



MINUTES

WiredWest Special Meeting of the Board of Directors March 27, 2013 7:00 PM, 99 Main Street, Northampton, MA

Noting a quorum present, Monica Webb (chair) called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. A sign in sheet and name tags were made available at the entrance to the meeting.

Welcome and Introductions – Monica thanked and welcomed the delegates, who introduced themselves. She overviewed the reason for the meeting, i.e. the direction of the organization given the recent development of the intention of the state to build the last mile.

Discussion of state developments for building last mile infrastructure – Monica reviewed the information known to date. It has been acknowledged that WiredWest has played a key role in pushing forward this effort. We have been told by the MBI that this will be fiber to the home in 45 participating towns and that they will be seeking multiple sources of funding. We have been told that it will not be an open access network, but will be served by a single service provider, for which an RFP will be issued. We have also been told that the MBI would seek RUS funds, town contributions, and investment of some kind from the ISP. They are anticipating a 3-4 year buildout and are expecting to issue the ISP RFP this summer. Delegates shared their ideas and asked questions.

Evaluation of WiredWest's options – The EC discussed several possible options:

- Fold up our tents and go home, but continue to advocate for high quality fiber optic internet that is fairly priced and universally available.
- Pursue some type of a cooperative relationship with MBI, specifics to be determined.
- Pursue positioning WiredWest to be a credible ISP to serve the last mile, possibly partnering with an existing private ISP or even creating a for-profit subsidiary.
- Continue to pursue our own RUS application and build a WiredWest owned network. This option would be very difficult and an adversarial relationship with MBI would not be in WiredWest's or our citizens' best interests.

Determination of course(s) of action –

Kevin Donovan moved “that WW continue to meet its obligation to its member towns by assuring that the last mile is built to serve every household and that competitive services are offered to its member towns by ensuring our efforts put forward assure MBI assimilates our mission through a working relationship established by the executive committee of WW”. Becky Torres seconded. Discussion ensued. Many delegates

agreed with the spirit of the motion, but felt we were rushing into a potentially restrictive decision without enough information in this still evolving situation. Roll Call Vote: 1 for; 31 against; 1 abstention. Motion did not carry.

Monica proposed that the Executive Committee meet with the MBI to gather more information and bring that back to the board on April 13th to determine the direction of the organization.

David Kulp moved “that the board direct the EC to work to establish a collaborative relationship with the MBI to ensure that the last mile is built and operated according to our principles of universal access, local oversight and affordability.” Brian Hawthorne seconded. Discussion ensued. All in favor with one abstention (Dan Jacques).

Brian Hawthorne provided language for a draft press release for consideration.

Monica thanked all the delegates who came out in the evening for this special board meeting, citing their support and commitment to WiredWest continuing its mission and acting in the best interest of the citizens of the member towns of WiredWest.

Confirm Schedule of next BoD meetings - Next meeting April 13 in Tolland

Adjourn: Mike Crochiere moved to adjourn; Reva Reck seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.