

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 13, 2009

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ACCEPT FEDERAL BROADBAND GRANT

COSHOCTON - The Coshocton County Commissioners today accepted and signed a grant agreement in the amount of \$38,400 with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) in Washington, DC. The funds will be used to cover the commissioners' monthly lease costs with telecommunication towers owned by the State of Ohio. The commissioners are leasing the towers to allow a private internet service provider to establish points of presence for the purpose of extending high speed internet service to residents and customers without service in rural, isolated parts of Coshocton County.

"This is exciting news which many in our community will appreciate as deployment of broadband occurs. To bring about a locally driven solution to rural broadband service has been a challenge for our Board and we look forward to making this project a reality." said county commissioner Gary Fischer.

County commissioners Dane Shryock and Curtis Lee expressed their appreciation to the ARC, the Governor's Office of Appalachia, the Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association, Senator George Voinovich's Office and SZD Whiteboard consultants of Columbus for their assistance and support with this grant process.

"Although we are in extremely challenging times, I'm very pleased that the federal government is making this investment in Coshocton County where we are working very hard to build a foundation for a much stronger tomorrow," added commission chairman Shryock.

The county's provider has begun installation at some of the tower sites with service to be expected in the very near future.

Persons interested in Lightspeed's broadband services should go to their website Lightspeedwireless.com and from the main menu click on site survey and provide the requested information regarding location. Once the site survey form is filled out you will be contacted by Lightspeed as towers are put in service near your business or home.

Other questions such as pricing can be directed to Missy Zickel at Lightspeed by calling 1-888-604807option 1 Monday through Friday 9 AM till 5:30 PM.