



Connecticut Broadband Internet Coordinating Council

CBICC **DRAFT** MINUTES

LOB, 1B, Monday, Dec. 5, 2011 ♦ 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Present CBICC Members

Mike Chowanec, Cablevision
Burt Cohen, Murtha Cullina LLP
Rob Earley, Comcast
Lou Manzione, *CBICC Chairman*, University of Hartford
Jack McCoy, Town of Manchester
Matt Miller, Consultant
Patrick O'Brien, OPM
Anthony Santino, Independent Businesses
Bill Vallée, Office of Consumer Counsel

Also Present: Ann Bertini, Terri Clark, Richard Strauss with CASE. Several members of the CASE Broadband Study Committee were also present. Scott Taylor of CEN was a guest speaker.

Not Present: Peter Pescosolido, Ex-Officio, PURA; Robert Vietzke, *CBICC Vice Chairman*, Internet 2

Approval of Minutes from June 6, 2011 Meeting

Motion: Earley. Seconded: Cohen. All were in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. No discussion.

Approval of Minutes from Oct. 3, 2011 Teleconference

Motion: Miller. Seconded: Cohen. All were in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. No discussion.

Guest Presentation Scott Taylor, Program Manager, Connecticut Education Network (CEN), University of Connecticut (see related PowerPoint)

Taylor provided an overview of the CEN, the focus of which is to be a research and education (R & E) network. The focus of the CEN is on education. CEN is not trying to compete with service providers. Many CEN members have commercial ISPs for their broadband service and connect to the CEN through their ISP.

Facts & Figures

- CEN has a staff 6 with two approved vacancies open and one potential future position.
- CEN staffers are employed by UConn.
- Approximately 460 member sites (k-12 schools, libraries, independent schools, public & private universities, public organizations)
- The network consists of 1G backbone rings that go through 1 to 6 regional sites each.
- There is diversity between sites, so a ring goes east and west out of the school district in case there is a disconnection. The network was designed that way for economics and is very resilient.
- The BTOP expansion of the CORE network will be mostly 20G. It represents 1800 route miles of fiber, mostly in the rural parts of the state (Northeast & Northwest and along the shoreline).
- Many states have an R&E network and most states have some kind of state fiber network.
- The various state R&E networks are highly collaborative with each other and non-competitive,

sharing information about budgeting and planning.

Questions and Answers on the CEN

Q About BTOP buildout

A: On CEN side, we're close to turning on infrastructure that was built with BTOP dollars.

Q About CEN's origins and background.

A: CEN is approximately 10 years old. It came about through legislation and was funded using state bonding. Nearly half of the budget is from the state general fund set aside for public education. The rest is from paying customers. Without the BTOP dollars, the CEN would have been unable to update its infrastructure. The CEN is going to be working on how to generate enough revenue to maintain and sustain the network.

Q: Who owns the title to the fiber that is in the public ROW?

A: Fibertech owns the fiber infrastructure that supports the CEN. The CEN leases strands on Fibertech's network. When a new member connects to the CEN, they'll typically contract with Fibertech or AT&T for the last mile to reach the CEN backbone.

Q: Who owns the CEN equipment that is located in user buildings?

A: The CEN owns the equipment. Typically the equipment that the CEN places in municipal buildings or schools has 23 unused ports that are available for additional access.

Q: To what extent would the CEN entertain having a town, individual, business, or provider connect to the CEN?

A: Since a significant amount of federal funding was used to build the network's infrastructure - the whole network is open access. The CEN does not have any non-education members yet.

Q: What does the CEN do when a private company requests access?

A: Since open access to the network is a requirement, the CEN would provide access at a competitive rate.

Q: Who promotes the CEN to schools?

A: There has not been much marketing of the CEN. Plans include hiring an outreach staff member for marketing the CEN.

Q: Does the CEN have too much capacity or too little?

A: The CEN is using about 25% of its capacity, but is seeing a 40-50% growth rate of K-12 schools joining the network. Schools are beginning to incorporate the use of the CEN into their everyday activities and as use increases available capacity on the network will decrease.

Q: Does the CEN have bylaws or written governance documentation?

A: Note: Documentation regarding CEN governance has been requested

Discussion/Comments re: CASE Report, Guidelines for the Development of a Strategic Plan for Accessibility to and Adoption of Broadband Services in Connecticut

Rick Strauss explained that CBICC comments were reviewed and considered by the CASE Study Committee and Project Team and incorporated where agreed upon by the team members in a revised version of the report that was then reviewed by the CASE Study Committee.

CBICC Chairman Manzione and others expressed appreciation for having the opportunity to review and comment on the report. Manzione also noted that many CBICC suggestions had been incorporated in the revised version.

- CBICC members provided comments on the following sections of the Executive Summary (*Also, Findings and Recommendations of the body of the draft report*) that will be considered by the CASE Study Committee
 - Summary of Findings and Recommendations
 - State Organization
 - Pole Attachment and Cell Phone Tower Siting Processes
 - Infrastructure and Access
 - Adoption of Broadband

- No comments were made with regard to the following sections of the Executive Summary (*also Findings and Recommendations*)
 - Brief Statement of Primary Conclusion (Executive Summary only)
 - Establishing Goals and Progress Metrics
 - Concluding Remarks

Review and Approval of Proposed Dates for 2012

- Monday, March 5
- Monday, June 4
- Monday, September 10
- Monday, December 3

Dates were approved, pending notification by CBICC members to CASE of any scheduling conflicts.

There was discussion of preparing a report for the legislature for the coming session. Bill Vallée said he would send Chairman Manzione some ideas and it was decided that the Council should hold a teleconference before the end of the year.

Public Comment

Attorney Glenn Carberry, of *Tobin, Carberry, O'Malley, Riley, Selinger, P.C.*, read a statement during the public comment portion of the meeting. Carberry represents Fiber Technologies Networks (Fibertech) in that company's petitions to the Public Utility Regulatory Authority regarding pole attachment licensing issues. He provided the following statement to update the CBICC on developments that have occurred since his Dec. 6, 2010 presentation to the CBICC. Carberry's statement follows in the next page.