

CONNECTMAINE

Emergency Meeting Notes

3 November 2020

Zoom Recording: https://networkmaine.zoom.us/rec/share/vJ8N4WrhEvWgvfiqWgyNTwIkg9EIXfgtrswkjuLC82gwfC2gM_T_0x8AzkprXQR.mDBCD4Oexww6EsSE

Authority Members

Nick Battista, Chair
Jasmine Bishop
Fred Brittain
Susan Corbett
Heather Johnson
Jeff Letourneau
Liz Wyman

Introductions of Members and Staff

Nick Battista, Jeff Letourneau, Fred Brittain, Heather Johnson, Susan Corbett, Liz Wyman, Jasmine Bishop, Peggy Schaffer, Stephenie MacLagan

Meeting Purpose and Limited Scope—Nick

Discussion on Operations

Needed Memorandums of Understanding—Peggy

Desired Review Process—Nick

Authorization Vote—Nick

Board Discussion Welcomed

- Short-term needs versus long-term needs
- Legal representation presently and in the future

Approval to delegate authority to the Chair and Executive Director to execute memorandums of understanding and other such contracts with the state of Maine in order to efficiently operate the ConnectMaine Authority, and execute the Connect the Kids grant awards including grant contract agreements: Jeff motioned, Fred 2nd, 7:0

Budget Discussion

Review Proposed Budget for Additional Capacity Needed—Nick

Increase Support Services Vote—Nick

Board Discussion Welcomed

- Types of contracts, personnel, support services and other solutions.
- Amounts likely needed versus proposed in not-yet-approved budget
- Timelines for likely spending and the Connect the Kids administration
- No vote taken on proposed budget

Action: ConnectMaine staff will revise budget for the next meeting on 12.2

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Discussion on Grants

Review Statute Limitations—Peggy

- Infrastructure lens versus lenses of accessibility and affordability
- Statute references to accessibility and affordability with regard to “unserved”

Review Information Recently Received—Nick

- Available broadband service from Charter and Comcast in the Biddeford, Brunswick and South Portland project focus areas of the GWI proposals to Connect the Kids
- Statute limitation of funding for deployment of infrastructure

Vote on only GWI Proposal to Connect the Kids—Nick

Board Discussion Welcomed

- Affordability with regard to infrastructure availability and “unserved”
- Validity of the statutory waiver approved at the October Meeting
- These topics and decisions as a pivotal moment for ConnectMaine
- Lifeline and similar programs
- Limited notice and discussion for this decision as a pivotal moment; limited time and process for considering affordability in the definition of “unserved”
- Urban connectivity challenges versus rural, traditional unserved areas
- Statute definition of “infrastructure” with regard to “improvement”
- Statute authority for Connect the Kids given circumstances of the pandemic
- Interpreting “infrastructure” being predicated on unserved waiver
- Conflicts among affordability, infrastructure availability and unserved
- Coronavirus relief funds unexhausted
- Process, methods of identification of student and teacher premises

Opposed to reject the three GWI proposals to Connect the Kids where existing “infrastructure” enabling over 50/10mbps service has been verified in complete coverage of the project focus areas: Heather motioned, Susan 2nd, 3:4, with Jeff, Fred, Liz and Jasmine opposing the motion

Public Comment Welcomed

- Affordability issues outside the scope of Connect the Kids
- Inconsistency between lists of student and teacher premises shared and the proposals
- Limitations of coronavirus relief funds for health emergency to December 30, 2020

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Board Discussion Continued

- State and legal reviews
- Coronavirus relief funds unexhausted
- Flexibilities of coronavirus relief funds for health emergency to December 30, 2020
- Refusal of the Chair to sign contract agreement for the three GWI project proposals due to limited scope of public process, statutory limitations, and avoiding to jeopardize the trust in ConnectMaine and the financial risk to the state of Maine
- Other funding sources and processes to address these project focus areas with regard to affordability instead of infrastructure

Approval to stand up a pilot affordability program, considering other funding sources, that will fund these 214 student premises and any other eligible students identified in these three GWI project focus areas through the end of the 2020-2021 school year as an alternative to awarding grants for the three GWI proposals to Connect the Kids: Susan motioned, Heather 2nd, 7:0

