

CONNECT ME



State of Maine
ConnectME Authority
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Dick Thompson
Chair

Authority Members - Denise Garland - Susan Woods - Bruce Williamson - Sandy Saunders - Ralph Johnson

January 26, 2018

ConnectME Authority – Meeting Notes

1. Introductions: Authority Board Members: Dick Thompson, Chair; Susan Woods; Sandy Saunders and Bruce Williamson.

Authority Staff: Heather Johnson and Brooke Johnson.

Members of the Public were asked to introduce themselves.

2. Welcome new staff: Heather Johnson introduced herself and Brooke Johnson introduced herself.
3. Board and staff retreat: Heather Johnson suggested late April early May for the staff retreat. The second week in May works for all in attendance and staff will check with absent board members. Dick Thompson and Heather will look at venues and do a draft retreat agenda for consideration at the next board meeting.
4. Rulemaking update: David Maxwell presented the notice of acceptance of receipt of provisional rule letter and provided everyone with the rulemaking legislative document LD1798. There is no public hearing scheduled to date. Dick Thompson suggested a wording change regarding denial and stay. David Maxwell suggested to reach out to the EUT committee regarding a possible amendment. Dick Thompson suggested that Heather Johnson speak to the Chair of that committee. Ben Sanborn suggested that if the authority is backing this bill that it will go a lot smoother. Melinda Kinney offered to help if needed. Dick Thompson approved a motion to accept changes and all were in favor.
5. Grants update: This will be grant round 12 of infrastructure and grant round 3 of planning. A grant solicitation for available broadband sustainability fee awards will be initiated soon. Heather Johnson suggested changing the time frame to the notice going out on Feb 5th with grant applications being due March 30th. This will allow time for towns to call a special meeting if needed. Dick Thompson asked for volunteers for the grant selection committee and Bruce Williamson volunteered. Ben Sanborn and Elizabeth Wyman believe the timing is awkward because of the rulemaking and suggested we use the new grant program criteria in the pre-adopted rule for these grant rounds. Dick Thompson said to initiate the grant rounds.
6. Legislative update: There was a public hearing on LD520 but no work session is scheduled to date. There was a public hearing on LD1690 and the work session was on January 24, 2018 the committee voted ONTP. Dick Thompson authorized the release of the Annual report and all were in favor.

Heather described Broadband day as it was good overall, with positive feedback and some press was there.

7. Broadband service provider non-disclosure agreements and protective order: David Maxwell presented the non-disclosure agreement and protective order for Fairpoint/Consolidated. Questions about what type of data will be provided to ConnectME are answered. ConnectMe is in hopes that once this non-disclosure and protective order are finalized other providers will be willing to provide their data to us as well. Dick Thompson conditionally approved until the Office of the Attorney General reviews the language in these two documents.
8. Approval of December 8, 2017 meeting minutes: Dick Thompson authorized the approval of the December 8, 2017 meeting minutes and all were in favor.
9. Staff report:
 - Financial- David Maxwell reviewed the monthly report from Solix.
 - Programs- David Maxwell updated about FirstNet. The Broadband Action Plan is being discussed and will be public once it is in final form.
 - Board member terms- Board member terms are discussed and Dick Thompson asked Heather Johnson to work with Denise Garland to address the vacancy and expired terms.
10. Other Business: MMA Technology Conference April 27, 2018. Heather is going to attend and speak. The ConnectME time frame is 3 to 4. Bruce Williamson provided Heather Johnson with some ideas for her discussion.
11. Public comments: No public comments.

Board Meeting ended at 3:40 p.m.