

Zawitoski, John

To: Dennis Kamber; ben.homesteadfarm@gmail.com; alan@chucklelevins.com; nadine@photographybynadine.com; weitzer@erols.com; joni@johnsonchimney.com; 'Alice Kogut'; 'Kathy Anderson'; mzubkus@msn.com; ggrigorian@msn.com; frplayfarm@aol.com; Soomitch@gmail.com; jn.sugarlandrun@gmail.com; TGutierrez@fcclaw.com; Senecacreek@aol.com; Bobkinzie@aol.com; jn.sugarlandrun@gmail.com; mishellecarrick@gmail.com; denise@dancinggrassdesigns.com; lyles4429@hughes.net; robert@windridgefarm.com; lrdlewis@aol.com; BillWJr@willardag.com; mkostreski@gmail.com; reeree53140@aol.com

Cc: Criss, Jeremy; Williams, Marjorie; Roter, Phil; Gibson, Cindy; Matthews, Catherine

Subject: RE: Broadband in the Ag. Reserve, Update #4

Attachment C

From: Dennis Kamber [mailto:dmkamber@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 9:42 AM

To: ben.homesteadfarm@gmail.com; alan@chucklelevins.com; nadine@photographybynadine.com; weitzer@erols.com; joni@johnsonchimney.com; 'Alice Kogut'; 'Kathy Anderson'; mzubkus@msn.com; ggrigorian@msn.com; frplayfarm@aol.com; Soomitch@gmail.com; jn.sugarlandrun@gmail.com; TGutierrez@fcclaw.com; Senecacreek@aol.com; Bobkinzie@aol.com; jn.sugarlandrun@gmail.com; mishellecarrick@gmail.com; denise@dancinggrassdesigns.com; lyles4429@hughes.net; robert@windridgefarm.com; lrdlewis@aol.com; BillWJr@willardag.com; mkostreski@gmail.com; reeree53140@aol.com

Cc: Criss, Jeremy; Williams, Marjorie; Roter, Phil; Gibson, Cindy; Matthews, Catherine

Subject: Broadband in the Ag. Reserve, Update #4



Could the light at the end of the tunnel be broadband?

Good Morning Friends & Neighbors,

Great news! We are pleased to report that Comcast has been actively working with us and the Office of Cable and Broadband Services and making significant progress at developing a plan for broadband coverage in our area. The Sugarland region will be the pilot for the Agricultural Reserve and establish a process for serving other similar rural areas in Montgomery County. Outlined below is the current status and facts regarding the project.

- Comcast has field surveyed the area and developed two options for service. One plan includes the entire area including remote homes at the extremities of the roadway network. The second option eliminates the more remote homes. Comcast's construction personnel prepared cost estimates for both options. Obviously, the cost for the second option is less expensive and appears to be the more viable alternative.
- The installation of the cable infrastructure would be on a cost sharing basis, with Comcast subsidizing the construction costs. The amount contributed by the home occupant would vary depending on the total number of users obtaining service. The higher the percentage of users, the lower the initial contribution. If we, as a community, attract many users in the area, the payment could be zero.
- Comcast has prepared estimates that assume the cable lines will be mounted on existing poles owned by Pepco, the least expensive option. They also prepared estimates assuming the lines would be totally underground, the higher (just about double) cost alternative. The submission of permit applications for attaching Comcast cable to the Pepco poles was delayed because of the required capital outlay but it is currently underway. This will allow more accurate estimates as the basis of cost-sharing. The process should be completed in about four weeks.
- We anticipate a meeting with all potential users, Comcast, and county representatives, sometime in early December. Comcast will present the final cost table indicating the amount of contribution required based on the percentage of residents subscribing to service.
- The drop charge, or cost to connect a home to the cable on the pole is free for the first 300 feet. Approximately 2/3 of the homes in our area are within the 300 feet. If a home is further away there would be a charge for extending the cable. The work can be done by Comcast contractors or the resident can provide the shallow (about 12 inches deep) narrow trench and Comcast would install the cable at a reduced cost for the extension.
- Facts about Comcast service offered are:
 - Standard speed is around 50 mps with options to increase to 505 mps. Comcast will be offering speeds as high as 1 gigabyte per second in the immediate future.
 - Service options offered would include internet, phone, and TV (Xfinity).
 - A business-class service could be provided, at additional cost, to those users requesting it.
 - Construction of the system would take about 6-months. Those subscribing to the Comcast service would be required to pay 50% of the cost-sharing amount initially, and the remainder when the system is complete.
- Other internet service providers declined to participate in the pilot program.
- Comcast is in the approval process for maintaining the franchise for Montgomery Co. They have spent about \$15,000 on the initial survey of our area and will spend another equal amount obtaining Pepco pole permits.

This is an innovative program for the Agricultural Reserve and success of the plan will be dependent on the community. The more dwellings that obtain internet service, the larger monetary contribution will be provided by Comcast. We're optimistic that by working together we can obtain a commitment from a majority of residents. Our actions to date have only been communicated to a relatively few number of the total residents in the study area, so please distribute this email to others in our region.

We will be meeting with the County and Comcast on November 19th to obtain a status update and prepare for the early December community meeting. Please send us your thoughts, ideas and suggestions on the above.

Regards,

Dennis Kamber

Dave Weitzer