Koochiching Technology Initiative

Regular Meeting Minutes

2/4/2026

Attendance: Members- Wayne Fuller, Tim Gerlach, Paul Nevanen, Jaci Nagle, Jason Sjoblom, Holly Hoy(V), Philip Nolan (V). Others present- Cori Horton and Kyle McCallum

Guest Speaker: Allen Kruse, Kruse Entertainment Group

Did not show

Call to Order: Regular meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chair Jason Sjoblom.

Administrative Business

1. **Agenda:** Agenda approved on a Jaci/Paul motion.
2. **Approve Minutes from January 2026:** Minutes approved on Paul/Tim motion.
3. **Financials:**
    a. KTI account for 2025- no activity of note, just shows a record of all the normal transactions.
    b. ACC account for 2025- nothing out of the ordinary, just the activity from ACC projects. The carry over for this account is inaccurate, it shows the same carry over from 2024, not 2025. Maragaret will work on adjusting that, but she suggested combining the accounts for simplicity.
        i. Jason suggests making a motion to have the ACC account combined into the KTI account. Motion is made by Paul, seconded by Wayne. Motion carries.
    c. Cash trial balance for the ACC account- $11,157.75
    d. Cash trial balance for KTI account- $13,357.75
    e. 2025 actual budget- ended with more money than planned, so that's good.
    f. 2026 Budget- the planned carry over is close to the actual, so that's good too. If grants are pursued and granted, we will be well off for the year.
        i. Discussion about grant opportunities: Look at Internet Providers for any grants they have; apply for the Knutson grant; Tim offered to contact Todd Kruse about any Frontier/Verizon opportunities; Paul will reach out to Mike Hanson for North Star Electric for potential funding; Jason will reach out to Paul Bunyan; Holly will check with the League of MN Cities; AARP grants could potentially be applied for again.

4. **Strategic Planning:** Jodi from the MN Extension can be available on May 6th to facilitate a strategic planning session.
5. **Roberts Rules:** suspended on Wayne/Paul motion

Ongoing Business:

1. **E-waste:** Wayne has been talking with PCs for People. Trying to work out a deal for another ewaste event, they may take the waste for free if the county pays for the trucking.
2. **Area Broadband projects:** BEAD funding got NTIA approval but is waiting for other approvals. It has $381 million federal dollars promised; Jason wants to try and reach out to Lumen and see what they are up to these days.
3. **Cell infrastructure:** No new updates
4. **LFA/ACC-** Kyle is done with his ACC orientation and he is starting his listening tour. He would appreciate some help contacting people and groups around the county.
5. **Member Updates:** Skipped for time constraints
6. **Publicity/outreach:** Facebook posts have not been getting much attention. It was suggested Kyle should work with the radio station and do some kind of introductory interview for his service.
7. **Future Guest Speakers:** Gary Spears from AARP wants to have a call with some KTI members to discuss his Digital Engagement Action Team, so maybe he could be a future guest. (Wayne, Tim, Cori, Jaci, Paul, and maybe Kyle said they would join the call if available)

Adjournment of regular meeting approved unanimously on Paul/Jaci motion.

Next Meeting: March 4, 2026 @ 9:00am

Next guest speaker: TBD (Elly Burroughs will be the next speaker, I am typing this from the future)