

NORTHEAST MICHIGAN FIBER CONSORTIUM MEETING  
Wednesday, October 14, 2020, 1:00 pm  
Alpena Community College, WebEx meeting  
MINUTES

Present: Dennis Bannon (NEMCMH), Vicky Kropp (NEMiFC), Steve Mousseau (County of Alpena), Katie Jensen (Merit), Chuck Bennett (Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary), John Kelley (MidMichigan), Paul Mancine (APS), Doug Chroninger (AMA ESD), Steve Schultz (City of Alpena), Mark Grunder (ACC), Paul Diamond (Sabre), Jack Wierzbicki (NEMCSA), Chad Bailey (MidMichigan), Jeff Blumenthal (ACC), Jak Shively (Wayne Wire), Ed Dowling (NEMSCA)

1. Dennis Bannon called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.
2. Introductions
3. Approval of Minutes from March 11, 2020 – Dennis Bannon asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Vicky Kropp made the motion, seconded by Steve Schultz, unanimously approved.
4. Additions to the Agenda – None
5. Public Comment – None
6. Consent Agenda
  - a. New Correspondence – David Dennis (Cradle point), Eric Vanderveer, Intricate Security.
  - b. Financial Report – Vicky Kropp presented a preliminary financial report. March balance was \$66,669.00. Expenditures expected are Merit DDOS service \$3073.00 and the port charge of \$18,330.00. There will be engineering costs for the work that was done at Alpena Power for the ring at \$6,180.00 and purchase of the ASR920 from ACC to be moved to the Public Safety building, \$3056.00. Anticipate invoicing to consortium members for a total of \$31,000.00. Paul Mancine made the motion to accept the financial report, seconded by Chuck Bennet, unanimously approved.
7. New Business
  - a. Board Member Election: The board members who have accepted nomination for the two year period of 2020-2022 are Dennis Bannon as ChairPerson, Jeff Blumenthal as Vice-Chair, Permanent Board Member representing ACC, Vicky Kropp as Secretary/Treasurer, Liz Fagel as Member at Large, Chuck Bennett as Member at Large, Paul Mancine as Member at Large, Permanent Board Member representing Alpena

Public Schools), Steve Schultz as Permanent Board Member representing the City of Alpena, John Kelley as Permanent Board member representing MidMichigan, Steve Mousseau as Permanent Board Member representing County of Alpena. Vicky Kropp made the motion to accept the nomination for the 2020-2022 year, seconded by Paul Mancine, unanimously approved.

- b. Meeting Schedule for 2020-2021 year. Following the same schedule as last year meetings will be held every other month on the second Wednesday of the month beginning at 1:00pm. With current COVID restrictions we will continue to hold meetings via Webex format. Dennis Bannon made the motion to approve the meeting schedule, Steve Schultz made the motion to accept the schedule, seconded by Paul Mancine, unanimously approved.
- c. Web Site Management. Eric Vanderveer, Intricate Security, sent correspondence saying that he would host and maintain the NEMIFC web site for a fee of \$50.00 per year. He would also maintain the logs for the website. Jeff Blumenthal would coordinate the move with Eric. Paul Mancine asked if Eric would also maintain backups of the site? Vicky will follow up with Eric on maintaining backups and restoring if there was an issue.

## 8. Current Business

- a. NEMiFC Ring/Engineering update. The work was completed by Thunder Bay Electric at the Alpena Power location. In a previous discussion with Merit (Rick Reineke, Steve Weiland) it was suggested that we put a switch in the Public Safety building eliminating the muxes and allowing for a true 10 Gig connection for sites connected via muxes (City of Alpena, Alpena Oxygen and Michigan Works and any future connections. Rick Reineke made a suggestion that NEMiFC could possibly utilize a ASR920, 24 port switch from ACC which due to changes and discontinued services from Merit, they no longer would be using. They have one more payment to make on the switch. The college has agreed to the consortium purchase of the switch at the cost equal to the final payment of \$3150.00. Merit would actually be installing a new switch at that location because they would be configuring a switch in Ann Arbor to bring up to finalize the work. The next step in line is the completion of the final connection work by Merit. Vicky shared the Alpena City drawing and the NEMiFC IRU splicing map provided by Merit. Paul Mancine mentioned that there is a possible sale of the public transportation building and it might be a good idea to consider fiber moves in future engineering.

City of Alpena has agreed to take ownership and responsibility for the fiber installed at Alpena Power and also for the new ASR920 switch that is going in to the Public Safety.

- b. Merit Update – Katie Jensen (Merit).
  - Moonshot overview. Utilizing moonshot in Benzie County. There is a YouTube presentation available of a meeting that was held with Benzie County. They are

in the feasibility and data collection step. Working with Burt Township in Cheboygan county, Indian River area and also talking with Beaver Island. Different organization are anchoring, could be a library, county or EDC. Merit is closely watching the funding of Rural Broadband. Vicky Kropp asked if Merit would provide guidance or resource on how organizations would be able to navigate funding that is presented to organizations under Policy and Funding. Katie indicated that most organizations are aware of funding available, but she liked the suggestion regarding a Merit provided resource to assist in this area.

- Merit Cradlepoint – David Dennis gave an overview of the Cradlepoint services prior to the start of the meeting.
- MCAP – Merit Community Assistant Pact. No fee associated with MCAP. Letter of understanding between organizations to address confidentiality and it is essentially a technical support network among Merit members who might need support with business continuity or disaster recovery events. Link is on the web site under MCAP.
- Merit Community of Practice – Esports, SCOPE, Mite, Mind. Information was presented based on the Merit web information for each of these community of practice. Katie also asked about interest in the Cyber Security Challenge.
- Merit Marketplace – reviewed offerings on the web site.
- New Member Benefits – Promotion to new members through the end of the year. Merit offering one free attendance at the Merit conference, waive the security scanner free, one membership in one of the Merit Community of Practice, membership fee waived.
- Merit membership packet – this was completed by Katie and Vicky. All information relative to the consortium will be included in the packet to include bandwidth, members, agreements between Merit and the consortium.

## 9. Roundtable

- a. Mark Grunder – Star Link overview, public beta being released. Web site is starlink.com. Northeast Michigan is in the zone for beta offerings.
- b. John Kelley – Question about Advanced Communication and Data which he received correspondence from. It was suggested that it was ACD.net which runs on the Merit sheath. But John said they are showing that they run on the opposite side of the Merit fiber. He will keep us up to date if he finds out more.

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. John Kelley made a motion, seconded by Chuck Bennet, unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.