

**WiredWest Executive Committee Meeting Agenda**

**Date / time:** Wednesday, May 18, 2016 6:00 PM,

**Location / address:** Hampshire Council of Governments, 99 Main Street, Northampton, MA

Meeting called to order 6:10 pm

Attending: Jim Drawe, Holleran Greenberger, Tim Newman, Charley Rose, Monica Webb

1. **Approve minutes of previous EC meetings:** approved
2. **MBI Update:** Charley will send mail to Larkin & Ennen and schedule a meeting. Tim would like to know what information will be looked for in town “stress test” by MBI. There is lots of price sensitivity especially in the northern tier. $80/month for lowest price range is too high. Once the A2 doc has preliminary approval by Board, we can present to MBI. Concern that MBI will not have the resources to support all the towns in individual builds. Most municipalities who implement fiber have highly paid consultants to manage negotiations and project and set standards, concern our towns don’t have the resources. Since the towns will have to fund any cost overruns, they should be very cautious about the MBI cost estimates. Towns will not likely be able to join a network later, so this is the time when the coop should be formed.

After initial meeting with Larkin and Ennen, invite them to Board or EC meeting If they disagree with our plans, we will ask them to come to a WW BoD meeting and explain why – so they can hear from the WiredWest towns directly.

1. **Committee Updates:**

A2 Task Force: The recommendations document was reviewed. Charley stated that town meeting can’t sign a contract. WW will provide quotes and manage buildout, but towns will pay. Will drops be built to every premise or just subscribers? If subscribers, original build should cost less, so towns should have additional $ they can borrow. But we’ll need them to pay promptly, not wait for Town Meeting. Monica is adding a column titled “Impact” to help identify effects of these decisions. Will be reviewed again at Friday meeting. We can present and get feedback at May Board meeting – final document for June.

1. **Discussion of meeting with Gov. Baker:** Charley – Governor spoke briefly, Peter Larkin did the MBI Powerpoint (which went to press before towns). Then 3 minute presentations by towns. Seems like the state has already decided how to do this. The Governor dismissed a regional plan due to towns which want to go alone, Charley did get to out point that smaller region would still save money. The Governor doesn’t think large group of towns can work together. Monica sees biggest problem in regional school districts – small group of neighboring towns – larger regional organizations (e.g. FRCOG, HCOG, Berkshire Regional Planning) seem to work better. We should sell ourselves like FRCOG, Tim proposes we show our success as organization - redo regionalization doc with only the (new list of) strong towns. Charley also thinks regional transportation groups are good example. Should do a paper on Western Mass regional consortia and especially why they fail – are smaller groups more fragile? Town of Russell could testify to difficulties of small towns operating telecomm systems. Ask for standards used to determine if town can afford and what is the evaluation process?

We should emphasize the benefits of regionalization, stability.

1. **RFI estimates update**: – no discussion today. Jim Drawe will contact Matrix & Sertex.
2. **Review April 30, WiredWest Board meeting** in Sandisfield – done at previous EC meeting.
3. Agenda and preparation for the May 21, WiredWest Board meeting
4. **Review other ongoing work, including meetings, conference calls:** Friday meeting – to develop basic strategies for WW. Options – working through MBI with regional plan, pursuing regional build without state money (this will require analysis), towns forming smaller regional networks, leaving towns to their own devices.
5. Minutes
6. Other business which could not be reasonably foreseen within 48 hours of meeting
7. **Set next EC meeting** Wed, May 25 6pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm