

**LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION**

103 Main Street, Suite #3  
 Meredith, NH 03253  
 Tel (603) 279-8171  
 Fax (603) 279-0200  
 www.lakesrpc.org



**MINUTES**  
**LRPC COMMISSION MEETING**

Meredith Community Center  
 Meredith, NH  
**April 30, 2012**

**PRESIDING:** Patricia Farley

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:08 p.m.

**QUORUM:** Yes (by motion)

**COMMUNITIES PRESENT:** 12

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Janet Towse (Alexandria)         | <b>MEMBERS EXCUSED:</b>                      |
| John Cotton (Andover)            | Steve Favorite (Bristol)                     |
| David Kerr (Barnstead)           | Dean Anson, II (Laconia)                     |
| Maureen Criasia (Center Harbor)  |  |
| Charlotte McIver (Danbury)       | <b>OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:</b>             |
| Jean Marshall (Freedom)          | Tina Cotton                                  |
| Scott Dunn (Gilford)             | Dennis Quinn                                 |
| Richard Waitt (Gilford)          | B. Reichlin                                  |
| Robert Snelling (Holderness)     | Scott Valcourt, Dir. of Strategic Tech., UNH |
| Herbert Farnham (Moultonborough) |  |
| Barbara Perry (Moultonborough)   | <b>LRPC STAFF:</b>                           |
| Wayne Crowley (Northfield)       | Kimon Koulet                                 |
| Douglas Read (Northfield)        | Dari Sassan                                  |
| Patricia Farley (Tamworth)       | Marie Gelinis                                |
| Karen McNiff (Tamworth)          |  |
| Joseph Jesseman (Tilton)         |  |
| Roger Murray, III (Wolfeboro)    |  |

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

LRPC Secretary Patricia Farley called the meeting to order at approximately 6:08 p.m. A motion to declare a quorum for the purpose of conducting business was made and unanimously approved. *M/S/P McNiff/Snelling.*

**2. Motion for Approval of the March 26, 2012 Commission meeting minutes.**

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2012 Commission meeting was made and unanimously approved. *M/S/P McNiff/Snelling.*

**3. Next Generation Broadband - The Network NH Now Project.**

**P. Farley introduced** Scott Valcourt, Director of Strategic Technology at University of New Hampshire, who provided an overview of the Network NH Now Project, which was funded through a grant awarded from the U.S. Department of Commerce's (USDOC's) Broadband Technology Opportunity Program on July 1, 2010. The grant is managed by UNH and state agencies are partners in the program. The \$66 million project receives \$44.5 million in federal ARRA funding, and \$21.5

million in matching funds, the majority of which is invested by NH Optical Systems of Nashua, a major partner in the project. The project is on target for completion on June 30, 2013. Thus far, the project has contributed to the creation or maintenance of 34 new jobs in New Hampshire, with hundreds of indirect positions anticipated as a result of bringing broadband communications into New Hampshire. There are four key components of the project:

Middle Mile Fiber (68%): 700+ miles of Open Access Dark Fiber Optics throughout all 10 New Hampshire counties. Middle Mile Fiber is the largest portion of the project. It is a public/private partnership. The long-term vision of the project is to enable New Hampshire providers using fiber pathways to reach new and emerging markets in unserved and underserved areas of the state. The project status and issues faced by the project were reviewed.

NHSafeNet Microwave Middle Mile (9%): S. Valcourt reviewed the benefits that will be realized by the stakeholders in the project - DRED, DOS, DOT, New Hampshire Public Television, and New Hampshire National Guard, as well as a number of public safety agencies, such as fire, mutual aid, and town and county public safety networks. The project leverages existing microwave facilities and towers, increasing bandwidth and availability for each stakeholder. A consolidation will provide space for commercial broadband providers to expand coverage, and would open up space for additional tower leasing. He reviewed the project status and the construction completion timeline, which concludes in the spring of 2013.

