



CONNECTING ONE MINNESOTA

2026 Broadband Summit Speaker Bios



ALYSSA KENNEY

State Broadband and Digital Equity Director, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Email: alyssa.kenney@wisconsin.gov

Alyssa Kenney is the State Broadband and Digital Equity Director for the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. At the Commission since 2019, Alyssa manages the talented team that coordinates the BEAD program along with numerous state and federal broadband grant programs, the Wisconsin Broadband Map, the State Universal Service Fund and numerous projects and initiatives that support a more connected Wisconsin. Before coming to the Commission Alyssa served as the executive director of a digital equity and community technology focused non-profit. She serves vice-chair of the Wisconsin Educational Communications Board and serves as Governor Evers designee on the FCC's Intergovernmental Advisory Committee. Alyssa is a proud University of Wisconsin-Madison alumna and longtime Wisconsin resident. She was named a Top 25 Doer, Dreamer, and Drivers by Government Technology in 2023. She is passionate about solving wicked problems and connecting people to each other (mostly through great broadband).



ANN TREACY

Librarian, Treacy Information Services

Email: atreacy@treacyinfo.com | Social: www.linkedin.com/in/ann-treacy-552b0

Ann began working with broadband in 1994, working for Minnesota Regional Network explaining the Internet to people all around Minnesota. For almost 20 years, she has written the Blandin on Broadband (blandinonbroadband.org) following the technology and policy related around Minnesota broadband expansion and use, especially in rural areas. Ann also works with residents, local communities and small business on how to better use broadband, whether that means finding a job online, building a website and creating a online media strategy. Ann has a Master's degree in Library and Information Science, as well as a Master's in Anglo Irish Literature. For fun, Ann has a weekly radio show that features MN Music (mostlyminnesota.com).



AUTUMN RICKE

Marketing Manager, Pinnacle Marketing Group

Email: aricke@pinnaclempg.com | Social: www.linkedin.com/in/autumn-r-398510b3

Autumn Ricke is a designer, marketer, and analytical nerd based in Bemidji, MN. She's been assisting businesses with marketing for over 10 years. Her creativity attention to detail, and willingness to give anything a try has helped Pinnacle Marketing Group not only promote their own brand, but their customers as well. She is passionate about helping others learn marketing strategies to succeed. When she is not busy sharing unsolicited marketing advice you can find her coaching Junior Olympic Volleyball, Golfing, or tending her indoor jungle of houseplants.

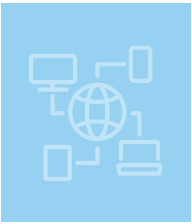


BRIANA MUMME

Southwest Minnesota Community Capital Director, Southwest Initiative Foundation

Email: brianam@swifoundation.org | Social: www.linkedin.com/in/briana-mumme

Briana grew up in the metro but found her way to southwest Minnesota after falling in love with a boy from a rural community—an experience that sparked both a personal and professional connection to rural life. She began her career in economic development more than nine years ago as the economic developer for Redwood County, where she led a wide range of initiatives spanning business finance, entrepreneurship, childcare, housing, and broadband expansion. Through that work, she saw firsthand how access to reliable broadband is essential to a community’s vitality—supporting businesses, enabling education, and ensuring rural places can stay connected and competitive. That experience fueled her passion for elevating the voice of rural communities and what drew her to serving on the Task Force. In 2024, she joined the Southwest Initiative Foundation where she now leads the certification, launch, and implementation of its subsidiary, Southwest Minnesota Community Capital, an emerging Community Development Financial Institution. She is deeply committed to reaching underserved markets and advancing opportunities to build wealth across the region. In addition to her professional work, she serves on several boards, including the Minnesota Ag and Economic Development Board, Center for Rural Policy, Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership. And when she’s not working, you can find her at bungee fitness classes or spending time out in nature.



BRUCE CRANE

Area Vice-President, Communications Workers of America

Email: bruce@cwa7201.com

CWA Area Vice President Lumen employee 35 years.



