

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 15, 2008

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Facilitator: Anne Losby

Task force members in attendance: Steve Cawley, Brent Christensen, Tom Garrison, Jack Geller, John Gibbs, JoAnne Johnson, Gopal Khanna, Rick King, Tim Lovaasen, Mike O'Connor, Kim Ross, Vijay Sethi, Dick Sjoberg, Karen Smith, John Stanoch, Chris Swanson, Craig Taylor, Mary Ellen Wells, Peg Werner, Robyn West, Glen Wilson

Task force members absent: Dan McElroy, Barbara Jo Gervais

Public attendees: Emmett Coleman, Tim Finnerty, John Fuller, Jerry Knickerbocker, Bil MacLeslie, Sandy Masin, Andy Schriener, Karen Smith, Randy Young

Staff in attendance: Shirley Walz, Carlos Seoane, Michelle Engdahl from Thomson Reuters; Diane Wells from the MN Department of Commerce; Jack Ries and Mark Muilenburg from the MN Office of Enterprise Technology

Welcome: Rick King

Items mentioned:

- Be open and honest
- Figure out what we can/cannot agree upon
- Seek to understand and listen to divergent views
- Rick's role – drive the task force to get the report done and try to pull things together
- Cares less about what is in the report than that there is a meaningful report to those that wrote the legislation – won't drive a position himself
- Each task force member's job is to be a delegate – participate fully, raise issues, concerns, so that the result is a real actionable report that brings credible support to the issue
- Indicated what the report should include – read parts of the legislation and listed main points about what the legislation tells the task force to do (charter)
- Monthly meetings outlined
 - Schedule
 - We'll talk about sub groups and support
- Gave task force contacts
 - Diane Wells
 - Sue Lauermann
 - Anne Losby
 - Carlos Seoane
 - Shirley Walz
 - Michelle Engdahl

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 15, 2008

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Anne Losby – explained her role

Items mentioned:

- Her group at Thomson Reuters is committed to helping the company with group process
- What she will help the task force do is facilitate the discussions to come up with what will be put forward in a recommendation
- Today's purpose is to set the foundation for that process

- Half of the time today will be spent getting to know one another – what you care about, why you are going to dedicate a year or 15 months to this project
- Explained agenda
- Share how you think the group will be successful – what will make this a good experience
- What has made other task force experiences that you have been a part of more effective
- This afternoon we will start to talk about the next meeting's agenda – what else do you want to hear, speakers that you'd like to hear, information, etc.
- Two main items of focus - getting to know one another, how you want to do the work

Introductions of Task Force Members:

1. Name and the group you represent
 - a. **Robyn West** representing the metro counties
 2. Any guests here – no guests
 3. “day job” – what is it that you do - how does that relate to your task force role
 - a. 1st term as Anoka county commissioner
 - b. Anoka county is a microcosm of the state of MN – suburban, but an urban experience living in Blaine. Northern part of the county we have rural – some farms left in the county.
 4. Consider one hope that you have for the task force to accomplish
 - a. Strong motivation – it matters to her how government operates and does not get in the way of private industry. Likens this to how electricity first got into our homes. I love high speed broadband – was waiting and waiting to get access to it
 - b. Hopes that all task force members will be honest and share on all the issues and not just try to get their agenda across
 - c. Address how broadband deployment can feasibly happen without breaking the backs of taxpayers
-
1. Name and the group you represent
 - a. **Glenn Wilson** representing Commissioner/DOC
 2. Any guests here – no guests
 3. “day job” – what is it that you do - how does that relate to your task force role
 - a. Guiding the talented team at the DOCoverseeing areas like financial, real-estate, insurance, utilities, weights and measures. Regulators, but try to focus on getting the most out the areas that we regulate. Broadband has a long way to go in regards to upgrades that can be made
 4. Consider one hope that you have for the task force to accomplish
 - a. Find ways throughout the department to improve the utilization

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 15, 2008

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

1. Name and the group you represent
 - a. **Dick Sjoberg** representing rural cable providers
2. Any guests here – no guests
3. “day job” – what is it that you do - how does that relate to your task force role
 - a. Operates 30 cable systems that serve 33 towns in rural MN
 - b. There are difficulties in providing service, especially in NW Minnesota
 - c. The 6500 Thomson Reuters employees in this building is more people in any community they serve but one
4. Consider one hope that you have for the task force to accomplish
 - a. Hope that I can impress upon the committee the difficulty in bringing broadband to rural MN – don’t have a policy that focuses only on the metro areas.