NH Department of Transportation Middle Mile Fiber (11%): Installation of 20 miles of fiber between Manchester and Concord that will support connecting ITS devices along the I-93, Everett Turnpike, I-89 and NH Route 101 corridors. The project will break ground in June 2012 and is scheduled for completion early in 2013.

NH Fast Roads Last Mile Fiber (12%): NH Fast Roads is a not for profit wholly owned subsidiary of Monadnock Economic Development Corporation and is the Last Mile component of the Network NH Now project. The goal of the project is to bring access to affordable broadband to the western part of the state, allowing for community development. The phases of the project and the project status were detailed. The overall vision of the project is to establish cyber infrastructure and broadband networks in New Hampshire and the New England Region that will open the door for next generation economics, research, education, and collaboration opportunities.

Following his presentation, S. Valcourt responded to questions, such as:

B. Reichlin of Meredith expressed concerns with the fact that Metrocast, not only will not go the last mile, but in some cases will not go 100'. He suggested that LRPC could aid in finding a way to provide service to those who are unable to get it from Metrocast. S. Valcourt acknowledged that the problem exists and informed that there is ongoing dialogue regarding what can be learned from what has been done elsewhere in the state and country.

A question was posed regarding the use of dark fiber. S. Valcourt said the institutions being connected at this time will all be linked to a university wireless network. There are a number of internet service providers who will be in place by June 30, 2013, and will offer a lit service as well as a dark service model.

A question was asked regarding the difference between Time Warner fiber optic and what will be provided by the project. S. Valcourt responded that the hope is to provide competition in the market that will bring in lower prices overall.

Dialogue ensued regarding the pathway to the Laconia area and incentives for new providers to offer service in the area.

He concluded his talk by providing his email and phone number [scottvalcourt@unh.edu](mailto:scottvalcourt@unh.edu), 603-862-4489, for additional questions.

#### **4. Regional Broadband Plan and our Broadband Stakeholder Group**

LRPC Regional Planner D. Sassan updated the Commission on the regional broadband plan in the Lakes Region. Until this time the focus has been on planning, and LRPC GIS analyst M. Therein has performed the bulk of the mapping. The focus will now move to the formation of a broadband stakeholder group that will concentrate on solutions to broadband needs including strategies for overcoming challenges. The final product will be a regional broadband development plan. Each RPC will stick to the framework of the regional plan, but each plan will be uniquely its own. The plans will ultimately be delivered to the OEP, where the state plan will be developed.

He added that the LRPC assisted with the Master Plan update that was recently adopted by the town of Ashland. The Plan focuses heavily on broadband, and LRPC is happy to share the work with other communities interested in similar chapters for their Master Plans.

He noted that LRPC compiled a database of current cable franchise agreements of companies that serve the Lakes Region communities.

D. Sassan announced that LRPC is calling on volunteers to identify actual points to be associated with addresses for the rural addressing project, which is a statewide data layer that will help define the NH broadband map. Participants will receive training and will have the opportunity to use cutting edge GPS equipment. In closing, he encouraged those in attendance to sign up for the broadband stakeholder group.

In response to questions posed by the audience, D. Sassan explained the details of the broadband mapping project. All existing providers in the state must provide details of the connectivity and service levels they offer. The information is compiled into a state broadband map and is included in a national broadband map. The rural addressing data, a separate project, will be completed in the next two years.

#### **5. Proposed FY 13 LRPC Budget**

P. Farley announced that the Executive Board reviewed and approved the proposed FY 13 budget at a recent meeting. A motion for the Commission to approve the LRPC FY 13 budget of \$792,998 was made and unanimously approved. *M/S/P Waitt/McNiff.*

#### **6. Other**

K. Koulet announced that the Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 25 at Church Landing in Meredith. In addition, he announced that the NH Planners Association meeting is scheduled for May 10 or 11.

#### **7. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. was made and unanimously passed. *M/S/P Murray/Criasia.*