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ConnectME Authority Meeting Notes & Video - January 27, 2017

ConnectME Authority

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ConnectME Authority

www.maine.gov/connectme/

Maine PUC Worster Room
101 Second Street, Hallowell, ME
([Directions to MPUC](#))

Friday, January 27, 2016
2:00 PM

Meeting Notes

1. Introduction of ConnectME Authority members and staff
Dick Thompson, Sandra Saunders, Denise Garland, Sue Woods, Bruce Williamson
Staff: Lisa Leahy, David Maxwell
2. Community Connectivity Initiative Presentation – federal team NTIA
Laura Spining, Karen Perry NTIA presented the Community Connectivity Assessment Tool. A report out from the Jan. 26th meeting in Augusta took place. See presentations.
 - ConnectME Planning Grant awardee updates from communities/partners – Axiom presented on four grants. Grants have created larger conversation with other communities in Maine. Collaboration between providers is going well. Digital inclusion has led to discussion to explore funding. Island Institute now offering digital literacy education classes. Academic contact to capture this real life demonstration project. UMO relationship, university students to help encapsulate and measure the process.
3. Planning – Infrastructure Grants
Reported on current grant balance, remaining amounts in ConnectME Fund. Planning grants, prequalified checklist has provided a bench mark. Motion to fund planning grants approved. Provide monthly report on expenditures and revenue.
4. Rulemaking, Chapter 101
Public Advocate letter referenced a postponement of the rule making process. Ben Sanborn, Telephone Association of Maine, stated concern that Authority may not have legal authority to put funds toward planning grants only. It opens legal challenge. Mr. Sanborn that postponement was

not a good idea. Mr. Sanborn would prefer to work offline with parties on rulemaking. Administrative procedures should be followed to clean up lingering questions on how the Authority operates. New language adoption on potential legislation would not affect the rulemaking. In his reading the only thing we can do is fund infrastructure grants.

John Lawrence spoke to Waldoboro experience with infrastructure grants and planning grants.

Jeff Nevins agrees with Ben on rulemaking procedures. FairPoint is willing to continue process to redraft the rule.

Peggy Schaeffer, of the Secretary of State's Office spoke to no requirement for Authority to do rule making for planning grants.

Staff will come back with suggestion for funding and interest between infrastructure and planning. Staff will talk to Attorney General's office and get guidance about what we are required to do and that we have approval to move forward with grants without an updated rule.

5. Review of potential legislation

- Part W –Governor Budget – review documentation to date

6. Annual Report - approved

7. Staff Report

- Financial Reports - presented
- FirstNet Update - presented
- Staff Activities - presented

8. Meeting minutes – reviewed

9. Other Business – Bill Crandall – staff doing a great job and CMA doing a great job

10. Public Comment

11. Executive Session