

Public Utility Service
Thursday, June 30, 2022 @ 1:00 PM
Chambers/ Zoom

MINUTES

1:00 PM

Approval of Minutes

Committee Members Present: John Pinard, Greg Reuter, Eve Ann Shwartz (Zoom), Melissa During (zoom).

Absent: Joe Magliocca

Others Present: Samantha Field, Scott Ingmire, Andy Lukasiewicz (zoom), Lou Anne Randall, Gwen Williamson, and Laurie Winters.

Motion by Greg Reuter to approve April 26 2022 MCPLUS minutes. Second by Melissa During. The motion was Passed.

Absent: Magliocca

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Updates

1. Broadband Update: Andy Lukasiewicz

Andy Lukasiewicz reported good progress being made. There was a meeting on June 15 2022 of the entire team (including NY Engineering Services and Empire). The project was submitted with 269 miles included, however, 16 miles have been identified as non-funded, leaving 253 applicable miles. A new contract will be drafted to accommodate this change. Andy received an email this morning from the USDA which explains they will need the fully-executed operating agreement prior to finishing the review and making approvals. Andy said there is a 26-52 week lead time on fiber. They are working on getting cables ordered which will be stored at the county upon arrival. The next team meeting is scheduled for July 6 at which time they will be focusing on the project plan. ECC has been working with Paul Lutwak to determine the nine POP locations needed.

Pinard noted that we had submitted the "unexecuted" agreement previously. Pinard mentioned and Andy agreed that Laurie Winters is waiting on certain information that Andy said he will have to her by this afternoon. Pinard also explained that John Regan has been assigned to help find the storage and it will most likely be near the DOT building. Andy commented that the location will need to be coordinated with USDA for inspections of incoming and outgoing materials.

Reuter asked for the timetable and map of the 269 miles and Andy

replied that it is somewhat dependent on the project plan by NY Engineering Services. Sam Field said the map is on the county website and links to a site where homeowners can enter their address to see if it is included. Andy showed the initial map showing proposed lines.

Pinard asked for Bart (NYES) to supply the complete list of materials to Laurie Winters. Andy explained that the fiber and strand list was sent first because of the lead time needed, and the rest will follow soon. Reuter asked and was assured that the lead time still works with our schedule. Andy explained that the pole attachments will take the longest time - easily six months per segment (100 mile segments). The process is: collection of pole information; arrange pole attachment agreements between Madison County and pole owners; submit for attachments. Andy said the actual construction is the fastest thing. Andy confirmed that we are in good shape, and Eve Ann commented that people are excited about it. Sam asked if the final "door-knocker" version was ever sent, and Andy said it wasn't and he will check on it.

2. Fiber Optic Update: Laurie Winters

Laurie is waiting on a complete list from Bart at NYES as covered in the previous narrative.

Resolutions:

There are no resolutions for today's meeting.

Preferred Agenda

N/A

Other Committee Business

Eve Ann reported on a possible grant opportunity. She recently attended a CNY Regional Planning meeting where Andy presented information regarding a proposal for a 5 county application submission for a middle mile fiber optic grant being offered by the State. The five counties are Cayuga, Cortland, Oswego, Onondaga, and Madison. The CNY Regional Planning Board approved and is asking for a letter of support from Madison County. ECC will be doing the physical inventory and BAAT for the 5 county area. Phase 1 is to find the gaps of coverage, and Phase 2 is to find and select competitive providers. The grant itself would be to build fiber infrastructure for future use. It would create open access fiber to which towns and villages could hook up when feasible. If it goes through, 900 miles of fiber would be built through this grant. The application is due by September 30, 2022. Steps for the application include: routing map, county support via resolutions, find carriers, find anchor institutions, create business plan, and submit application. Andy mentioned that Madison County is "so far ahead in this game." Schwartz emphasized that this middle mile funds could be used to expand our fiber highways. Eve Ann will prepare a brief report for the upcoming Board. Andy reminded that letters of support will be needed by application time.

Andy shared limited information about an upcoming "Connect All Program". This program includes forty-two and a half billion dollars to expand broadband. He will keep an eye on this and report more as details become available.

Andy announced that he loves working with Madison County and that it has been a pleasure.

Next Meeting:

The next scheduled meeting of the MCPLUS Committee will be August 25, 2022 at 1:00 P.M. in the Supervisors' Chambers.

Adjourn

Motion by Greg Reuter to adjourn at 1:39 P.M.. Second by Melissa During. The motion was Passed.

Absent: Magliocca