

CONNECTMAINE

Authority Members: Denise Garland - Susan Corbett - Liz Wyman
Fred Brittain - Nick Battista - Jeffrey Letourneau

May 27, 2020

ConnectME Authority – Meeting Notes

1. Introductions: Authority Board Members: Fred Brittain, Susan Corbett, Liz Wyman, Nick Battista and Jeff Letourneau

Authority Staff: Peggy Schaffer and Brooke Johnson
2. Approval of Minutes: Susan Corbett motions to approve the minutes and Jeff Letourneau seconds the motion. All were in favor.
3. Monthly Financials: Brooke Johnson reviewed the monthly financials. ConnectMaine paid \$103,612.61 in expenses for the month of May. The ending balance was \$786,539.20. Additional obligations were discussed leaving a final cash balance of \$653,044.20. The Board accepted the monthly financials.
4. Director Report: Peggy Schaffer explained that we received over \$3 million in grant requests for this current grant round and we only have \$500,000 to award. ConnectMaine has received over 40 consumer broadband related complaints over the past 8 weeks and we typically see that many in a 12-month period. We are working diligently to try and help these individuals get some form of connectivity.
5. Governor’s Economic Recovery Council and EDA Discussion: Susan Corbett discusses her involvement in the Governor’s Economic and Recovery Council. There is 6 Committees that meet weekly and they are open to the public. She is a member on the Infrastructure Committee, and they bring in experts when needed. Peggy Schaffer and Nick Battista will be presenting to the Committee next week. She will keep us updated as things progress with the Council. Peggy Schaffer briefly explains the EDA funding. She discussed the revolving loan fund and how it will be significant to leverage funding. The discussions are moving rapidly, and she is making sure it aligns with the State’s Strategic Plan and our Action Plan. Ben Sanborn asked who would be eligible for this revolving loan and Peggy stated for profits will be eligible.
6. Approval of Grants: Peggy Schaffer summarized the 19 grants we received and mentioned we need to talk about changing our scoring criteria for future rounds. The scoring Committee is recommending funding to Bremen, Argyle and Hudson for Infrastructure and not the highest scored Swans Island due to not having enough funds. The scoring Committee is recommending funding for Litchfield, Swans Island, GEGR and potentially Sanford for planning. Liz Wyman motions to award funding to Bremen, Argyle and Hudson for infrastructure and Litchfield, Swans Island, GEGR and Sanford for planning. Fred seconds the motion. Roll Call: Nick Battista abstained, Fred Brittain voted yes, Jeff Letourneau voted no, Liz Wyman voted yes, and Susan Corbett voted yes.
7. Other Business: N/A
8. Public Comments: Brian Lippold would like the Franklin County project scores for his review and Ben Sanborn asked when the revised Rulemaking will be released.

Board meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.