DOUG ADAMS

CMO & Founding Partner, Broadband Marketers

Email: doug@broadbandmarketers.com | Social: www.linkedin.com/in/dougbadams

CMO & Founding Partner Based in Colorado, Doug is a proven marketing professional with more than three decades’ experience developing and fostering brands from the ground floor to national prominence. An entrepreneur at heart, Doug is a driven, and some would say impatient professional – ready to make a difference for your business today. His research background ensures that the decisions and strategies recommended are market driven and effective. With a deep background in traditional methods, Doug is also an expert in employing interactive strategies – from creating online products to generating traffic and leads.



INI AUGUSTINE

CEO, Technologist Computers

Email: ini@technologist.computer | Social: www.linkedin.com/in/mrsmadbiz

Ini Augustine is a network engineer, social innovator, and serial entrepreneur. Her social enterprise Technologist Computers, sells computers, IOT, and technical support to help fund their three community outreach programs, Project Nandi, Way of the Root Farm, & Joy on Film. As a member of the Governor’s Task Force on Broadband, she continues to advocate for the internet for all Minnesotans.



JAKE VARN

Officer, The Pew Charitable Trusts

Email: jvarn@pewtrusts.org | Social: www.linkedin.com/in/jakevarn

Jake Varn is an officer with Pew’s broadband access initiative. He provides technical assistance to state broadband offices through Pew’s broadband education and training initiative. Before joining Pew, Varn served as a policy analyst for the National Governors Association and for the Bipartisan Policy Center. Varn holds a bachelor’s degree in history and international relations from the University of Iowa.

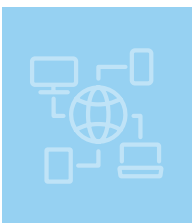


JOSEPH WENDER

Executive Director, Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition (SHLB)

Email: jwender@shlb.org | Social: www.linkedin.com/in/joseph-wender-076b8515b

Joseph Wender currently serves as Executive Director of the SHLB Coalition. Prior to SHLB, Joseph served as Director of the Capital Projects Fund, overseeing the \$10 billion program at the U.S. Department of the Treasury and helping to ensure that all communities have access to high-quality modern infrastructure, including affordable, reliable high-speed internet. He previously served for nearly 13 years on Capitol Hill, including as Senator Ed Markey’s Senior Policy Advisor, where he led a team covering a wide range of issues including telecommunications and infrastructure. Wender also worked as then-Representative Markey’s Legislative Director. Prior to working for Markey, Wender served as Counsel for the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. He received his BA from Wesleyan University and graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Law School.



JOHN TWIEST

CEO/General Manager, Arrowhead Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Email: jtwiest@arrowhead.coop

Instrumental in becoming the first electric distribution cooperative in the state of Minnesota to bring fiber optic based, high speed internet access to the community of Cook County. Deployment and maintenance of a complete fiber optic system. CEO/General Manager of Arrowhead Cooperative since July 2019. 23+ years in the Electric Industry, 15+ years in the broadband industry. Lifelong MN resident US Navy Veteran.



JOSHUA SEIDEMANN

VP Policy and Industry Innovation, NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association

Email: jseidemann@ntca.org

Social: www.linkedin.com/in/josh-seidemann-136b29105?lipi=urn%3Ali%3Apage%3Ad_flagship3_profile_view_base_contact_details%3BmBrMzq5NQiOzbfan3%2FhxKA%3D%3D

Joshua Seidemann focuses on federal regulatory issues as well as technology and market trends affecting the rural telecom industry. He leads research initiatives for Smart Rural CommunitySM, an initiative that promotes inter-industry collaboration to deploy broadband-enabled applications to improve agriculture, education, health care and other sectors. Josh is the staff liaison for the NTCA Innovation and Business Opportunity Committee and has served on industry bodies administered by the FCC, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, state governments and university systems.



