabled by bi-partisan legislation adopted during the 2021 General Assembly Session.

On December 13, 2021, the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) program awarded Firefly \$79 million in grant funds to support the \$288 million RISE project. The RISE project incorporates a previously awarded United States Department of Agriculture ReConnect grant that was awarded on August 11, 2021.

Goochland County’s pledged match of \$3,437,500 towards the successful VATI RISE project was appropriated on March 1, 2022. The VATI RISE pledge is part of the larger RISE project and an overall pledge to provide local match funding not to exceed \$3,637,500. Goochland County’s pledged match of \$200,000 towards the Firefly ReConnect portion of the RISE project was appropriated on February 1, 2022.

Representatives from CVEC and Firefly Fiber BroadbandSM will provide a presentation and information update on the status of the RISE project including the VATI and ReConnect grant areas.