

NORTHEAST MICHIGAN FIBER CONSORTIUM MEETING
Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 1:00 pm
Alpena Community College, Newport Center Building, Room 115
MINUTES

Present: Eric Vanderveer (Alpena County), Mark Grunder (ACC), Vicky Kropp (NEMiFC), Paul Mancine (Alpena Public Schools), Dennis Bannon, (NEMCMH), Steve Schultz (City of Alpena), Chuck Bennett (TBNMS), Chad Bailey (MidMichigan Medical Center), Nora Pizzino (AMA), Doug Chroninger (1010 Technology Center), Katie Jensen (Merit)

Present via voice conference: Liz Fagel (Michigan Works), Paul Diamond (Sabre Technologies)

Guests: John VanWagoner, Mary Lyon, Diane Block (Alpena Public Schools)
Pierrette Widmeyer (Merit) via video conference

1. Eric Vanderveer called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm
2. Introductions
3. Approval of Minutes from December – Eric Vanderveer asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Paul Mancine made a motion, seconded by Steve Schultz, unanimously approved.
4. Additions to the Agenda – Presentation of a plaque to Diane Block in acknowledgement and appreciation for her many years of service to the NEMiFC.
5. Public Comment – None
6. Consent Agenda
 - a. New Correspondence – Nicole Keyes from Northeast Michigan Works looking for someone in the Consortium who might interested in providing hands on activities in the MI Career Quest in May. Eric Vanderveer will be doing one on IT. If anyone else is interested, Vicky Kropp can forward the contact information.
 - b. Financial Report – Many invoices have already been paid, the Merit fiber management bill has been paid. Balance is \$51,579.90. Eric Vanderveer asked for a motion to accept the financial report. Dennis Bannon made a motion, seconded by Steve Schultz, unanimously approved.
7. New Business –
 - a. NEMiFC/Merit Membership Value Workshop Information Review – Pierrette Widmeyer, Director of Marketing and Communication at Merit (via video conference), highlighted some of the topics discussed at the 2/26/19 Value Workshop. There are 3 documents available for members to review that summarize the workshop: the SWOT Analysis, Other White Boards, and Value Workshop in Alpena Transcript. Vicky would like to work with Pierrette to develop a plan with priorities and timeline then present that proposal to the group.
 - b. Merit Advisory Council Update, Eric Vanderveer – Was asked at the last minute to do a presentation at the December meeting so he discussed Merit's support with the Consortium to the board members of the MAC.

8. Old Business
 - a. Engineering – GLNC Quote and Merit Costs – There is a new quote from Merit (Dustin closed his business and is working for Merit now). Testing the splice ring and the fiber at the same time. It's on the schedule for as soon as the weather breaks. Reminder, this ring is putting in new, upgraded switches purchased from Merit at the college, hospital, city, county, and the public school for redundancy.
 - b. Merit Update – Katie Jensen – Merit Conference is May 8 & 9, there is a buy one get one free ticket promotion. More information is on the website. The Consortium will buy 2 tickets (4 people) for members who are interested in attending the conference. Is working with Vicky on bandwidth utilization for all the Consortium members. Merit has SISO services and is working towards a reasonable pricing model. Working on the Michigan Moonshot project, still gathering data. Encouraged everyone to submit their home bandwidth for more complete data, particularly more rural areas. Members can contact Katie through Vicky or directly anytime, there is also a conference call every other Tuesday (ask to be included on the list).
 - c. Consortium Update – Vicky Kropp – We have 24 members with 60 connections throughout the northern Lower Peninsula. The following documents have been updated: NEMiFC agreement, DDoS agreement, Merit service level agreement, letter of understanding, and master lease agreement for the fiber. Will begin the bandwidth review once all the agreements are signed and the Merit invoices will be based on those numbers. The Consortium can help members who need assistance determining their bandwidth.
9. Roundtable
 - a. Paul Mancine - installed a new phone system at the public schools. He likes it.
 - b. Mark Grunder – effective Fall 2019, ACC will have 25 additional video conference systems mostly being used in high schools for dual enrollment in the northern Lower Peninsula. Also connecting Alcona Health Center with two schools.
10. Reminder – Consortium website is www.nemifc.org ; email address is arfc@nemifc.org
11. Adjourned at 1:47 pm. Motion to adjourn by Dennis Bannon, seconded by Chuck Bennett, unanimously approved.