

Maine Connectivity Authority Board Meeting
August 17, 2021

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Review of Statutory Goals
- III. Review Draft Bylaws
- IV. Review Draft Conflict of Interest Policy
- V. Overview of State and Federal Funding Sources
- VI. Key Dates and Obligations
- VII. Next Steps/Next Meetings
- VIII. Executive Session

Statutory Goals

35-A MRS § 9403

High-speed connectivity be universally available in the State, including to all residents, businesses and community anchor institutions;

There be secure, affordable, reliable, competitive and sustainable forward-looking advanced communications technology infrastructure that can meet current and future needs;

All residents, businesses and institutions in the State be able to take full advantage of the economic, health, educational and other opportunities available through connectivity services; and

Existing public and private infrastructure be used effectively and efficiently in the public interest to provide advanced communications technology infrastructure in all areas of the State.

MCA Funding Sources

Source	Amount	Timing
Unallocated American Rescue Plan (ARP)	\$21 M	October 2021 (\$10M) October 2022 (\$11 M)
ARP Capital Projects Fund – State Block Grant	\$129 M	Fall 2021
Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill		
Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program	\$100M minimum, additional funds based on Maine’s proportional share of unserved locations	TBD, NTIA to establish program w/in 6 months of enactment
Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program	TBD (formula grant to be calculated by NTIA)	TBD

Also:

Emergency Broadband Benefit/Affordable Connectivity Program
Middle Mile Competitive Grants (\$1B)
Digital Equity Competitive Grants (\$540M)

Tasks

- January 15, 2022 – Annual Report
 - Budget, activities, investments, analysis of availability of communications resources
- January 15, 2022 – ConnectME Authority recommendation to EUT Committee
- February 1, 2022 – Financial policies and procedures (5 MRSA 12022)
- “The new Maine Connectivity Authority will collaborate with organizations representing marginalized and historically disadvantaged groups when making determinations regarding the distribution of these funds.”

Bylaws

BYLAWS OF THE Maine Connectivity Authority

These bylaws have been adopted by the Maine Connectivity Authority Board of Directors consistent with 35-A MRSA section 9405(3).

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this entity shall be the "Maine Connectivity Authority."

ARTICLE II

Offices

Section 1. **Principal Office.** The principal office for the transaction of the business of the Authority shall be located in the State of Maine at the location selected from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. **Other Offices.** The Board of Directors may at any time establish branch or subordinate offices at any place or places, within or without the State of Maine.

ARTICLE III

Purposes

This Authority has been established for the public purposes established in Title 35-A of the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated Chapter 94-A (P.L. 2001, Chapter 363).

ARTICLE VI

Board of Directors

Conflict of Interest Policy

Maine Connectivity Authority

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

The Maine Connectivity Authority (the "Authority") is committed to achieving its mission of ensuring the universal availability in the State of high-speed connectivity and secure, affordable, reliable, competitive and sustainable forward-looking advanced communications technology infrastructure to meet the State of Maine's future needs. The Authority seeks to achieve a high level of public confidence in its operations through commitment to the highest standards of integrity and fairness in the course of its work.

Consistent with this philosophy, as well as the conflict of interest requirements of 35-A M.R.S. § 9405(7) the Board adopts the following Conflict of Interest Policy, applicable to all Authority board members and employees.

It is the policy of the Authority to avoid conflicts of interest between the Authority and its individual board members, employees and their respective family members. A conflict of interest is any situation in which an individual's personal interest or the interest of the individual's family members could interfere with the individual's ability to make objective decisions on behalf of the Authority. There may also be circumstances in which a relationship will create an appearance of a conflict of interest and is to be treated as a conflict of interest.

Board members and employees of the Authority are prohibited from using their positions or Authority information for personal purposes or gain in a manner that would be a conflict of interest. Board members and employees will be required to review this policy, complete questionnaires or to sign statements regarding personal conflicts of interest at least annually.

"Family members" covered by this Policy include parents, children, brothers, sisters, spouse, spouse's parents, and any persons sharing the same household with the board member, or employee.

Authority Transactions with Entities in Which a Board Member or Employee Has a Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest arises where an entity in which you or a family member has a financial interest makes an application for a grant, contract award, or other transaction with the Authority and where you are in a position to influence decisions pertaining to that transaction. In all cases in which an entity in which you or a family member has a financial interest makes application to the Authority for a grant or assistance of any kind, you must disclose to the Executive Committee of the Authority Board and the President of the Authority the nature and extent of your interest. The purpose of the disclosure is to enable the Authority to determine if a conflict of interest exists.

Upcoming Meetings

- ConnectME Authority
- Mapping
- Pole Attachment
- Workforce
- Federal Funding
- Retreat

Executive Session

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