JULIE TESCH

President & CEO, Center for Rural Policy & Development

Email: jtesch@ruralmn.org

Julie Tesch is a seasoned nonprofit executive with a distinguished career advancing agriculture, education, and rural development. As President and CEO of the Center for Rural Policy & Development (CRPD), she leads Minnesota’s premier independent research organization focused on strengthening rural communities. In her role, Julie oversees strategic direction, board engagement, and organizational management—serving as CRPD’s chief relationship builder and champion for translating rural realities into actionable public policy.



KELLY GRAGG-JOHNSON

Environmental Review Specialist, State Historic Preservation Office

Email: kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us

I started my career in 1990 as an archaeologist for the Minnesota Department of Transportation, contracted through the Minnesota Historical Society. Since 1995, I have worked in the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in the Environmental Review Program. As an Environmental Review Specialist, I provide advice and assistance to local, state, and federal agencies as they comply with state and federal historic preservation laws. I regularly collaborate with federal and state agency staff, county and city officials, cultural resource consultants, and other applicants (engineering firms, architects, historical organizations, and the public) to ensure that cultural resources are taken into account during project planning. I really value the relationships I have built over the years with coworkers, federal and state agency staff, and consultants.



LILLY GERAGHTY

Cultural Resource Manager, Minnesota Indian Affairs Council

Email: Lilly.Geraghty@state.mn.us

Lilly has worked as a Cultural Resource Manager at the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council for the past two years. Prior to being at the state, she worked for a private archaeological contracting firm, doing archaeology in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Iowa. Her background is in anthropology, archaeology, and cultural resource law.



MARC JOHNSON

Executive Director, ECMECC

Email: mjohnson@ecmecc.org | Social: www.linkedin.com/in/marc-c-johnson

Marc Johnson is Executive Director of East Central Minnesota Educational Cable Cooperative (ECMECC), a telecommunications & technology cooperative of 22 K-12 public school districts in East Central Minnesota. Marc is in his 18th year at ECMECC having spent two years prior as technology director for ISD #15 - St. Francis and seven years as instructional technology specialist for a special education cooperative. Marc is a member of the MN Governor’s Task Force on Broadband, a Board member for the MN Association of School Administrators (MASA) and a Board member for the Partnership for a Connected Minnesota.

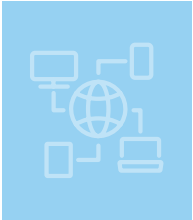


MARK MULLER

President, TelCom Construction, LLC

Email: mark.muller@telcomconstruction.com

Mark has over 40+ years working in the utility industry, both in wireline and wireless. In January 2000 he started TelCom Construction and has served as its President for the past 25 years. Through his leadership TelCom Construction has experienced tremendous growth and is well known as an industry leader. As President he plans, develops, and establishes policies and objectives for the business while overseeing operations, quality control, safety, finance, estimating, and overall management of the company including 1800 personnel in ten states. He leads TelCom in compliance with all state and federal laws. He believes family comes first and has a strong commitment to mentoring the future of the utility industry.



MELISSA WOLF

Executive Director, Minnesota Cable Communications Association

Email: mwolf@mncca.com

As Executive Director of the MN Cable Communications Association, Melissa leads the trade association’s lobbying efforts, regulatory engagement, public affairs outreach, and stakeholder engagement. Before joining MN Cable, Melissa was Government Relations Manager at Midco responsible for the company’s relationships with government officials at the local, state, and federal levels in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Melissa has worked in politics and government relations for over a decade, having held positions with the Minnesota Senate, national nonprofits, small public affairs, and lobbying firms, representing clients from a wide range of industries from large corporations to local nonprofits. She is a passionate advocate for digital equity and connectivity and believes access to reliable high-speed broadband is essential for communities to thrive in the 21st century. Melissa is involved with the Women in Cable Telecommunications (WICT) Midwest chapter, serves on the Board of Directors for the Minnesota Government Relations Council and in 2023 was appointed by Governor Tim Walz to serve a four-year term on the Governor’s Task Force on Broadband.



