Koochiching Technology Initiative

Regular Meeting Minutes

8/5/2026

Attendance: Members- Jaci Nagle, Jason Sjoblom, Justin O'Bert (V), Philip Nolan (V)

Others present- Cori Horton, Christine Anderson, Austin Schaaf, and Ryan (I forgot to record Ryan's last name, sorry Ryan!).

Guest Speaker: N/A

No quorum, so no administrative business. Informal meeting started at 9:10am

Ongoing Business

1. Ewaste- Wayne not present to give updates.
2. Area broadband- Frontier is still doing work out towards the lake and in Ranier. Justin said he would share his contact/county rep for Frontier
3. Cell infrastructure- Cori shared a letter received from the owners of the cell tower in Ranier that states they are waiting on some surveys before work can start, but hopefully there will be progress within the next year.
4. LFA/ACC- Kyle not present to give updates..
5. Member updates
    - Jaci- She attended the International Falls city council meeting on behalf of KTI to ask the city to appoint people to KTI. Jaci recommends adding Austin Schaaf, the IT specialist for the city, as a member at the next meeting. She also submitted the county budget request and is scheduled to meet with the county board on October 6th at 3:30 pm.
    - Austin- He works in software engineering and IT. He is busy with his business and trying to get his FAA drone license. He also likes to 3D print things.
    - Ryan- He works with Austin. He has been involved with the security threat of Iran hacking into Minnesota water plants, but he reports that the cities of International Falls and Littlefork were unaffected.
    - Justin- The county domain migration is complete; it went mostly smoothly. Working on having a cloud based phone system set up for the county.
    - Philip- He is working on ongoing pc updates throughout the county.
    - Christine- She shared a video about mobile data centers with the group and thinks it could be something that several organizations in the county would benefit from. She looks forward to becoming a member of KTI the next time there is a quorum to vote her in.

- Cori- making Facebook posts, but not seeing too much traffic.

6. Publicity/outreach-see Cori's update above. Jason sent an email to the Fresh Water Society, he is waiting for a response but will keep pushing. He wants to make a list of people to contact for data center info. Jaci will contact Ellie Burroughs at Midco and see if she has any leads. Jaco will also reach out to North Star Electric. Christine suggested Chet Bodeen with MN DEED as a potential contact, he did a webinar about data centers. Jason will try to find a contact within MN Power.
7. Future guest speakers- TBD

Next Meeting: September 2, 2026 @ 9:00am

Next guest speaker: Stacey Green and Michael Scharenbroich with MN Power