

BCN Advisory Council Minutes

September 16, 2010, 3PM - 5PM, UW Pyle Center

Attendees:

Tom Taibl, Bob Bocher, Marge Jeffers, Jamie Poindexter, Jay Jaeger, Joan Wade, Oskar Anderson, Matt Rains, Ed Meachen, Tim Schell. Attending via telephone: Michele Nickels, Bruce Mathews, Bruce Reines, Greg Barniskis, Bill Schultz, Holly Scharf

BCN Contract Status

- Discussions among legal counsel on grant security interest.
 - Four options have been identified: 1) a waiver 2) a security interest in the service 3) identify WBAA as a sub-recipient and 4) a long term lease. Original expectation was that a waiver was likely.
 - However, the first two (waiver, interest in service) were rejected by NTIA
 - Identifying WBAA as a sub-recipient is currently the front-runner option.
 - Also contacting other round 1 grant recipients looking for similar situation, but have not yet found a match with respect to ownership.
 - Still confidence that this can be overcome, but timing is uncertain.
 - Still working on lease option as a back-burner just-in-case activity.
 - Expectation remains that this issue can be resolved in a timeframe consistent with the environmental assessment.
- DOA has been in discussions with WBAA on contract renewal in parallel, so that a contract can be executed as soon as possible after the grant has been approved. Working on specific wording, and making good progress.
- BCN Advisory Council is asking for an update from DOA on an approximately monthly basis.

DOA BCN ARRA ("Stimulus") Grant Status Update

- The grant was originally submitted for consideration in August 2009, due diligence responses occurred during November 2009 thru January 2010. The notification of selection and announcement came in February 2010, and in March 2010 a confirmation letter was received.
- There is a sequence of events that must occur before the grant work can proceed.
 - The grant contract must be signed (see above).
 - There must be an environmental assessment completed, which will be funded by the grant. It will take approximately 60 days for environmental assessment research and write-up, plus an additional 30 days for review and approval should be expected. The assessment has begun, with a first draft expected 9/27/2010, with a due date to the federal government of 10/15/2010, with approval from the federal government expected by 11/15/2010.
 - Approval from JFC also required.
- The BCN Advisory Council members have been very concerned about the delays.
 - From an eRate perspective, the November timeframe is probably still OK. But if there are further delays into December, then schools (and libraries) may be forced to look at alternatives, as a back-stop if nothing else.
 - The FCC is meeting to make "major changes" to the eRate program, but the impact of those changes is still unknown. However, that is not expected to present further concerns with respect to timing. If it does, that should become known in the next week or so.

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- Separate consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service was initiated. There were only two sites that needed some map adjustments. Confirmation letter was received.
- Expectations are high. Libraries and Schools have purchased higher-end routers. Alternatives were sometimes not pursued based on their expectations. Should the BCN Advisory Council draft something to get the affected constituencies up to date?
 - There was consensus that Bob Bocher could draft something with DOA input/approval -- that the constituencies needed to hear something.
 - Goal to provide something by the end of September.

UW Extension CAN ARRA Grant Status Update

- The UW / UW extension team has been awarded two grants. They are currently engaged in environmental assessment process.
 - One is for just under \$30 Million for four CANs: Superior, Wausau, Chippewa Valley extension, and Platteville. Sign off either has occurred, or is expected soon.
 - The other is for \$2 Million in outreach / education: Same four plus the Menomonee Nation. This grant has been signed.
- Expect an RFP soon for someone to do the environmental assessment for the larger grant, which is due before February, but goal is to get the assessment done before snow accumulates.
- Beginning to look at staffing to work on the implementation, though money is not yet available.
- Joint Finance has been contacted, but there is uncertainty on exactly how approval would take place (because there are a very large number of other ARRA grants involved) and because of precedents on grants wherein normally the UW Board of Regents provides approval in these kinds of actions.
- There could be as many as 34 anchor institutions involved in the grants.
 - There is no fiber grant overlap.
 - There may be some BCN membership overlap.
 - The UW schools in the overlap can be expected to leave BCN eventually.
 - If and when BCN members subsidized by TEACH leave, TEACH needs to be notified so that funding is handled properly.
 - Those involved with managed video are likely to remain part of BCN.

Summer Planning Session Discussion

- Briefing Document for incoming administration
 - K12 briefing document status uncertain.
 - Mike Mietz has been working on some background information. We need to check in with him. Bob Bocher indicated he could do that, with a draft by the end of September.
 - Other pieces are on the BCN Advisory Council Sharepoint site.
 - How will we pull this together? Perhaps we can use a discussion board on Sharepoint?
 - Initially we will have to use a placeholder for the timeline.
 - Need to focus on the decisions that the incoming administration will need to make soon.
 - **To be useful, we will need this in time for transition team (mid November).**

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- Planning timeline
 - Kind of held up until we know what the contract extension looks like.
 - Then we would be in a position to think about a suggested timeline.
 - What level of detail would be appropriate? Probably pretty general / high level.
 - Even if contract extension is five years, activity will still need to start in a year or so.
 - Discussion of alternatives for handling the timeline, as an appendix or as a primary part of the briefing document.

Sharepoint Site

- A Sharepoint site has been set up (sponsored by DET).
- Contains only basic information at present
 - 2010 meetings are on the calendar
 - Agenda, minutes and other documents
- Must have a "WIEXT" domain (or, for state staff, "accounts" domain) user ID. Register at <https://www.dwd.state.wi.us/accountmanagement/>
- URL: <https://share.doa.wisconsin.gov/sites/DET/Enterprise/bcn/default.aspx>
 - Enter your user ID is WIEXT\your-user-id (or, for state staff, accounts\your-user-id) and enter your password.
 - Initial request will receive an Access Denied response
 - Click on the link in the upper right hand corner to request access. This will generate an email to the Sharepoint site administrators.
- Jay will send out a screen shot.

December Elections

- Two executive committee positions are up for election:
 - Secretary. (Incumbent: Jay Jaeger). Since Jay does not expect to be available for the entirety of the next two-year term, nominations are solicited.
 - At-Large (Incumbent: Bob Bocher),

Next Meeting:

- December 16th 2010, Room 310 (Check the board, as usual).
- Elections
- Calendar for 2011
- Grant, fiber installation dates.
- Briefing document (expect this should be complete by then)
- Charter. Discussion regarding the future of UW.
- Discussion of state agency replacement.
- Currently open slots on BCNAC. Perhaps DOA can help with some outreach.
 - State superintendent has appointed K12 members in the past.

Meeting Adjourned 4:04 PM

Executive committee call with Oskar Anderson for a grant status update, last week of October 28, 2PM