ConnectMaine Authority
DRAFT - FY21 Annual Budget - DRAFT

BUDGETS	DETAIL	FY19	FY20	PROJECTED	INITIATIVES	OBLIGATED	PROPOSED	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	ACTUAL
REVENUE	Carryforward	\$1,614,092.01	\$0.00	\$1,451,280.05		\$18,340.64	\$1,451,280.05	\$1,451,280.05				\$1,451,280.05
Fund	Assessment Fees	\$1,142,030.66	\$2,975,000.00	\$1,800,000.00		\$36,682.24	\$1,800,000.00	\$400,000.00				\$400,000.00
Interest		\$4,927.27				\$116.19						\$116.19
Refunds		\$1,921.00		\$525.00			\$525.00	\$525.00				\$525.00
Bonds				\$15,000,000.00			\$15,000,000.00					\$0.00
Federal	CRF, etc.				\$10,000,000.00		\$10,000,000.00					\$0.00
SUBTOTAL		\$2,762,970.94	\$2,975,000.00	\$18,251,805.05	\$10,000,000.00	\$55,139.07	\$28,251,805.05	\$1,851,805.05	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,851,921.24
Available	excluding Interest, Bonds & Federal			\$3,251,805.05	\$0.00		\$3,251,805.05					\$1,851,805.05
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EXPENSES	Carryover	\$96,621.12	\$0.00	\$0.00			\$0.00	\$0.00				\$0.00
Assessment	Solix	\$25,500.00	\$25,655.00	\$18,000.00		\$13,500.00	\$18,000.00	\$4,500.00				\$4,500.00
Financial	DAFS		\$10,296.00	\$10,296.00			\$10,296.00	\$2,574.00				\$2,574.00
Website	InforME, OIT & Sewall	\$37,404.00	\$81,234.68	\$34,992.00		\$31,142.00	\$34,992.00	\$962.91				\$962.91
Administration	Salaries, etc.	\$225,071.77	\$258,700.17	\$230,180.00		\$187,657.90	\$231,787.18	\$44,129.28				\$44,129.28
Cellphones	FY19 captured in Administration		\$830.24	\$1,124.74			\$1,124.74	\$330.94				\$330.94
Travel	FY19 captured in Administration		\$7,278.85									\$0.00
Bond Fees				\$10,000.00			\$10,000.00					\$0.00
Personnel	temporary hires				\$50,000.00		\$50,000.00					\$0.00
Support Services	systems setup & facilitation				\$100,000.00		\$100,000.00					\$0.00
Mapping	excluding Sewall	\$58,000.00	\$10,000.00		\$70,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$70,000.00					\$0.00
Planning Grants		\$118,362.50	\$144,060.00	\$85,410.00	\$200,000.00	\$53,375.00	\$285,410.00	\$32,035.00				\$32,035.00
Operations	conference fees or sponsorship		\$3,536.33		\$15,000.00		\$15,000.00					\$0.00
Digital Inclusion	device deployment				\$50,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$50,000.00					\$0.00
Grant Matches			\$50,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$1,000,000.00					\$0.00
Infrastructure Bond				\$14,990,000.00			\$14,990,000.00					\$0.00
Infrastructure CRF					\$10,000,000.00		\$10,000,000.00					\$0.00
Infrastructure Fund		\$225,071.77	\$932,128.68	\$662,790.85	\$100,000.00	\$646,250.00	\$762,790.85	\$116,540.85				\$116,540.85
Miscellaneous	covers likely deviations	\$1,830.54		\$20,000.00			\$20,000.00	\$22.32				\$22.32
TOTAL		\$787,861.70	\$1,523,719.95	\$16,562,793.59	\$11,085,000.00	\$1,066,924.90	\$27,649,400.77	\$201,095.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$201,095.30
Internal	excluding Bonds & Federal			\$1,562,793.59	\$1,085,000.00		\$2,649,400.77					\$201,095.30
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BALANCE		\$1,975,109.24	\$1,451,280.05	\$1,689,011.46			\$602,404.28	\$1,650,709.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,650,825.94
Difference	excluding Interest, Bonds & Federal			\$1,689,011.46			\$602,404.28					\$1,650,709.75
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ALLOTMENT	excludes personal services			\$1,046,334.83		\$34,000.00	\$1,046,334.83	\$0.83	####			