

NORTHEAST MICHIGAN FIBER CONSORTIUM MEETING  
Wednesday, November 20, 2019, 1:00 pm  
Alpena Community College, Newport Center Building, Room 115  
MINUTES

Present: John Hartley (IT Director Alcona County), Adam Keyes (Network Engineer APS), Eric Vanderveer (Intricate Security), Tom Isaacs (IT Alpena County), Paul Diamond (Sabre Technologies), Chuck Bennett (TBNMS & Art in the Loft), Chad Bailey (MidMichigan Medical Center), Dennis Bannon (IT Director NEMCMH), Mark Grunder (IT ACC), Vicky Kropp (NEMiFC), Jeff Blumenthal (ACC)

Present via voice conference: Liz Fagel (Michigan Works), Katie Jensen (Merit)

Guest: Doug Cheek (Alcona County), Susan Haight (Alcona County) - Alcona Economic Development Committee

1. Dennis Bannon called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
2. Introductions
3. Approval of Minutes from September 11, 2019 – Eric Vanderveer asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Mark Grunder made the motion, seconded by Chuck Bennett, unanimously approved.
4. Additions to the Agenda – Discussion of Bandwidth under Old Business
5. Public Comment – None
6. Consent Agenda
  - a. New Correspondence – None
  - b. Financial Report – Vicky Kropp presented the financial report. Invoiced members for a total of \$30,000.00. The Merit invoice for WAN management has been paid of \$17,475.00. Current balance of \$68,204.62. Adam Keyes made the motion to accept the financial report, seconded by Jeff Blumenthal, unanimously approved.
7. New Business
  - a. Finance Overview and ACC Fiduciary GAB Requirements – Vicky Kropp presented a request from Dick Sutherland (CFO, ACC) that the Consortium provide some budgetary documentation (statements of activities, financial position, and cash flow) that would assist him in defining our financials. Requirements are relative to GASB standards and would help understand the Consortium's role under the College. We are not a 501(3)(c) and the Consortium has not applied for non-profit with the state. The Consortium is basically an un-incorporated volunteer group. We do not solicit funds or donors, we do not apply for grants or pay wages and the college is our managing fiduciary. Based on guidelines under which we operate and in talking with an accountant we did not need to file with the state.

Dick Sutherland would like to know how funds are collected, received, and disbursed. Vicky asked for a few members to work with her in preparing in presenting information to Dick. Jeff Blumenthal, Liz Fagel, and Dennis Bannon volunteered to help.

## 8. Old Business

### a. Merit Update – Katie Jensen

Ring Update – lateral update on the ring.

Vicky and Katie are working on some prospects and the NEMiFC brochure to assist with a presentation blitz. Katie was contacted by the Alpena Chamber of Commerce regarding membership.

Merit has moved their offices to their new facilities.

Moonshot Overview – Merit decided to start a data gathering initiative and partnered with the Quello Center, Michigan State University to define underserved areas and the need for better information and mapped data of where the internet is or isn't in Michigan. The FCC data tends to be skewed, in that the data is flagged as internet coverage/served area: if only one home in a region has access the whole region is considered covered. Merit is partnering with the K-12 organizations with the goal in mind to fill the homework gap to begin to collect data to better define underserved areas.

Merit will work with last mile providers and community anchors. Merit web site has the Moonshot framework information and a number of webinars. Merit will be doing road shows or town halls to any groups that may be interested.

### b. Consortium Update – Vicky Kropp

Working on the engineering project and documentation. Katie will start working with the engineers in updating our WAN map. Reviewing bandwidth and working with Thunder Bay Health in Hillman. Reviewing equipment located in Hillman.

### c. Engineering Update – Mark and Vicky

Thunder Bay Electric will be starting the project 11/18/2019. Vicky will follow up on Monday. Mark reviewed the engineering map of the ring. Merit has donated a stretch of fiber on Bagley to connect the ring at a new hand hold put in on Johnson Street at MidMichigan. The fiber from AHS to the County has been identified. Hardware for the City, County and ACC has been installed. Vicky asked about the glass-thru showing on the map at Alpena Power. Mark explained that the City fiber has strands going into Alpena Power and ACC has strands going into Alpena Power and basically it is patching the City and ACC fiber at this point to make the ring connection. We still have to identify the single mode fiber from 911 to the City. Mark will work on that.

### d. Bandwidth evaluation has been done by Katie and put into documentation. We have a total of shared 670 mg shared bandwidth. Community bandwidth is the on-net shared bandwidth; commodity bandwidth is the off-net, internet usage. We do not have a guideline for bandwidth usage. Should we be looking at usage guidelines if we ever do meet the pooled bandwidth of 670mb.

Mark Grunder will work with Vicky on reviewing member bandwidth.

Eric Vanderveer also suggested review of 1 gig connections at member's locations, so there might be a need to update equipment to accommodate to the now available 10 mg.

- e. January meeting scheduled for 1/8/2020 will be moved to 1/15/2020.
- f. Vicky Kropp spoke to Eric Smith regarding the NMU Educational Access Network. They are waiting for notification from the FCC and grant funding to start the project that will encompass Northeast Michigan. NMU will be deploying cellular towers in Northeast Michigan to provide internet access in underserved area.
- g. Merit also provides free 2-hour sessions consulting for members with Kevin Hayes – Merit. Another option would be to provide a more in depth security webinar as a group with Kevin Hayes, consolidating fee for all members.

#### 9. Roundtable

- a. Chuck Bennett – Thanked Mark Grunder and Paul Diamond in assisting with getting Art in the Loft up and running during a recent outage. The problem was a bad attenuator and a splice problem, but the fact that it took a week was a long time to be down. It started on a Friday night, then up again on Saturday, but back down on Monday and then down the rest of the week. Liz suggested that we look at the guidelines of the SLA that addresses down time and refund to the member.
- b. John Kelley suggested that at the round table we pick a certain technology item to discuss. If there is any member that would like to discuss a particular subject, please submit it to Vicky Kropp to include in the agenda under the roundtable for discussion.
- c. Presentation of plaque of recognition to Eric Vanderveer for his time served on the consortium as the chairperson. He left his positions at the County and the Consortium to concentrate on his own security company.

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

Adjourned at 2:13 pm. Dennis Bannon asked for a motion to adjourn. Jeff Blumenthal made a motion, seconded by Mark Grunder, unanimously approved.