

WiredWest Special Board of Directors Meeting

Online

Wednesday, July 14, 2021, 6:30 pm

Called to order at 6:39

Attending: Doug McNally, Kathy Soule-Regine, David Dvore, Jim Drawe, Kent Lew, Don Hall, Jeff Piemont, MaryEllen Kennedy

**MBI middle mile and network resilience discussion**

Jim replied to Carolyn Kirk, copying the delegates, rebutting some of her assertions. Doug reports Kimberly has suggested a 2 pronged approach: press MBI to fix the Middle Mile and also have all the WCF towns work together on connecting with alternate providers. Most of us feel that MBI should cover the cost of making the Middle Mile whole. There is money available in COVID funds that can cover this work.

David pointed out there are 3 categories of towns: ones with POIs, one on the ring but not containing a POI, and towns on spurs. MBI should have plans for all categories. He agrees we need to develop alternate backhaul providers. David points out that a multi-town ring would only need 2 backhaul providers, not one per town.

Jim is exploring Verizon as an alternate provider (Shutesbury is looking into them after learning they have reduced their rates). There’s a CO connection in Otis which could be used for the southern ring. He has had positive feedback from Wendell & Colrain about joining rings for redundancy. The secondary backhaul can be lower bandwidth.

Jim agreed that the discussion has given him the backing to continue his work on improving network reliability.

Doug suggests that towns should share their inventory of spare fiber left after construction, it will probably be cheaper if smaller lengths are needed.

**Other business which could not be reasonably foreseen within 48 hours of meeting**

**Confirm next BoD meetings**

July 21 6:30pm

August 18 6:30pm

Future - every 3rd Wednesday at 6:30pm

**Adjourn** 7:24pm

MaryEllen moved, Jeff seconded, approved unanimously