RICK CIMERMAN

Vice President External and State Affairs Lead, NCTA

Email: RCimerman@NCTA.com

Rick is Vice President, External and State Affairs Lead for NCTA – The Internet & Television Association. He leads a team that is responsible for engagement with state broadband officials, state cable associations, state and local intergovernmental groups, third parties and strategic partners, and think tanks and the academic community. Rick is a member of the Boards of Directors of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Foundation, the Internet Education Foundation, the TPRC Research Conference on Communication, Information and Internet Policy, and the Advisory Council for New Mexico State University’s Center for Public Utilities. He previously served as Private Sector Chair of the American Legislative Exchange Council’s Communications and Technology Task Force, President of the National Coalition for Technology and Education in Training (NCTET), co-chair of the Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee’s Broadband Task Force, and program chair for the three NARUC/NECA National Summits on Broadband Deployment, as well as holding leadership positions in other intergovernmental organizations.

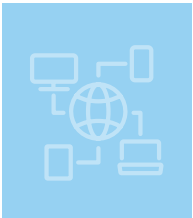


STEVE GILBERT

Director of Outside Plant, CTC

Email: Steve@gocctc.com

I have worked at CTC for 20 years and have been in the industry for over 30 years. Currently I am the Director of Outside plant at CTC and manage a team of Outside Plant Engineers that design and implement fiber networks that provide High Speed Internet, Streaming TV and phone services to our Coop members. In addition to my role at CTC I also manage MC Fiber, a utility construction company started in partnership with CTC and Meeker Energy in 2024 to provide fiber construction services.



TEDDY BEKELE

Senior VP/CTO, Land O’Lakes

Email: tbekele@landolakes.com

Teddy serves as the Chief Technology Officer, leading Land O’Lakes’ digital transformation by leveraging existing and emerging technologies, to keep the enterprise and the federated system competitive in a rapidly evolving landscape. Under Teddy’s leadership, the teams implement technology solutions and industry ecosystems that leverage disruptive technologies such as advanced analytics, artificial intelligence, and internet of things to help retail and farmer customers produce more sustainable outputs. Teddy is also responsible for the information technology and information security functions implementing a comprehensive technology strategy that align with the organization’s goals and objectives.



TERESA FERGUSON

Sr Director Broadband and Infrastructure Funding, NRTC

Email: teresa.ferguson@nrtc.coop | Social: www.linkedin.com/in/teresa-ferguson-b314b219

Teresa is currently the Sr Director, Broadband and Infrastructure Funding at NRTC, responsible for assisting members apply for federal and state broadband funding. Prior to joining the NRTC, Teresa was the Director, Federal Broadband Engagement for the Colorado Broadband Office (CBO) actively participating in the NTIA’s State Broadband Leadership Network (SBLN) and working with Colorado’s Congressional Senators to advocate for and secure federal broadband funding through block grants to the states.



KEELY KNIGHT

Program Manager, Customer Success & Implementation, Ready.net

Email: keely@ready.net

Keely Knight is a Program Manager for Customer Success and Implementation at Ready. Keely leads the implementation of Minnesota’s ARC platform, working closely with DEED to translate federal BEAD requirements into practical workflows on the ground. She sits at the intersection of policy, technology, and people, and has supported broadband programs across the country. Please welcome Keely. [Speaker Session Intro] Our next speakers are Keely Knight and Aidan Jude. Keely is a Program Manager for Customer Success and Implementation at Ready, and Aidan is an Embedded Engineer supporting Minnesota. Together, they lead the Minnesota BEAD Portal, built and operated by Ready on behalf of DEED, translating federal requirements into practical workflows from policy all the way through to technical buildout. Please welcome Keely and Aidan.



AIDAN JUDE

Embedded Engineer, Ready.net

Email: aidanjude@ready.net

I’m a product solutions engineer here at Ready. Primarily working on the BEAD application portal and the next phases of automated reporting and compliance.



