

ConnectME Authority

February 12, 2016 – Meeting Notes

1. Introduction of ConnectME Authority members and staff

Susan Woods, Ralph Johnson, Dick Thompson, Acting Chair, Denise Garland, Greg McNeal
Phil Lindley, Lisa Leahy, David Maxwell

2. Strategic Plan

Board members provided feedback to and asked questions regarding the latest version of the draft strategic plan. Revisions to final document will include language changes reflecting adoption and realization of value.

Definition of broadband for purposes of ConnectME funding was further clarified to reflect the following:

- Unserved = no broadband service or service less than 1.5 Mbps, download
- Underserved = broadband service greater than 1.5 Mbps download, up to but less than 10 Mbps by 10 Mbps (10x10)
- Effective broadband = 10x10 or greater

Triennial strategic plan was approved conditionally with changes discussed during meeting.

3. Community Planning Grants

The Broadband Community Planning grant scoring criteria was approved with minor changes to language to be updated and published on website.

Timeline for completion of grants is not specified for this first pilot round. Grant round will open on Feb. 26th with applications due by April 15th. Communities will designate a completion date in the application. Awards will be made at the April 22nd meeting.

4. Infrastructure Grants

Round 10 Infrastructure Grants will follow the same timeline as the Community Planning Grants. Minor wording changes will be made in application form and uploaded to the website, to reflect broadband definitions discussed earlier. Funding amounts for both programs will be determined after applications are received. Make backhaul provider information available on website.

5. Executive Director Report

Financial Reports were presented.
Mapping update – a quote for continued work will be addressed at next Authority meeting.

A summary of proposed rule changes will be prepared reflecting items no longer relevant given statute changes from last session (LD 1063).

6. Public Comment

Sue Inches, Tilson Technologies suggested two rounds of Community Planning Grants.

Don Flewelling, Pioneer Broadband, distributed a flyer and spoke to providing service to Maine's first gigabit town.

Ben Sanborn spoke to rule writing/revision procedures. Phil Lindley suggested waivers be put out for public comment. Dick Thompson asked staff to bring analysis to next meeting.