

WiredWest Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date / time: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 6:00 PM

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

Attendees: Jim Drawe, Bob Labrie, Charley Rose, David Dvore, MaryEllen Kennedy

Guests: Cai Walkowiak, Gayle Huntress, Leslie Rule

Called to order at: 6:17pm

1. Approve minutes of previous meeting – April 12 Bob Labrie moved, Charley Rose 2nd – approved unanimously.
2. Regional Broadband Solution –

Project schedule

* Charley has spoken to most towns and compiled status, David to post on website. We discussed some milestones which should can be noted. Charley will query towns monthly.
* Review list of terms for contract at 26 April EC

Criteria for voting privileges (originally membership, but we may have non-voting members):

* Must have MLP
* Delegate must be MLP manager – to make decisions (or designee)
* Town must remain a member in good standing.
  + Possible criteria
  + Must pay assessed dues annually
  + Must have delegate in good standing (attendance)
* Signed MOU with WW (may change to contract)
* Must be building its *own* Muni network

Nonvoting member:

* Must be MLP
* Must pay $1,000 dues annually

Policy development: Privacy, net neutrality, etc. – Leslie & David will work on this. They will contact WG&E to see what policies they have. Kimberly Longey is doing this for Plainfield.

1. MBI/EOHED update:

Some towns are hoping that WG&E will build & own their network. State is still qualifying WG&E as Private Partner provider.

David – MIIA asked for another meeting with Todd. They found an underwriter for fiber.

Berkshire Eagle reports that Axia owes much money, network at risk of being shut down.

David was told the grant application wants a capital replacement plan, including fiber.

Bidders conference for MB123 operator – 13 vendors attended. MBI still thinks vendors should pay to run the network. WG&E will respond, they would only do on time + materials basis. OTT thinks there may be growth potential. Jim Drawe has heard that many states have middle mile issues - BTOP limitations might be lifted.

Jeremy Dunn reported receiving a proposal from Matrix (so did Goshen). The proposal was higher than the original MBI estimate. Jim – we can’t know the actual cost of the build under Matrix proposal since they are doing the build.

Gayle – Graeme Sephton did a build estimate which was very similar to MBIs. Jim – we have some items to compare, e.g Leverett, Otis will be going to bid for construction, should provide a milestone.

David had proposal from Matrix for Prof Services only.

1. New Executive Committee members (for vote at May 13 BoD meeting)

Jim moved, Bob seconded that Craig Martin and Leslie Rule be proposed as members of the Executive Committee.

Approved unanimously.

1. April 15 BoD meeting review – Cai thought it was good: towns expressed their issues, suggestions for how to respond. Charley concerned about disconnect between some delegates and their towns. Bob will be talking to Chesterfield BB Committee, delegate not invited (example of the disconnect).
2. Committee Updates
3. Review other ongoing work, including meetings, conference calls
4. Other business which could not be reasonably foreseen within 48 hours of meeting
5. Set next EC meeting: 26 April 2017 (5/14 meeting will be at 6:30pm)

Adjourned: 8:30 pm

Leslie – we should contact Colrain for a presentation

Outreach Cpmmittee discussion:

Gayle – pending letter to delegates & town officials reminding of request for dues and the one pager to be handed out at ATM. David will update the online 1-pager to remove last paragraph. Gayle has a short intro letter, will send to Charley for emailing.

DD – they should be reminded of change in depreciation reserve, or at least the updated versions of materials from Jan 28 workshop. Charley recommends waiting for a separate mailing.

Charley to do press release on WW choice of operators

Letter from Shutesbury to towns with cable offers – Gayle to contact towns: Peru, Sandisfield, Tolland, Monterey, and Egremont have cable offers.