COLIN REILLY

VP, Connected Nation

Email: creilly@connectednation.org

Colin Reilly is the Vice President of Data Strategy and Technical Services for Connected Nation. Colin provides leadership, operational oversight, and support for CN’s full portfolio of geospatial, research and technical service offerings. He sets strategic goals for these groups and performs supervisory responsibilities for division team members. A dedicated technology executive, Colin has more than 25 years’ experience delivering and managing large multi-stakeholder projects providing technological solutions to a wide range of industries including broadband government, transportation, construction, and the environment. He has a strong track record in delivering results-oriented projects on time and within budget and possesses a broad range of managerial and technical skills with an in-depth knowledge of data engineering and geospatial technologies including open source and solutions. His project experience includes overall broadband support to Minnesota and Tennessee, BEAD efforts in Guam, Texas, Massachusetts, Puerto Rico and Missouri.



JOHN DETERMAN

Director ETS, Connected Nation

Email: jdeterman@connectednation.org

Social: www.linkedin.com/company/connected-nation-inc./posts/?feedView=all

Mr. Determan lead teams performing mobile drive testing, wireline and wireless broadband service verifications, and radio frequency propagation map analysis. They also performed field verification for FCC Auctions 901 and 902 funding recipients, BEAD challenge and subgrantee selection, and conducted mobile drive testing including OSP audits of Native American tribal lands. Mr. Determan assisted in creating field validation and wireless design models which were adopted as best practices by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) during the federally funded State Broadband Initiative (SBI) grant program from 2010-2014. Mr. Determan created the in-field process to meet the FCC required guidelines for the audit of over 1500 locations receiving CAFII funding. This included KPI testing, theoretical service level calculations on both wireline and wireless, and physical infrastructure verification in over 20 States in a 9-month time period. Mr. Determan has been involved with the radio frequency communications industry since the late 1980s, deploying communications access across licensed and unlicensed frequencies. Mr. Determan has designed, built, and/or maintained networks from analog to digital across multiple wireless and wired platforms.



TATY'TERRIA GARY

Program Coordinator, Lead for America

Email: taty.gary@leadforamerica.org | Social: www.linkedin.com/feed

TaTy'Terria Gary is a Program Coordinator with Lead for America, where she manages and supports AmeriCorps members serving through the American Connection Corps program. In her role, she leads program coordination and project management efforts that expand digital access, connectivity, and digital literacy in communities across the country. Prior to joining staff, TaTy'Terria served as a HomeTown Fellow through Lead for America, partnering with Sedgwick County Government to revise and strengthen their strategic plan following COVID-19, with a focus on improving workplace policies, staff training, and organizational connection for internal staff across all departments. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology with a minor in Psychology from Newman University and a Master's degree in Genetics from Bay Path University. With a strong background in leadership and service, she is passionate about strengthening communities and expanding access through her work.



MARY EHMKE

CEO, KMTelecom

Email: mehmke@kmtel.com

Mary Ehmke is CEO of KMTelecom, a family owned Communications Provider based in Kasson, Minnesota, that has served the region since 1901. Mary represents the fourth generation of family leadership, continuing a century-long legacy of connecting rural Minnesotans. KMTelecom has successfully deployed 10 Border to Border Grants from the MN Office of Broadband Development.



ANIS KHEMAKHEM

Chief Commercial Officer, Clearfield Inc.

Email: akhemakhem@seeclearfield.com | Social: www.linkedin.com/in/aniskhemakhem

Anis Khemakhem is Chief Commercial Officer of Clearfield, Inc. (NASDAQ: CLFD), leading the company’s unified sales and marketing organization. With more than 25 years of experience in fiber optics, telecommunications, and high-reliability connectivity, he has held senior commercial and technical roles at ADC Telecommunications, TE Connectivity, Amphenol, and Carlisle Interconnect Technologies before joining Clearfield in 2024. An inventor on over 120 patents and patent applications, Anis combines deep engineering roots with executive-level commercial strategy, and is a recognized voice on the intersection of AI infrastructure demand, BEAD-driven broadband deployment, and the future of fiber connectivity.



NATHAN ZACHARIAS

Technology Policy Analyst, Association of Minnesota Counties

Email: nzacharias@mncounties.org

Since 2022, Nathan has worked as a Technology Policy Analyst for the Association of Minnesota Counties. In this role, he advocates for counties on issues related to broadband, cybersecurity, AI, emergency communications, digital accessibility, and data practices. He also serves as the Executive Director of the Minnesota County IT Leadership Association (MNCITLA). MNCITLA supports counties through promoting best practices for cybersecurity, monitoring cybersecurity trends, and advocating for state and federal policies that bolster counties’ cybersecurity. Nathan earned a Bachelor’s Degree in History from St. Cloud State University and a Master’s Degree in History from the University of Connecticut.



SCOTT REIMER

General Manager - CEO, Federated Rural Electric Association

Email: reimer@federatedrea.coop

Scott Reimer General Manager & CEO, Federated Rural Electric Association Scott Reimer serves as the General Manager and CEO of Federated Rural Electric Association, a member-owned cooperative serving Jackson and Martin and Cottonwood Counties. A veteran of the utility industry for more than four decades, Scott has become a leading voice for rural electrification in Minnesota along with the goal of closing the digital divide for his member owners as well as patrons in hard to serve rural areas. Since taking the helm at Federated, Scott has prioritized infrastructure modernization and member safety. He is currently leading the cooperative through a significant era of growth, including the management of a 90th-anniversary headquarters renovation and the aggressive expansion of Federated’s broadband division. Scott’s strategic vision focuses on providing members with essential services including broadband and electric to ensure long-term rate stability for the farmers and residents who power the local economy.



STEVEN SCHWERBEL

Director of State Advocacy, WISPA - The Association for Broadband Without Boundaries

Email: sschwerbel@wispa.org

Social: www.linkedin.com/in/steven-schwerbel-9a95b921a

Steven Schwerbel serves as WISPA’s Director of State Advocacy, engaging with legislators and policymakers across all 50 states to support technology neutral broadband policies that allow all ISPs to participate in state programs. Prior to joining WISPA in 2022, Steven spent 7 years as a policy staffer in the Wisconsin legislature, working in depth on economic development and broadband policy, and served as Committee Clerk for the Assembly Science and Technology Committee and Senate Utilities Committee.



MICHELLE MAROTZKE

Economic Development Director, Cities of Preston and Lanesboro

Email: mmarotzke@prestonmn.gov

Michelle Marotzke is the economic development Director for the cities of Preston and Lanesboro, in southeast Minnesota’s beautiful Bluff Country. She enjoys the variety that the economic development field provides, from working on housing projects to small business development to attracting new businesses to the area. Michelle has been involved in broadband development since 2001 and is a strong advocate for broadband infrastructure development and internet-user education funding. Michelle holds a Masters of Business Administration and a Bachelors in Business Management from Southwest Minnesota State University, as well as an Associates of Applied Science in Finance and Credit from Alexandria Technical College. She splits her time between Preston and Lanesboro and her family home near Willmar, where her husband owns and operates a small business.



BRIAN O’HARA

Senior Director Regulatory Affairs - Broadband, NRECA

Email: Brian.O’Hara@nreca.coop

Brian O’Hara joined NRECA in October 2017 as Senior Director Regulatory Affairs focusing on telecommunications and broadband issues. In this position, he develops and directs association regulatory policy on telecom and broadband issues for over 900 electric cooperatives, many of whom are offering, deploying or exploring broadband business opportunities. Brian has more than 20 years of telecommunications and broadband industry experience. He previously worked for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association, and the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA). Brian went to St. Mary’s College of Maryland for undergrad and Johns Hopkins University for a master’s in government.



BREE MAKI

Executive Director, Office of Broadband Development - Minnesota

Email: bree.maki@state.mn.us

Bree Maki serves as Minnesota’s Executive Director of the Office of Broadband Development, proudly leading a team of 10 dedicated to expanding high-quality broadband across the state. Appointed by Governor Tim Walz in 2022, Bree brings years of experience in federal broadband and telecommunications work. Rooted in Southeast Minnesota, Bree is driven by the belief that broadband is a modern necessity — essential for strong communities, economic opportunity, and inclusion. She is committed to building partnerships across sectors to ensure every Minnesotan has access to the digital tools they need to thrive.



