

ConnectME Authority
Friday, April 22, 2016

Meeting Notes

1. Introduction of ConnectME Authority members and staff

- Dick Thompson, Acting Chair, Susan Woods, Ralph Johnson, Greg McNeal
- Phil Lindley, Lisa Leahy

2. ConnectME Authority Grant Awards

- Infrastructure Grants

Scoring discussion: reviewed how scores were determined from the scoring guide. Why is cost benefit zero points in second category? More than 60% grant request.

There was a concern that with the new bandwidth requirements (10/10) that we would receive few applications. We did receive 24 that were able to be scored. Seven others were not scored because they either were not for unserved areas (<1.5 Mbps) or that the service to be provided was not 10/10.

The board may want more detail presented when we review applications for next round.

Cost per potential connection has not gone up as much as was expected.

Assurance that there was no duplication by other providers, served or unserved is provided by applicant who is required to contact incumbent providers in proposed area. Information was provided in applications to verify this.

The amount of grant funding and the allocation between infrastructure and planning grants was discussed. The board decided that the total would not exceed \$1.8 million.

- Planning Grants

The board observed that there is higher value with those applications coming in as a group or regional application.

The board decided that the top four grant applications (90 points and above) would be the best value as this first round is a pilot round. This allowed more funding for infrastructure grants.

Infrastructure: fund grants above 58 points or higher, approved, at \$1.54 million

Planning: fund \$212,077 of top 4, approved.

3. Executive Director Report

- Grant funds available
- Financial Report

- Mapping going forward, to be discussed at next meeting
- Rule waivers versus rule making, to be discussed at next meeting.

Lisa Leahy provide the board with details about broadband availability statistics that she has been working with others to fine tune for better comparability.

4. Public Comment

Marcia psychiatrist – Waldoboro