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# ConnectME Authority Meeting Notes - July 22, 2011

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## **ConnectME Authority**

July 22, 2011 – Meeting Notes

### **I. Introductions**

Authority Members: Dick Thompson, Acting Chair; Mitch Davis; Greg McNeal  
Staff: Phil Lindley, Lisa Leahy

### **II. Sixth Grant Round Awards**

Thirty-three pre-application letters were received, one project was withdrawn because of duplication, and another will be revised for the application. Of 27 grant applications received, two were withdrawn and 23 recommended for awards. One application, for Porter working with Time Warner, was modified to reduce the amount of overlap with FairPoint and to reduce the grant amount.

Grants Awarded:

- Axiom Technologies two grants: Marion Township, Great Wass Island. \$162,238
- ChebeagueNet: Chebeague Island. \$75,000
- Cornerstone Communications five grants: Charleston, South Chester, South Hudson, Lincoln, and West Old Town. \$406,850
- Fairpoint Communications: Georgetown. \$248,500
- Oxford County Telephone: Hartford and Bethel area. \$124,633
- Premium Choice Broadband three grants: Ceder Lake - T3-R9, Medford, Orneville Township. \$48,155
- Pioneer Broadband eight grants: Blaine (three projects), Bridgewater, Houlton (two projects), Masardis, and Presque Isle. \$150,429
- Time Warner: Porter. \$242,030
- Washington County, Unorganized Territory: Brookton-Forest City. \$98,987

### **III. Executive Director Report**

The Sewall Planning Project Team provided a summary of a public awareness campaign as part of the planning project but that will be funded separately by the Authority. The NTIA Planning Grant specifically says that it will not fund an actual public awareness program. The Broadband Capacity Building Project and, to a lesser extent, the Technical Assistance Project will also provide public awareness information.

The Executive Director (ED) provided current financial reports. The ED will also prepare comments to be submitted to the Maine PUC in its telecommunications regulatory reform inquiry. The ED reported that the two current cubicles in the Cross

Office Building have to be vacated and that two alternative spaces in the same general location have been acquired. Minor furniture reorganization will be required. Finally, additional staff support will be acquired from the CIO's office to assist with grant reporting requirements.

#### **IV. Public Comment Period**

Peggy Kapisovsky from Georgetown thanked the Authority for the grant award to serve the rest of the unserved area of her town.

Josh Broder, MFC, stated that the Authority should be aware of potential changes to the Federal Universal Support Fund to maximize funds for Maine's broadband infrastructure in the future.