

NORTHEAST MICHIGAN FIBER CONSORTIUM MEETING  
Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2019, 1:00 pm  
Alpena Community College, Newport Center Building, Room 115  
MINUTES

Present: Eric Vanderveer (Alpena County), Mark Grunder (ACC), Vicky Kropp (NEMiFC), Steve Schultz (City of Alpena), Chuck Bennett (TBNMS & Art in the Loft), Chad Bailey (MidMichigan Medical Center), Liz Fagel (Michigan Works), Jeff Blumenthal (ACC), Paul Diamond (Sabre Technologies), Doug Chroninger (AMAESD), Tom Isaacs (IT, Alpena County), Eric Dunckel (Alcona County), Katie Jensen (Merit)

Present via voice conference: Liz Fagel (Michigan Works)

1. Eric Vanderveer called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
2. Introductions
3. Approval of Minutes from July 10, 2019 – Eric Vanderveer asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Chuck Bennett made the motion, seconded by Vicky Kropp, unanimously approved.
4. Additions to the Agenda – State of Michigan is doing a CISO as a service, October 18, 2019.
5. Public Comment – None
6. Consent Agenda
  - a. New Correspondence – Received notification from Eric Vanderveer that he will be resigning from the County of Alpena as of October 4, 2019 and he will be leaving his chair position with the consortium.  
  
Nomination of new chairperson: Eric Vanderveer nominated Dennis Bannon as the president. Eric Vanderveer made the motion that we nominate Dennis Bannon as the new president, seconded by Liz Fagel, unanimously approved. Dennis' nomination leaves the vice president position open.  
  
Nomination of vice president: Vicky Kropp nominated Jeff Blumenthal. Steve Schultz made the motion to nominate Jeff Blumenthal, seconded by Liz Fagel, unanimously approved.
  - b. Financial Report – Vicky Kropp presented the financial report with a balance total of \$59,715.15. We have received the letter of understanding from Merit and will be invoicing members this month. Doug Chroninger made the motion to accept the financial report, seconded by Steve Schultz, unanimously approved.

## 7. New Business

- a. Registration fee for the Merit Broadband Summit at the Tree Tops Resort in Gaylord, September 24, 2019 – the consortium will cover up to six tickets to attend. Currently three individual will be attending. Eric requested a motion to accept three people from the consortium to attend the summit at the cost of \$135. Chuck Bennett made the motion to approve, Steve Schultz seconded, unanimously approved.

## 8. Old Business

- a. Mission Statement – Eric Vanderveer requested a motion for the approval for the mission statement. Jeff Blumenthal made the motion, seconded by Mark Grunder, unanimously approved. The next step following the approval of the mission statement is to meet with Pierette Templeton (Merit) to develop the brochure in conjunction with reviewing the member benefits and costs.
- b. Engineering Update – Eric Vanderveer sent out request for quotes to Thunder Bay Electric and Omni Electric. Vendors were to meet for a walk through on August 20 for the three bids: the Hunan Location, the Johnson Street location, and the location at Alpena Power for the fiber slicing and cable ties. Thunder Bay Electric was the only vendor to show up. Received quotes from Thunder Bay Electric. There was one question on the Hunan quote which we are waiting for Thunder Bay Electric to resubmit. The quote for the Johnson Street came in at \$1,430 to install 24 count of fiber to the pedestal; the second quote was at Hunan to install 24 strands of aerial fiber and added splice box and snow shoes to accommodate for slack loop at \$3,535; the Alpena Power location to trace out two location of dark fiber for a connection back to City Hall came to \$1,210. Total cost of \$6,175 to complete the projects. There are still two additional issues to identify single mode fiber between the public safety building and the city hall and to identify the single pair of fiber from the high school to the county building. Mark Grunder made a motion to accept the quotes from Thunder Bay Electric, Jeff Blumenthal seconded, unanimously approved.
- c. Merit Update – Web Presentation on the new member portal: Katie Jensen, David Dennis (Merit, Product Development), Michael Thomson (Merit, Senior Developer on the Portal project) presented an overview of the new member portal. Modern, mobile friendly and scalable platform that they can build on and add new features. Through the user friendly portal you would be taken to the dashboard which displays your aggregate bandwidth, commodity and community bandwidth usage for the month or date range. Quick access to the support center, ability to send out messages to the MSC. Access to Merit advisory members. View open tickets related to the organizations and open tickets through the portal. Quick links to Merit commons and Merit marketplace, ability to interact. Access to the services which you have contracted for with Merit, purchase agreements, contacts and management of contacts. Some new upcoming features are a new portal scanning service; bandwidth capacity planning tool. Eric made a suggestion to have a real time live chat session.

Katie Update – Benzie County is looking at expanding their fiber footprint. There will be no security conference. September 24 is the Broadband summit. Merit member conference is May 12-14, 2020 at the Henry in Dearborn. Merit is offering CISO services and Katie passed out a brochure relating to the three different package offerings. Plus Merit is offering a 2-hour no cost

discussion with Kevin Hayes to discuss projects and assessment posture with an organization. Moonshot project is underway.

- d. Consortium Update – Discussion relating to updating equipment at Hillman. Equipment at Hillman is at EOL. Approved members for access to bandwidth. Follow up with engineering. Merit has approved covering the \$7500 cost for Western Telco engineering related to ring project. Wan letter of understanding has been signed and invoicing to members will be happening. Still working with Merit on discussion regarding ALPCC2 as a distribution switch but ACC is being billed. VPN between HUSH and Alpena still in discussion.

Web site is hosted at Amazon and Eric is asking for any member who would be interested in updating and maintaining the site. Tom Isaacs at the County would still be able to handle the updates. Andy Brush, State of Michigan, DTMB, Cyber Security Partnerships, wants to do a bi-monthly cyber partners meetings. The first one will be held at the college, October 18, 9:00am–11:00am with the first hour being a skype call with all the local municipalities and then the last hour will be a round table discussion. Eric will send out information to the consortium members.

## 9. Roundtable

- a. Mark Grunder – There are 11 high schools connected back to ACC doing video conferencing. There are 420 students participating. This includes Au Gres, Alcona, Atlanta, Tawas, Hillman, and Oscoda schools. Phase II will include clinics and health care facilities
- b. Liz Fagel – Still having issues with being notified by the NOC when issues are affecting her sites. The last issue was a power issue in Hart, MI which affected her Cheboygan site.
- c. Eric Dunckel (Alcona) – Lives in Northern Alcona County and looking for information related to bringing fiber to their region and understanding technology.
- d. Mark Grunder – Northern Michigan University Education Access Network project next build includes Northeast Michigan.

10. Reminder – Consortium website is [www.nemifc.org](http://www.nemifc.org); email address is [arfc@nemifc.org](mailto:arfc@nemifc.org).

Adjourned at 2:20 pm. Eric Vanderveer asked for a motion to adjourn. Chuck Bennett made a motion, seconded by Mark Grunder, unanimously approved.