Agenda

ESRBB Committee Biweekly Meeting

📅 Wednesday, Mar 29, 2023

🕐 6:30PM 📍 Virtual

Invitees
Town Leads, Town Managers, Town committee members, Mission Broadband, Community Concepts, Town selectboard members,

Minutes Approval *5 minutes*
Jaime Ritter
Discussion and approval of minutes from 03-08-2023 meeting

Budget discussion *15 minutes*

Budget report spend to date vs. budget-Betty LeGoff

Status report on RFP additional information/meetings with selected vendors *30 minutes*
Mission Broadband
1. Any further response from CCI, Spectrum, GWI
2. Notes from any meetings held with vendors
3. Latest information from MCA having to do with last grant round
4. Latest from MCA having to do with next grant round
5. Latest from MCA having to do with BEAD (future funding)

Digital Equity program update *15 minutes*
Mia Purcell-Community Concepts

Status of legal services request *15 minutes*
Bill Findeisen

1. Firms solicited- Preti Flaherty, Verrill, Bernstein Shur, Drummond Woodsum, Pierce Atwood, Rudman Winchell, Eaton Peabody
2. Review of responses
3. Discussion of why to do this now, how to choose, what exactly to ask for, and, approval to proceed
discussion of reason to proceed, decision of which law firm, approval to proceed

Comments from town leads on selectboard conversations *20 minutes*
Jamie Ritter

1. What are we getting for feedback?

<u>**Communications**</u> *15 minutes*
Terry Lockhead
1. Recent activity
2. Town reports for June town meetings
3. Community events
4. Messaging for next several weeks-what is it?

New business

Notes:

1. MCA community session in Waterford on Saturday 04/01/2023 at 1:00PM
Should we attend?
2. See following pages having to do MCA's work plan for the next few months and references to next grant round.
3. See following notes MB from GWI zoom meeting.

Connect the Ready
Cohort 2 - Program Refinement Timeline

Working draft or living timeline ahead of the second cohort. Yet to identify leading entity or assign task
owners, and narrow date ranges into deadlines
March
Internal after-action review, compiling feedback to-date, aligning timeline with BAP, setting up management
systems for work ahead
● **Before 3.22: articulate roles as they are identified, including task owners**
● **3.22 last-mile weekly: Lessons learned review from first cohort**
● **3.13-23: MCA soliciting input on process from Board committees, Backhaul (roles too) & Bandwidth**
● **3.29 last-mile weekly: Program refinements workshop**
o **From Tilson: What are the considerations in program design that were missed last time or bear**
repeating/highlighting for refinements?
o **From MCA: What are the strategic objectives translated for program goals & design?**
o **From MCA: What lessons learned are coming from Get Ready to influence design, given timeline**
of next Get Ready cohort = October
o **From MCA revised timeline aligned with Broadband Action Plan engagement activities**

April
Internal workshops to solidify strategic objectives, program goals, & mapping 1
● **After BDC/baseline updates, a data mapping workshop to workplan toward the target analysis**
● **4.3 confirm date/time of 4.5 workshop, Stephenie MacLagan**
● **4.5 last-mile weekly, in alignment with BAP activities: program goals workshop internally**
o **From MCA: How do we leverage & complement different sets of strategic goals and purposes of**
different funds: state goals, CPF & BEAD?
o **From Tilson: Strategic thinking on maximizing these investment opportunities**
o **From MCA: How do we refine & communicate these goals for Get Ready?**
● **Continue to compile program design elements from lessons learned, feedback received, workshops to-**
date, including BAP events & survey through mid-April

● Revise Connect the Ready Guide to incorporate program design elements for internal feedback week of
4.10
● 4.12 or other last-mile weekly & ~4.13 LMIG committee workshop: Internal feedback on program
design elements toward further drafting/revising Guide
● In alignment with BAP deliverables, 4.7-20 weekly meetings & committee meetings, toward
presentation for BAP & MBC events 4.18-28 & 4.21 board retreat: review initial target analysis toward
identifying program elements or even application requirements
● Prepare aggregation of program design elements, any draft of the Guide, and visualization of data
mapping done, for BAP events 4.18-28 & 4.21 board retreat

1 Note that all data mapping activities will be using "as of June '22 data" until the "Dec '22 data," which won't be received until
6.15.23 at earliest, can be processed at the end of June '23 for the final program implementation.

