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ConnectME Authority Meeting Notes & Video - January 16, 2015

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ConnectME Authority

January 16, 2015 – Meeting Notes

1. Introductions

Board members, Authority staff, and representatives of the James W. Sewall Company and the Office of the Attorney General introduced themselves.

Authority Board Members: Jean Wilson, Dick Thompson, Ralph Johnson, and Andy Hagler. Greg McNeal was absent.

Authority Staff: Phil Lindley, Lisa Leahy, and David Maxwell

Members of the public introduced themselves.

2. Strategy/Future Authority Direction

Regarding the definition of broadband for the purpose of awarding Authority broadband grants, the ConnectME Authority Advisory Council recommended a 10Mbps up and 10Mbps down (symmetrical) minimum standard. Some members of the Council spoke to their respective positions on the recommendation. The Board discussed the matter and voted unanimously to adopt the 10/10 standard in the consideration of applications for ConnectME Authority grants. In the course of the discussion of the standard, Board members acknowledged concern regarding quality of service, regardless of speed. To more fully discuss this and topics, including potential legislation, the Board requested Authority staff to schedule a meeting, identified as a working session, specific to discussion of planning for the near and longer term needs for broadband in Maine.

3. Annual Budget for Approval

Phil Lindley reviewed the proposed budget and it was unanimously approved.

4. Executive Director Report

The Old Town/Orono grant award challenge by Time-Warner was discussed with representatives of each party speaking to the issue. After consideration of the points and a review of the government statute, the Board voted unanimously to affirm the Time-Warner challenge.

Financial statements were reviewed. The latest fund performance report showed a balance of \$1,190,966.48.

An update of the Broadband Sustainability Fee legal case was provided:

Our responses to GWI interrogatories and documents request; our first request for production of documents to GWI; and our subpoena to produce evidence to MFC were all recently files.

Upcoming events for Authority staff and others were identified:

- o MMA Technology Conference (May 7th)
- o 2015 SHLB Annual Conference (May 20-22)
- o MMA Municipality Broadband Workshop (July 16th)

A discussion of the composition of the ConnectME Authority Advisory Council resulted in a unanimous vote that Tim Schneider, the State of Maine Public Advocate, be appointed a member.

5. Public Comment

There were no public comments offered.

The meeting concluded at 3:40PM.