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## Wood County Broadband Project

### What it is the Wood County Broadband Project?

Wood County is partnering with Bug Tussel Wireless, a fixed wireless provider, on a grant application to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) for the purpose of providing broadband internet connectivity in rural Wood County.

### What is fixed wireless?

Fixed [wireless internet](#) uses radio waves transmitted from a tower to provide an internet connection. A subscriber doesn't need a phone, cable, or fiber line. It is an ideal solution for rural areas where a hardwire is cost-prohibitive.

### About Bug Tussel Wireless

Bug Tussel Wireless (BTW) is a wireless internet service provider bringing the best of wireless technology throughout Wisconsin's rural communities. BTW builds the cellular towers, installs the equipment, and manages the complete network end to end. BTW's unique delivery offers customers wireless internet that is backed by local reliable service and support at an affordable price. Rural communities have always been BTW's focus to bring high speed internet to areas 'where others can't or won't' and the mission to serve Wisconsin folks remains unchanged. For more information, visit <https://www.bugtusselwireless.com>.

### Why rural Wood County?

Rural Wood County consists of areas outside of the City of Marshfield, and areas surrounding Wisconsin Rapids, Nekoosa and Port Edwards. According to maps from the PSC, the majority of rural Wood County is classified as "underserved" regarding internet access. For many years, the townships surrounding Pittsville, Arpin, Auburndale, Vesper, Rudolph and Milladore have been challenged with access to adequate internet service. The recent pandemic situation in 2020 has only increased awareness of the underserved situation with students trying to learn virtually and businesses working from home. This grant application through Bug Tussel Wireless is an opportunity to improve services for these communities and future residents.

### What can I do?

The grant application review process takes into consideration community support for a project. ***We are actively seeking letters of support!*** A letter of support does not have to be anything complex. ***Simply state that access to better internet service is needed for your home, family, or business.*** Feel free to include specific stories of how better internet will be beneficial to you and your family or business. Sample letters of support are available.

**All letters should be scanned/emailed to our single-point-of-contact, MaryAnn Lippert, at [woodcountybroadband@gmail.com](mailto:woodcountybroadband@gmail.com) by November 15, 2020. If you prefer U.S. mail, send to 8182 Apple Road, Pittsville. Sooner would be great! All letters are being collected for submission as part of the funding application due December 1, 2020.**