Connect the Ready
Cohort 2 - Program Refinement Timeline
● Update this refinements timeline for May onward, aligning with any future BAP activities &/or toward
MCA Strategy Progress Monitoring in June

May
Draft program materials, choose mapping platform and conduct engagement activities to solicit input
● Revise Connect the Ready Guide to incorporate program requirements, data mapping, and feedback &
workshops to-date
● 5.3 last-mile weekly: Internal feedback on revised Guide and work planning the portal development for
the application process
● 5.15 week: feedback workshop with LMIG committee
● In alignment with the BAP engagement activities & MBC events, continue revising Guide & portal toward
public release of drafts for input, seeking feedback on application process & requirements
● After BDC Dec. 2022 data released by FCC: revisit, finalize the target analysis as needed, and the
development of the data mapping portion of the application process
June
Finalize program guide & application process, draft mapping portion of the process for input

- **Mapping platform & portal testing of the application process**
- **In alignment with MCA Strategy Progress Monitoring and BAP deliverables: final revisions to the**
Connect the Ready Guide to incorporate data mapping, and feedback & workshops to-date
- **6.23 board meeting or round about: Release final Connect the Ready Guide, and mapping whether yet-**
to-finalize or not

July
Final, final everything (sooner would be better)
- **Publish final program materials, including the mapping portion**
- **Implement communications strategy, including potential applicant webinar**
- **7.21 board meeting or round about: announce the application window**
- **Organize & prepare application review staff & support systems**

August
Application process
- **~1st Application Window opens**
- **Implement communications strategy, including FAQ webpage, etc.**

Connect the Ready
Cohort 2 - Program Refinement Timeline
- **Assist potential applicants with the application process**

September
Applications due & review process starts
- **5th Applications Due**
- **Board meeting or round about: communicate total applications received, review & awards timeline etc.**

October
Application review process

November
MCA Grants Approval Process

December
MCA Grants Execution Process

GWI/ESRB/MBI meeting 3/23/2023

Notes
- JD opened with the status of ESRB and their interest in the BUD model and the committee has committed funds to establishing an interlocal agreement
- Sean (GWI) asked if the committee was set on the BUD model. Bill (ESRB) answered ESRB is interested but not decided. He stated they are down to two models, the BUD being preferred.

- Bill asked if MCA would look favorably on a BUD. Kerem (GWI) stated he believes the MCA would be especially interested in seeding BUDs
- Regarding BEAD Kerem mentioned it's still a bit murky as far as MCA understanding the regulations/requirements for that funding and there are two hurdles that he sees
  - A letter of credit is one requirement for the entity receiving the funds
  - There is language where the Feds have a lien on the entity and their assets but that there are multiple ways to fund a BUD. There's not one concrete single path where grants and bonds are concerned
- It was stated (or restated) that the MCA is <u>only</u> interested in unserved. Nothing else gets considered
- The question was asked if GWI is interested in investing in the BUD. Kerem's answer was "Maybe…depending on the approach"
- Bill stated one denial reason from the MCA in the last grant round was the applicant would be better served with line extensions
- Line extensions awards will be announced by the MCA 3/24 and again in June timeframe
- GWI - if they build West Paris that would make building/serving Sweden easier
- GWI was amenable to an Own and Operate model where they submit the grant application
- Question as to whether MCA will shift funds from "Middle Mile" to "Reach Me" based on the "Reach Me" demand (undetermined)
- Kerem stated that an announcement that GWI and ESRB have agreed to work together would be looked on favorably by the MCA as MCA is looking to ensure town by-in
- Tom (ESRB) asked if they still should move forward with the interlocal agreements if GWI applies for the grant. Kerem advised to continue with the interlocal agreement as it provides ESRB options
- BUD would be two phased regarding funding. Four unserved towns first with grant assistance. Three remaining towns would require bond

Take aways
- GWI will look closer at Owner/Operator model and provide that information to ESRB
- GWI to rework BUD proposal numbers based on today's meeting
    - *Noted that GWI asked for time to provide the deliverables. MBI will do a check in with GWI by end of next week

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