

NORTHEAST MICHIGAN FIBER CONSORTIUM MEETING  
Wednesday, December 9, 2020, 1:00 pm  
Alpena Community College, WebEx meeting  
MINUTES

Present: Dennis Bannon (NEMCMH), Vicky Kropp (NEMiFC), Katie Jensen (Merit), Chuck Bennett (Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary), Doug Chroninger (AMA ESD), Steve Mousseau (County of Alpena), Mark Grunder (ACC), Paul Diamond (Sabre), Jack Wierzbicki (NEMCSA), Jeff Blumenthal (ACC), Chad Bailey (MidMichigan), Chuck Bennett (Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary), Deb Kozlowski (ACC) Liz Fagel (Michigan Works)

1. Dennis Bannon called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
2. Introductions
3. Approval of Minutes from October 14, 2020 – Dennis Bannon asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Chuck Bennett made the motion, seconded by Vicky Kropp, unanimously approved.
4. Additions to the Agenda – None
5. Public Comment – None
6. Consent Agenda
  - a. New Correspondence – Vicky Kropp received correspondence relative to the engineering project and she will present that in the engineering update.
  - b. Financial Report – Vicky Kropp presented the financial report. Expenditures included two invoices one from Intrinsic Security for a charge of \$200.00, which is an annual hosting fee of \$50.00 dollars and the cost for moving the website of \$150.00 dollars. We also received the consolidate invoice from Merit for the port fee and DDOS for a total of \$21,402.00 dollars. We have not started invoicing members yet for the 2020/2021 year. From preliminary review that will be a total of \$30,000. Ending balance for December was \$51,689.27.  
Dennis Bannon asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Jeff Blumenthal made the motion, seconded by Liz Fagel. Unanimously approved.
7. New Business
  - a. Funding of consortia member representatives in the Merit Community of Practice (COP) – Esport, SCOPE, MITE and MIND. It was proposed that the Consortium could cover the

fee for a representative of the consortium to participate in one of the Community of Practice. The fee is normally \$299.00 dollars but has been temporarily reduced to \$239.00 dollars. The sessions will be held virtual and are usually day long sessions which are usually held 9:30 am – 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. There is an option for a person who is interested to attend one of the sessions free as a guest to analyze whether the COP would be a good fit. Those arrangements can be made through Katie Jensen. Secondary member of a consortium member organization could be assigned to attend. The responsibility of someone attending the COP would be to report back to the consortium the activity that would be happening with the COP.

Discussion was held at length regarding the COPS and whether organizations would have the time to attend. Mark Grunder suggested we put this off till a later date. Liz Fagel expressed an interest in several of the groups. Chuck Bennett suggested that we vote and this would allow any individual to attend if they choose. The question was asked if this proposal covers more than one person per COP. While the intent was to sponsor one person per COP Vicky said that we could afford to cover the cost of two persons to a COP. For planning purpose for anyone who is interested, Merit has dates of the COPS on their website.

Dennis suggested moving forward with the concept and see how many are interested and table the funding till a later date. Contact Katie if you are interested in attending any of the sessions as a guest.

## 8. Current Business

- a. NEMiFC Ring/Engineering update. Vicky Kropp shared a mapping of the NP2S1 Ring Lease Splicing. Steve Weiland notified us that he would be setting up a maintenance window on 12/22/2020 to splice strands on the east side of ring at NP251-02250 and NP251-01090. The prep for the final splicing will be scheduled for early 2021. To complete the splicing at the NP251-01090-00010. Still have to audit the slave case on Wilson street. All the other work has been done, Alpena Power has been done and approved and paid for. The agreements are completed and signed for fiber ownership of the new fiber installed at Alpena Power with the city, the agreement for the move of the ASR920 from ACC to public safety and ownership by the city, the agreement between the college and the consortium for payment of the balance of the ASR920 that is moved from the ACC to the public safety. When agreements are finalized Vicky will share with the board members.

Once the ring project is complete, we will schedule a ring wrap up event, project overview, with merit and members along with updated maps and engineering drawings. Need to look at engineering for the hospital new fiber which affects 2 members, Immanuel Lutheran and Besser Museum.

- b. Web Site update – Jeff Blumenthal said that the project to move the consortium website to be hosted with Intrinsic Security, Eric Vanderveer has been completed. The move went smoothly thanks to Eric and was completed at the end of November. Eric has also added a site certificate for security. Eric is also going to include backups. Eric asked

how often we want backups. Jeff indicated updates are normally done monthly when the minutes and agenda gets posted. Jeff will notify Eric when he has posted those updates and then Eric will backup at that time, most normally on a monthly update. Eric is working with Vicky on the forms for notification when someone fills out the interest form.

- c. Member Conference update. Vicky gave an update on the sessions she attended. There were many sessions on the digital divide. (Merit Community Access Network, Stir and Shaken FCC rules, Brute Force presentation, CBR presentation, Mind Session) There are recordings available if anyone wants to view the sessions. Please contact me if you would like to view any of the sessions that I talked about.
- d. Merit Update. Katie Jensen. If we would like Katie would set up a Telnet Presentation or Aspen Wireless and their state wide projects. Katie and Vicky had a 20/21 kickoff meeting for consortium members. She has been working on the wrap up ring projects. Merit is offering a 50% discount on CISO scanner. Promotional rate would be \$2000 for 2 years. Offer extends now through June.

## 9. Roundtable

- a. Chuck Bennett on the film festival and the attempt to hosting it virtual. Using a model that was done by the West Coast International film festival. They are using format that is very similar to a Netflix arrangement and you purchase a ticket to view a film or group of films. They will have the whole line up from the coast film festival and the great lakes and some regional films. This will allow for widening of the viewing audience. They will be using the west coast site to host films. ThunderbayFriends.org will have information on that.
- b. Mark is working with Merit on the Merit cellular wireless solution. Thinking of dropping wireless devices at libraries to give students access to internet instead of having to drive to ACC. The van could be used as a mobile hot spot.  
Note: the website for the Merit Celular Wireless Solution is  
[https://www.merit.edu/network/wireless-solutions/?utm\\_source=bronto&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=VISIT+THE+WEBPAGE&utm\\_content=November+2020+Inbox+Insider&utm\\_campaign=November+2020+Inbox+Insider](https://www.merit.edu/network/wireless-solutions/?utm_source=bronto&utm_medium=email&utm_term=VISIT+THE+WEBPAGE&utm_content=November+2020+Inbox+Insider&utm_campaign=November+2020+Inbox+Insider)

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

Dennis Bannon asked for a motion to adjourn. Liz Fagel made a motion, seconded by Chuck Bennet, unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.