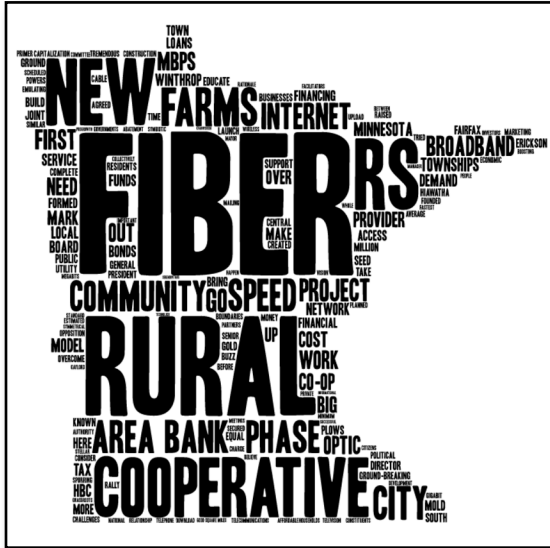


# Tired of Waiting: RS Fiber Cooperative Plows New Ground



21st century farms require 21st century connectivity, but some incumbent Internet service providers have refused to serve farming communities in Minnesota.

## **Enter RS Fiber:** *Ultra-Fast. Affordable. Replicable*

“The demand from people in the towns & rural (areas) has been tremendous.”

-- Toby Brummer, Hiawatha Broadband Communications



**Cost:** Estimated \$45 million. Phase 1: \$15 million to connect the cities with fiber; wireless to 90% of footprint. Phase 2: \$30 million to build fiber to every farm in the rural townships.



**Cooperative:** Every subscriber is a member of the cooperative. Co-op owns the network, Hiawatha Broadband Communications (HBC) operates it.



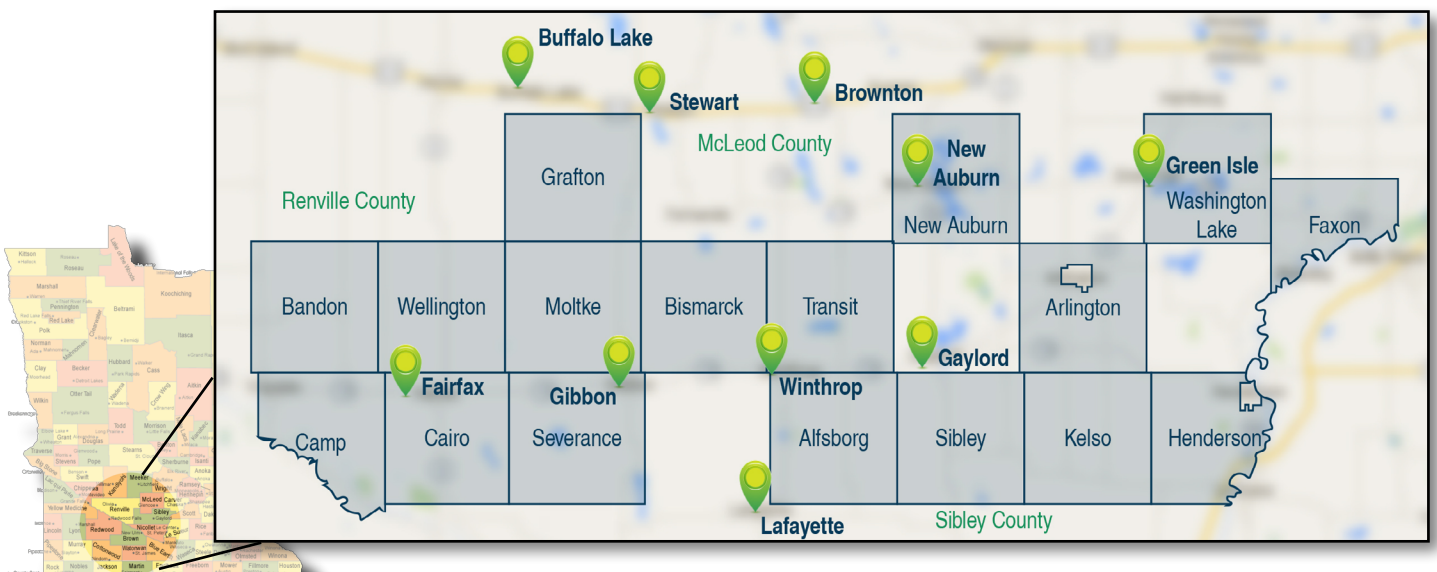
**Bonding:** Local governments bonded \$8.67 million to provide economic development loan as seed funding to the co-op, subordinate to bank loans.



**Grassroots Marketing:** A citizens' marketing committee set the gold standard on how to educate and rally public support to improve Internet access.



**Community Investment:** Local investors and banks provided \$3.75 million in senior secured construction loans for Phase 1.



**READ THE REPORT:** <https://ilsr.org/report-mn-rural-fiber>