

ConnectME Authority

November 4, 2015 – Meeting Notes

1. Introductions

Authority Board Members: Dick Thompson; Ralph Johnson; Denise Garland; Greg McNeal; and Andy Hagler. In the absence of Board Chair Jean Wilson, Dick Thompson presided over the meeting.

Authority Staff: Phil Lindley, Executive Director; Lisa Leahy, Associate Executive Director; and David Maxwell

Office of the Attorney General: Tom Knowlton

Board members, Authority staff, and members of the public introduced themselves.

2. Executive Session

The Board held an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

3. Broadband Sustainability Fund: Case Update

The Board briefly discussed the terms of the proposed settlement, and voted 4-0 to reject the proposal. Board member Hagler abstained from voting.

4. Strategic Plan Update

Frank O'Hara, a consultant assisting with the preparation of the triennial strategic plan, reviewed a comprehensive draft for Board member feedback. Board members offered thoughts, and members of the audience commented, as well. A next draft will be prepared for Board member review prior to posting for public comment on November 10, 2015.

The project schedule:

- posting of a draft plan on November 10
- public hearing on December 4
- closing of public record on December 11
- Board receipt of summary of public comments on January 8, 2016
- review of revised draft on January 22, 2016
- vote on a final triennial strategic plan on February 12, 2016

5. Executive Director Report

Phil Lindley reported on the need for rulemaking in advance of commencement of the planning grant program. Based on advice from an AAG, there is no requirement to promulgate a rule in advance. Authority staff will undertake a rulemaking effort in later 2016 than will incorporate the

planning grant program and revise other sections of the existing rule to reflect recent legislative changes.

Lisa Leahy reported on the planning grant program pre-certification checklist. Board members asked questions and audience members offered brief comments. More information on the pre-certification process and planning grant program will be presented at an upcoming Board meeting.

6. Executive Director Report

Phil Lindley requested Board authorization to enter into an agreement with InforME for website enhancements. The value of the agreement is \$15,000.

The Board unanimously approved the request.

7. Public Comment

Public comments were made relative to the need to recognize small towns in the strategic planning process and to include broadband providers in identifying solutions to service delivery.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50PM.