JENNIFER FROST

State/Federal Programs Compliance Manager, Minnesota Office of Broadband Development

Email: jennifer.frost@state.mn.us

Jennifer serves as the Manager of State and Federal Programs and Compliance with OBD. She has been with the organization for six years and brings more than 20 years of experience across county economic development as well as landline and wireless telecommunications. Outside of work, Jen enjoys traveling throughout Minnesota to spend time with her grandchildren and to spot broadband deployment projects in action along the way.



KARRIE JANSEN

Broadband Infrastructure Grant Supervisor, MN DEED-Office of Broadband Development

Email: karrie.jansen@state.mn.us

Worked with the Office of Broadband Development for over 4 years. Prior to that worked in County Government for over 28 years.



MIKE WIMMER

Broadband Grants Administrator, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)

Email: michael.wimmer@state.mn.us

Mike Wimmer has served as a Broadband Grants Administrator since joining the Office of Broadband Development in February 2023. Mike previously served as the Economic Development Manager for Mille Lacs County, with a focus on broadband expansion and business retention and development. Mike graduated summa cum laude from St. Cloud State with a degree in Community and Economic Development. Originally from a dairy farm in Morrison County, Mike enjoys watching the Twins and spending time with his wife, Cassidy, and their four cats.



MEGAN MESSEROLE

Environmental and Land Use Coordinator, Office of Broadband Development - MN Department of Employment and Economic Development

Email: megan.messerole@state.mn.us

Megan Messerole is the Office of Broadband Development’s Environmental and Land Use Coordinator. Megan has a master’s degree in Cultural Resource Management from St. Cloud State University with a focus on midwestern archaeology. She previously worked as the archaeologist for the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service in Iowa. Her background in government brings experience in NEPA, NHPA, and other environmental and cultural compliance.



GARY BOLTON

President and CEO, Fiber Broadband Association

Email: gbolton@fiberbroadband.org

Gary Bolton is President and CEO of the Fiber Broadband Association (FBA), the largest industry association dedicated to advancing all-fiber-optic broadband networks. Prior to joining FBA, he held senior executive roles at both venture-backed technology startups and large publicly traded companies, with leadership experience spanning marketing, product line management, and public policy. Gary also served for 12 years as an adjunct professor of business administration and management science at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He holds an MBA from Duke University and a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from North Carolina State University.



PATRICK WAGNER

Damage Prevention Specialist, OPS

Email: Patrick.Wagner@state.mn.us

2023 to present in the Damage Prevention Specialist role at the Office of Pipeline safety. In this role we enforce MN 216D statues and MN 7560 rules. Prior to this role I was a supervisor and locator for USIC. I have years of expertise in damage prevention and damage investigation as well as large project management.



GARY SPEARS

Technology Services Coordinator, Senior Community Services

Email: g.spears@seniorcommunity.org | Social: www.linkedin.com/in/garyspears

Gary Spears spent almost 30 years working for system consulting companies and large corporations deploying enterprise Information Technology solutions. He frequently says “I’m about the “I”nformation and not about the “T”echnology.” His focus is about leveraging information and technology to accomplish an objective. He left corporate America for a small start-up focused on Older Adults using a wearable device. After telling a client “You need to make sure the device is powered on.” for the thousandth time, he appreciated how much assistance is needed for Older Adults to leverage technology. He left the start-up and went to work with Senior Community Services. He’s helped SCS establish their Technology Services organization and works to help Late- and Non-Adapters see valuable ways technology can be leveraged in their everyday lives. He’s the proud father of four kids, all college graduates, who are off the payroll, and beginning “adulthood”. He’s passionate about Purdue sports and playing golf. He’s looking forward to retirement where he can spend more time in warm weather climates enjoying his passion.