

BadgerNet Converged Network Advisory Council
Minutes: 6/19/2009

Attendees: Jay Jaeger, Tom Taibl, Larry Bader, Carol Nelson (phone), Joan Wade (phone), Mike Mietz (phone), Bruce Reines (phone), Jaime Poindexter, Mike Kessenich, Tim Schell, Paul Nelson, Connie Bandt (phone), Kara Baxter (phone), Elena Pokot, Ed Meachen

Welcome / Introductions

- Links:
- <http://wire.wiscnet.net/go-gig-broadband-stimulus-information/> (Overview)
- <http://wire.wiscnet.net/wp-content/uploads/2009/06/broadband-in-wisconsin.pdf> (this one has a good overview of the grant bureaucracy)

Broadband Stimulus Update

- Federal Outlook update
 - Spoke with technology consultant in Wash. DC,. End of June remains preferred timeline for the grant submission information, still expecting a 60 to 90 day response period.
- Status of BCN grant preparations
 - Also not a lot of new news.
 - Have had a number of meetings with a number of groups (see handout)
 - ORR: A lot has to do with accounting
 - Presentation to State TLC occurred on 6/12
 - Future meetings planned (see handout)
 - Have some pricing information (see handout)
 - Waiting for info on ways to reduce current agency service costs
 - Fiber to all sites
 - Except some sites would be hard to get to / expensive. About 40 school districts would be hard to reach. But they are included.
 - Stimulus impact: idea is to use this to cover the installation and instruction, hopefully to reduce ongoing rates for 100Mb and up. Existing fiber 100Mb service would also move to the same rate of around \$2,000/month.
 - For other sites that don't get stimulus dollars BCN would have to look at and recover construction costs for fiber.
 - Will ask agencies next week. Oskar will be asking for representatives Customer Advisory Group. Will ask BCN single points of contact as well.
 - For TEACH subsidized 100Mb circuits, recommendation will be for \$250/month. For other E-rate subscribers, it might be around \$890/month.
- Status of Go-Gig grant preparations

- See also the material on the WiscNet web site – See “Links”, above.
- Engaging stakeholders, with good feedback, differing levels of participation.
- Expect to revisit after the grant requirements are known.
- Going to Superior, Kenosha, Janesville, River Falls and Eau Claire and possibly Green Bay and Milwaukee as well.
- The goal is to have community ownership of the networks, with the networks as being public highways with access by vendors, service providers, non profits, etc., and they can choose what services will be used to manage and access services via the network.
- Additional meetings with UW and UW Extension occurring regarding grant management and roles/responsibilities will be, and hopeful for formal UW Extension commitment soon.
- The CANs will be proof of concepts, and may build on lessons learned from existing examples in Chippewa Falls and Madison.
- Close to formal agreement with ECB on EBS spectrum. Targeting strategic rural communities in unserved areas – hopeful for two or three of these.
- Also hopeful of support from UW campuses in Superior and Whitewater.
- Will also attend upcoming library meeting, along with DOA.
- Also having discussions with charter school organizations, the Wisconsin Hospital Association, tribal educational institutions and technical colleges.
- Full time grant writer at work, and putting together a project team.
- How matching funds and overhead allowances come out will be significant factors shaping the process.
- The process has had significant value in and of itself.

Discussion

- Summary of where we are at.
 - BCN enhancements coordinated by DOA
 - Go-GIG, more along the lines of proof of concept.
- PSC memo on June 4th asking for info on who will be submitting broadband grants. Due July 10th.
 - DOA did send something to PSC
 - Go Gig has not yet done so
 - How many do they have so far?
 - Federal agencies had not contacted PSC last we knew.
- National Association of State Telecom Directors - has a list serve. Apparently they got word that 100 groups in Mississippi were interested in submitting grants.
- Next meeting is scheduled for September. If the grant gets issued, the deadline might actually happen before the next BCN Advisory Council meeting.
 - Executive Committee has been meeting / teleconferencing around twice/month so far.

- If the deadlines are that soon, does the BCN advisory council want to meet earlier? Suggestion: Wait and see what the dates are.
- Exec Committee will convene larger group if/when deemed necessary.

DOA Updates

- As mentioned earlier, for TEACH subsidized 100Mb circuits, recommendation will be for \$250/month. For other E-rate subscribers, it might be around \$890/month. But these are still preliminary, depending upon cabinet level decisions.
- This would require changes in the TEACH program to be effective.
- TEACH/E-Rate funding still available as far as we have heard.
- Apparently the language specifically allowing more flexibility with TEACH funding was stricken.
 - There are two sets of money. Universal service funds are designated to specific groups.
 - The E-Rate funds are not as specifically designated, and the items that this used to fund should be completing in the next 2 years, which should eventually increase funding flexibility.
 - Also, general funding / budget cuts could also impact this.
 - These impact, along with the hoped-for retail reductions, should result in much more broadband / higher bandwidth accessibility.
- BCN Contract extension
 - Tied up with stimulus, because decision would be made at essentially the same time.
 - Would be increase in capability of video service, too.
 - Customers could stay with existing Standard Definition 1 x 3, or could upgrade to HD. They would work together (lowest common denominator resolution).
 - Would unbundle the video from the 100Mb. Options were recently presented to WADEN.
 - Pricing was not certain at that point, with lots of options for monitors, etc., and because of the stimulus uncertainties.
 - WADEN Tech. Committee plans to get back to AT&T (and, presumably DOA).
 - This is not directly tied to the stimulus package.
 - Apparently some state agencies are also coming onto the system.
 - AT&T and WBAA have done a good job in identifying the costs.

Next Meeting: September 17, 2009, Pyle Center, Room 310

Executive Committee will meet as necessary, and will call a full BCN Advisory Council should that prove necessary, via the mailing list.