1. Name and the group you represent
 - a. **Peg Werner** - Regional public library systems and users
 - b. Was on the Minnesota Education Telecommunications Council
2. Any guests here – no guests
3. “day job” – what is it that you do - How does that relate to your task force role
 - a. Director of Viking Library System. Public libraries are the primary source of Internet access for people that do not own computers.
4. Consider one hope that you have for the task force to accomplish
 - a. For public libraries, we still help people get information, only the format has changed
 - b. Online has gone from a fun thing to do to an absolute requirement – some places you can only apply for jobs online (Walmart).
 - c. Keep the non-users or digitally disenfranchised in mind
 - d. Both create the network and the ability to access—today people can’t all access broadband or afford it

1. Name and the group you represent
 - a. **Mary Ellen Wells** – rural component of health care
 - b. In the 1990s, had responsibilities for tele-health care for 30 sites around the state
 - c. Funded through a federal grant – the money ran out and the program ended
 - d. Still see some remnants of that but not as deep and equipment just sits unused
2. Any guests here – no guests
3. “day job” – what is it that you do - how does that relate to your task force role
 - a. President and CEO of Hutchinson Healthcare
4. Consider one hope that you have for the task force to accomplish
 - a. Affordable, available, technology not just in hospitals but in people’s homes, for transcriptionists, and other communication needs

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 15, 2008

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

1. Name and the group you represent
 - a. **Craig Taylor** – metro health care
 - b. More information will become digitized
 - c. Unless we continue to invest in our infrastructure they will not be able to compete
 2. Any guests here – no guests
 3. “day job” – what is it that you do - how does that relate to your task force role
 - a. Director of IT at HealthPartners
 4. Consider one hope that you have for the task force to accomplish
 - a. Improvement on our current position in the state of MN
 - b. Make MN a leader in providing access
-
1. Name and the group you represent
 - a. **Chris Swanson** – from Two Harbors, MN – representing rural cities in MN
 - b. Owns an internet company
 2. Any guests here – no guests
 3. “day job” – what is it that you do - how does that relate to your task force role
 - a. Currently run a marketing company in Two Harbors
 - b. Tremendous opportunity to do something unique here
 - c. Believes in fiber
 - d. Example – he sells wireless to hotels but it’s a tremendous struggle to deliver a product via the speeds that they have
 - e. Hopefully this won’t be too political
 4. Consider one hope that you have for the task force to accomplish
 - a. One goal – able to get together and find a delivery source
-
1. Name and the group you represent
 - a. **Jack Ries** – filling in for Gopal
 2. Any guests here – no guests
 3. “day job” – what is it that you do - how does that relate to your task force role
 - a. From the MN state CIO perspective here to listen and learn how government and citizens can get better access
 - b. Moving more into the e-government world – to make Government 24x7
 - c. What they’d like to have come out of the group is a vision for ubiquitous, high speed IT infrastructure in the state
 - i. Business climate globally
 - ii. Allow fast, efficient access
 - iii. Efficient delivery of government services to the citizens
 - iv. Reduce green house gas emissions
 - v. Want to continue the public/private partnership
 - vi. Maximize the benefits to state government as an enterprise
 4. Consider one hope that you have for the task force to accomplish
 - a. Important that the group come up with a collective vision of how they see the world in 2015 and how to get there

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 15, 2008

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

1. Name and the group you represent
 - a. **Vijay Sethi** – Non-metro counties
2. Any guests here – no guests
3. “day job” – what is it that you do - How does that relate to your task force role
 - a. County administrator for Clay County (Fargo/Moorhead area)
4. Consider one hope that you have for the task force to accomplish
 - a. Two areas of focus
 - i. Low population density areas
 - ii. Affordability for people who are trying to conduct business
 - b. Also get involved with the economic development piece – they coordinate activities of business and higher education. There is an effort with NDSU, UND, U of MN-Moorhead and Concordia to put together some ultra high-speed connections – affordable way of sharing accessing/information
 - c. My hope is that there is identification of a service delivery framework that is affordable for rural users,
 - d. When looking at providing broadband fiber optics network – there are companies offering services – hard to get information on where the fiber network lies today
 - e. Need for public/private partnership

1. Name and the group you represent
 - a. **Kim Ross** – K-12 MN
2. Any guests here – no guests
3. “day job” – what is it that you do - how does that relate to your task force role
 - a. Superintendent in Houston, MN, a small rural school district
 - b. One of the first schools in MN to launch an online program in MN six years ago
 - c. With that experience have come to realize that there are a number of restrictions that students face. The digital divide accurately describes the education situation. Internet rates in schools are doubling next year but at his house it would cost \$840/month to get 5 MB. In the metro you can get 12 MB for \$29.99 per month.
4. Consider one hope that you have for the task force to accomplish
 - a. This report would include and articulate the importance for the education of our children in MN so they can anticipate and be prepared to contribute in the economic realm, services realm, and government realm

1. Name and the group you represent
 - a. **Tim Lovaasen** – Union (CWA)
2. Any guests here – no guests
3. “day job” – what is it that you do - how does that relate to your task force role
 - a. Doing political work for CWA – lobbying at the state capitol
4. Consider one hope that you have for the task force to accomplish
 - a. Got on the task force to add balance
 - b. We’ve seen alot of things happen as people want high speed but it costs companies a lot of money to provide it.

