

## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Minnesota Ultra High-Speed Broadband Task Force to Meet June 19 in Grand Rapids**

Grand Rapids, MN – The Task Force charged with examining Minnesota’s broadband future is traveling to selected rural communities this summer; their first stop is on June 19<sup>th</sup> in Grand Rapids. The Task Force, which was established by the Minnesota State Legislature in 2008, will meet at the Sawmill Inn from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is open to the public.

Interested citizens are particularly encouraged to attend the morning session starting at 8 a.m. for coffee and rolls with the Task Force members, who were appointed by Governor Pawlenty. There will also be an open public comment period at 9:15 a.m., where any member of the public can share their views on broadband deployment and use with the Task Force.

At 9:45 a.m. there will be formal testimony presented to the Task Force members from a regional panel comprised of:

- Bernadine Joselyn, Director of Public Policy, Blandin Foundation
- Fred Bobich, Ruttger’s Sugar Lake Lodge
- Bob Fenwick, Commissioner, Arrowhead Regional Development Commission

The mission of the Minnesota Ultra High-Speed Broadband Task Force is to make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature regarding the creation of a statewide high-speed Internet access goal, and a plan for implementation by 2015.

The 26 Task Force members represent urban and rural constituencies, business and home Internet users, and public and private sector organizations. The Task Force meets monthly to examine the multiplicity of issues involved and to draft goals and recommendations in preparation for their November 1, 2009, final report. For more information about the task force visit the website at: <http://www.ultra-high-speed-mn.org>

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