

ConnectME Authority

March 29, 2012 – Meeting Notes

1. Introduction of ConnectME Authority Members and Staff

Authority Members: Jean Wilson, Chair; Vendean Vafiades; Dick Thompson

Staff: Phil Lindley, Lisa Leahy

2. Broadband Strategy Plan – Review and Discuss Final Version

- Clarence Young, James W. Sewall Company, led the discussion for the Authority's review of the final version of the plan for adoption and implementation. The plan will be the Authority's roadmap of expectations for what we are doing and where we should be involved. It will help us help other agencies, states, and organizations; as we have had numerous contacts regarding strategic plans, how we operate, and our successes. The Authority is more than a grant giving agency; we participate in and support many initiatives, both public and private, to enhance availability, adoption, and better service and speeds. We work with and provide advice and assistance to anyone who advances the goals of the Authority. A public awareness campaign will be central to the recommendations of the plan. The Authority voted to adopt the final version of the plan and to refer it to the Advisory Council for recommendations and priorities. There was much discussion about priorities, measuring demonstrable results, and affecting those goals over which the Authority has some control or input.
- The Authority members thanked the staff of the Sewall Company team for a tremendous effort and for providing the detailed insight and research necessary.

3. Executive Director Report

- Advisory Council Membership –
Recommendations from the last meeting were forwarded to the Governor's office for review and appointment; plus Seat 2, Thomas Murray, TDS Telecom, Manager, State Gov't Affairs and Seat 3, Paul Schonewolf, Time Warner Cable, Area Vice President of Operations.

Seat 4: Linda Lord, Maine State Librarian

Seat 5: Jeff Mao, Dept. of Education

Seat 6: Mitch Davidson, Dean of Information Technology and CIO, Southern Maine Community College

Seat 7: Jeff Letourneau, Exec. Director NetworkMaine (UMS)

The Authority asked FairPoint to provide a recommendation for Seat 11, (Appointed by Authority) for the next meeting.

- Financial statements provided:
ConnectME Fund Performance Report;
Broadband Sustainability Fund Report; and
Outstanding grant balances to be paid.
The Executive Director will provide a forward looking pro forma financial estimate at the next meeting which will help determine the size of the seventh grant round.

4. Public comment period

Dan Sullivan, Cooper, commented on the apparent inaccuracies of the online broadband map and suggested that it be more granular and updated more regularly.

Ben Sanborn, TAM, discussed the metrics for measuring the success of the Authority initiatives and Strategic Plan and agreed that the Advisory Council would be a good instrument to develop priorities with the opportunity for public comment.

Frank O'Hara, Planning Decisions, and a subcontractor for the Broadband Capacity Building Project, provided updates on the activities of the BBCP Task Force.