

**WiredWest Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date / time:** Wednesday, June 8, 2016 6:00 PM,

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

Present: Jim Drawe, Becky Torres, MaryEllen Kennedy (no quorum)

Guests: Steve Nelson, Jeremy Dunn, David Dvore

1. **Approve minutes of previous EC meeting** – no quorum
2. **MBI Update** – SN & JDunn – Bill Ennen meeting, Egremont decided to go with MBI for professional services, seems very pragmatic. His focus is to show some quick progress, understands that smaller towns will need some regional solution, process will be collaborative with the towns (21 day process). DLS must approve finances. DD – BE in favor of regionalization eventually, but DD feels small towns can’t work as standalone network with regionalization later (and DLS may not approve them as standalone).

JDrawe – asked what should be asked at WW meeting with PL/BE. Tim – we need them to acknowledge WW as no longer ‘in the penalty box.” JDunn – position WW as organization which can help with the regionalization process, give us some parameters within which to work. DD – acknowledge our goals are the same and tell us how we can help. We should ask what problems they see. BE will be trying to work with pole survey companies to aggregate demand. DD – they may not have money available yet, they had to do a budget before getting any project money.

BT – we have a big gap between subscribers expectation & what they will be offered. Shutesbury SB wants Becky to resign as WW delegate, Craig Martin will become delegate, ? Erris will be alternate. BT concerned that there is a rush to get construction started without a plan for sustainable operations.

JDunn – do we have a seat at the table? What are the boundaries? Are there people we can work with?

TN – we need a formal acknowledgement from the state (e.g. joint press release).

BT – from the meeting, asked BE to look into town meeting articles including regional coop – if we don’t use that structure, will a TM revote be required?

1. **Discuss Plan A2** – Joe Boudreau’s questions – JDrawe

SN – may not need to be an LLC, could retain corporate org and issue shares.

1. **Subscription Deposits** – JDunn – thinks we should refund since he doesn’t believe we can provide service for $49.00. JDrawe will ask our counsel how to handle. Several people felt it’s premature. MEK asked about Colrain – JDrawe to reply to SB. Legally, people must individually request the refunds.
2. **Committee Updates** – TN – Outreach – he met with Berkshire Business Journal person – offered to provide space for OpEd – he’s deferring, but closing date is fairly soon (monthly). Interview on AMC, other press options, including NYTimes. TN & BL being interviewed by PBS Newshour – expects early July airing.

JDrawe & SN - Working on whether MLPs can cooperate other than coops. Will confirm with Deirdre Lawrence (counsel). Thinks the alternative might be inter-muni agreements.

[JDunn – example of National Interstate Electoral Compact – allows states to vote and when critical mass achieved then it would take effect – could use similar plan with the towns to get agreement]. Another idea – start offering services now – e.g. pick up DSL or some other service to generate a track record.

1. **RFI estimates update** – deferred until after Jim D & Charley meeting tomorrow.
2. **Review other ongoing work, including meetings, conference calls** -
3. **Other business which could not be reasonably foreseen within 48 hours of meeting** -
4. **Set next EC meeting** – Wed, June 15 6:00pm HCOG