

BadgerNet Converged Network Advisory Council
Minutes: 9/17/2009

Attendees: Larry Bader, Jay Jaeger, Tom Taibl (phone), Bob Bocher, Wayne Utke, Joan Wade, Wayne Ertmann (sp?) (phone), Holly Scharf (phone), Tara Baxter (phone), Mike Kessenich (phone), Tim Schell, Mike Mietz

Welcome / Introductions

Broadband Stimulus Update

- Federal Outlook
 - First round extended to August 21 due to high volume on web server.
 - Forms had been available July 31, so folks whose plans were not “on the shelf” were not usually able to respond.
 - Process had assumed most applicants would be communication providers, presenting challenges for anchor institutions to apply.
 - Grant was from DOA as the applicant. AT&T and WBAA partnered with DOA to get the application completed.
 - 467 sites, mostly K-12 and libraries, and a few technical colleges.
 - A variety of documents and formats to upload to Federal site.
 - Uploads (coordinated by Bruce Reines) were slow due to server load.
 - Required work on weekends to get all 400+ sites to coordinate location, census block, etc. – AT&T went “above and beyond”, even supplying temporary access to staff to help get it done
 - A few weeks before, as groups had questions, Federal Government was not able to answer about 1/3 of those questions.
 - Definitions were tailored to residential users, requiring some adjustments in descriptions/definition.
 - About a week ago Federal site with applications became available. 30+ applications touched Wisconsin in some way. And are being reviewed by NTIA and RUS.
 - 7 : 1 request / available dollars ratio for broadband, such as the DOA proposal.
 - 40 : 1 for computing resources request.
 - Most grants will now go to Governors unless they were woefully inadequate. List (of 30+) is likely to reach Governor’s from Federal Government office soon to get their input (Governors may prioritize requests)
 - Expect Governor’s office and state CIO to discuss this very soon (next day or so). The State proposal will need to “compete” with other submittals.
 - One issue is that based on Federal Government definitions we did not have much “unserved” or “underserved”, however, other Wisconsin-related applications claim to be focused on unserved and underserved constituencies.

- Of the 22 states that AT&T has been working with, only 3 states put in a statewide proposal.
 - NTIA will then contact the remaining applicants with additional questions.
 - Federal agency will then make the decision, hopefully around November.
- We expected 2 more rounds originally, but now seems there will likely be only 1, likely to be announced in January.
- Go GIG status.
 - Tim spoke with Ed Meachen regarding status as of yesterday.
 - Decision was made not to proceed in this first round, but there is some optimism that it will fit better with the 2nd wave, and that there will be more focus available to generate CAN-based requests.
- There was a lot of work, especially by Bob Bocher, DOA (particularly Mike Mietz and Bruce Reines), and AT&T, and we owe and give them our thanks.

FCC Working on national broadband plan

- Hearings and Meetings
- Perhaps drafts in November
- Hope that this will be used to channel more congressional funds
- \$350 Million for broadband mapping. WI PSC went out for an RFP and selected vendor for Wisconsin. About 46 states submitted plans for this.
- The Chinese reportedly are spending upwards of \$40 Billion on broadband infrastructure.

DOA Update

- E-Rate window coming up
 - Grant will have some impact on this.
 - Have an idea of where the 20% match would come from.
 - TEACH will provide subsidy for Library and School Districts
 - Also planning for what will be needed should the grant application is not successful – hopefully ready by mid October
- Contract Status
 - Bound up with grant application
 - Reducing costs for state agencies also desirable
 - But don't need fiber at many locations
 - Providers however don't see decreasing costs in copper circuits
 - Looking for economical options for sites where bandwidth < 768kbps, but there is not any clear technological alternative for those sites.
 - Also looking to see if there are services we could give up.

- Also some concern over Internet Service Provider costs
 - According to plans, we will be increasing the number of locations with larger amounts (100Mbps) of bandwidth.
 - What will happen to ISP costs is outside of BCN's control, and is a concern.
- Should BCN approach ISPs located at BCN POPs?
 - Give them a “heads up”
 - Existing contract in place, with some vendors “outside looking in”
 - Existing contract does not have 100Mbps service rate.
 - State might have to do a rapid procurement for such service
 - Potentially some sites could desire this as early as December 2009, if they already have fiber
 - WiscNet customers are probably in good shape.
 - Consensus seemed to be that we should try and make ISPs aware of what is heading there way, and to give them a chance to apply in the 2nd round
- Videoconferencing on state agency side is increasing in volume
 - Often linking up with outside partners
 - Sometimes for longer meetings with those partners
- Grant is now the critical factor.
- 5% Increase
 - Mike Mietz did not have any further information.

Elections Reminder

- Executive Committee Elections at December Meeting
- Three slots up for election
 - Chair (Tim Schell)
 - Vice Chair (Ed Meachen)
 - At-Large (Joan Wade)

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 17 at 3:00 PM, Pyle Center, Room 310