

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLPAC with Bill Ennen

February 2, 2021 at 1 pm

Present: Last Mile Broadband Liaison, Bill Ennen; MLPAC: Art Schwenger, Jan Carr, and Ned Wolf; MLP Manager, Sheila Litchfield

Bill said that the \$391,384 final true-up from the state had been distributed on January 7<sup>th</sup>. He has the required paperwork from us.

Bill asked about our having amended our Drop Policy. Sheila said that she will send him a copy.

Bill, Sheila, and the MLPAC agreed to this schedule for the next 2 meetings:

March 2 at 1 pm

April 6 at 1 pm

Bill said that the allocation of CARES Act funds to broadband projects has been extended for another year. The money is not restricted to 'hot spots' but could be used for such things as an upgrade to how a town does business remotely or electronic devices to help schoolchildren learn remotely.

Bill reported that the FCC ran a competition for CAFIII funding from the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. The outcome was weird in that many people think that if the winner, a company named Chester, were to be certified as an eligible carrier as WG&E was for CAFII, that would result in federal overbuild. There will be a public comment period to speak out in opposition to this award.

Bill spoke of a possible \$50 /mo. subsidy for low income people for Lifeline from the \$900 billion federal stimulus bill passed in December. Those who are already eligible for SNAP are eligible for the \$50 /mo. subsidy. Since every town paid \$3K to be part of CAFII, every town has a portal for determining eligibility.

Bill checked on items as part of the process for closing out a grant. To his question "Is either strand or fiber completed?" Sheila replied "Neither". Art said that the hut contents are in the process of being installed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:28.

Respectfully submitted, Ned Wolf

