

**WiredWest Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date / time:** Wednesday, June 1, 2016 6:00 PM,

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

Attending: Jim Drawe, Charley Rose, Becky Torres, Bob Labrie

Guests: Tim Newman, Leslie Rule, Steve Nelson

Called to order at 6:10

1. Approve minutes of previous EC meeting – passed unanimously
2. **MBI Update** – email re: WW meeting with PL/BE -working on face to face – June 9 6:00pm, just Jim and Charley for initial meeting at MBI request. Goal for meeting is for MBI to accept plan A2, as decided at last meeting, ask how we can help MBI. Legally, under 47C MLPs may only work together as a coop, and only MLPs are allowed to supply telecomm in a town. Becky - MBI supplying checklists to the town defining e.g. how money will flow, discussing private ISPs and Network Operators, clearly following the Leverett model. Concern that you can’t defer choice of organization until later in the build. Jim thinks they had to show progress first and will be open to look at WW A2 for the multi-muni model. It must become a collaboration between MBI & WW. Peter Larkin helped create the MLP coop legislation (Steve was asked to send information he supplied about the legislation to the EC and will ask counsel to vet it. Steve to set up concall). Charley – A2 is demonstration of our flexibility; our goal is to help as many towns as possible. There will be a meeting next week as dry run for the meeting.
3. **Discuss Plan A2** – distributed copies of Plan A2 intro and Q&A. JD does not want to release to press prior to meeting with PL/BE. Our goal is to keep pricing as affordable as possible and regionalization is key to this. Tim will respond to Diane Brancaccio via email. Greg Richardson has said typically a coop does not set prices until it knows how many customers and what its costs are. Jim – wait to confirm MBI is in agreement and then gather some cost info from potential vendors. Steve suggests freezing price for current subscribers, but others may have to pay more.

Jim sees 2 releases, first to BB & SB members. Press release should be different. TN 2 main points – towns own the network, services will be outsourced, much easier to withdraw from the coop. JD & CR to confirm with MBI that their vendor list is not exclusive and that they will write the RFQs with our participation.

The group reviewed the intro section of the document while Bob Labrie edited. In this model, WW will be managing the outsourced services. Towns will have a complete stand-alone network.

Outreach Committee to contact Tom Wyatt for a diagram of plan A2 (like the previous plan A, B, M). This document will go to towns (SB, BB Committee).

Bob – meeting with Bill Ennen on June 13 and shared his prep notes. He recommended that WW should have talking points for the small towns to consider in initial meeting with Bill Ennen. Leslie – should ask people to debrief after their meeting (Google doc). Leslie – need to emphasize the small towns can’t afford to go alone and need a regional solution. Bob Handsaker’s dot plot is more appropriate. Emphasize we need the MLP coop to make it affordable. Jim should ask how towns can fund 2/3 of the project without having oversite, Leslie – this should come from the Finance Committee. Should ask about the MBI MOU with towns. Jim ask how money will be spent, towns or state first, how will overruns be handled? Tell MBI we want to pass every house, but to connect every house.

Outreach to release the doc to towns, but not as press release.

1. **Committee Updates** no formal updates
2. **RFI estimates update** – JD will to invite Matrix, Sertex & a couple more vendors to present. Might consider offers to build network, too. Concern that we may be too late regarding build, but will depend on contracts required by MBI. Group agreed to meeting Fridays, during the day – JD to set up the meetings.
3. **Review May 21**, WiredWest Board meeting in New Salem – done by A2 review.
4. **Review other ongoing work**, including meetings, conference calls – Tim & Bob have taping session with PBS Newshour. Tim talking to reporter for NY Times (Cecilia Kang), will follow up after PL/BE meeting.
5. Other business which could not be reasonably foreseen within 48 hours of meeting
6. Set next EC meeting – Wed, Jun 8 6:00pm

Adjourned: 9:02 pm