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 15, 2008

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

- c. Workers experience the brunt of this – has to be done in a balanced way to make sure that those in the rural area can get some of the basic needs before metro residents that want 100MB get it-- has to be done in a way that makes some sense. It is not cost effective to put technology out there if there are not enough takers. He has seen areas where they overbuild where they can make money.
 - d. I thought divestiture was a disaster – can put things out and make money in the long term. Carriers of last resort are trying to compete but also have to serve everywhere.
 - e. Wants to see a balance where it makes sense to provide service and also getting something out to rural areas.
 - f. Rural areas want 1.5 – they'd be happy to have that – costly to have higher speeds
 - g. Balance with cost, demands, speed
1. Name and the group you represent
 - a. **John Gibbs** – represents metro cable providers
 - b. Has served on a number of government boards
 - c. Comcast brings cool things to the marketplace
 - d. Comcast has 2,000 employees in Minnesota
 - e. Operate rural and metro cable systems
 2. Any guests here – Emmet Coleman
 3. “day job” – what is it that you do - How does that relate to your task force role
 - a. Vice President for Government and Regulatory Affairs for Comcast
 - b. Head quarters are in Philadelphia but through technology, can live in Minnesota
 4. Consider one hope that you have for the task force to accomplish
 - a. Help contribute to the conversation
 - b. Us collectively knowing our position – get beyond the bumper sticker analysis
-
1. Name and the group you represent
 - a. **Gopal Khanna** – State of MN
 2. Any guests here – no guests
 3. “day job” – what is it that you do - how does that relate to your task force role
 - a. CIO for the state of MN
 4. Consider one hope that you have for the task force to accomplish
 - a. This effort is timely
 - b. Here to learn and listen to this group
 - c. Represents all the stakeholders in one room
 - d. On Aug. 13 – Russia attacked Georgia – first consorted cyber attack. The country of Estonia was brought down for two weeks by outsiders
 - e. Should there be a cyber attack on our assets – it will be more grim than 9-11
 - f. Our governor is one of the most futuristic in the nation
 - g. Challenge the group to think about 2025 –
 - h. Think about security from a totally different perspective – there is no one solution – the weakest link can bring us down
 - i. Needs to be a strong public/private partnership
 - j. We as a nation have not taken a coherent view – need to look at it in a new paradigm

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 15, 2008

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

- k. Discussed how every time our economy has grown, public and private interests have been aligned (assembly line for the Model T, highway system, Lindbergh's flight)
 - l. Urge the group to help him fine-tune the long term vision, focus on security and economic development
 - m. Strengthen the public/private partnership
-
- 1. Name and the group you represent
 - a. **Joanne Johnson** – represents telephone companies
 - b. History that she comes from – serial job hopper—Economic Development Officer for Rep. Collin Peterson and worked on a shared communications vision for MN
 - c. Worked with Randy Young – Randy said if you have a bad school and put computers in it you have a bad school with computers
 - 2. Any guests here – no guests
 - 3. “day job” – what is it that you do - How does that relate to your task force role
 - a. Frontier Communications, Manager, Government and External Affairs
 - b. Frontier operates in 24 states
 - c. In Minnesota, Frontier serves 163 exchanges and 180 communities, so has both rural and urban experience to draw from
 - 4. Consider one hope that you have for the task force to accomplish
 - a. Hope that we can learn to use the tool (computers) to benefit all Minnesotans
-
- 1. Name and the group you represent
 - a. **Jack Geller** – rural citizens
 - b. Great that there is truly statewide (urban and rural) representation
 - 2. Any guests here – no guests
 - 3. No guests “day job” – what is it that you do - how does that relate to your task force role
 - a. Part of the U of MN Crookston
 - b. Head of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Department
 - c. Served as the president of the Center for Rural Policy and Development
 - d. Part of a research project that has monitored the use and deployment of the Internet in rural Minnesota
 - i. Tracking behavior
 - ii. To what extent is it being adopted
 - 4. Consider one hope that you have for the task force to accomplish
 - a. Some kind of consensus around goals, speeds, infrastructure, strategies
 - b. Do something that has not been done before
 - c. Come to a consensus on the role of Government (role of the state, county, municipalities) in furthering the availability of broadband
 - d. Think we all want to get to the same place –

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 15, 2008

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

1. Name and the group you represent
 - a. **Brent Christensen** – non-metro phone company
 - b. 5th generation (mom and pop business)
 - c. Live in Watonwan County, population of 11,000
 2. Any guests here – no guests
 3. “day job” – what is it that you do - how does that relate to your task force role
 - a. General Manager of Madelia Telephone Company
 - a. President of the Madelia Chamber of Commerce, past mayor of Madelia
 - b. Important for the economic development of rural MN
 - c. Driven by the belief that there will be a single pipe to the home/business
 - d. Data, voice, video – has to be seamless
 4. Consider one hope that you have for the task force to accomplish
 - a. Hope that Government does not screw it up
 - b. Concerned about what happens to the people in the community
 - c. Agriculture becoming more dependent on the Internet
 - d. Work together to make sure it happens
-
1. Name and the group you represent
 - a. **Tom Garrison** – metro cities
 2. Any guests here – no guests
 3. “day job” – what is it that you do - how does that relate to your task force role
 - a. Communications Director for the city of Eagan
 4. Consider one hope that you have for the task force to accomplish
 - a. Citizens, businesses, employers are pushing them for more
 - b. Economic development conversation with a younger person – they will not move to a community that will not give them the infrastructure they will need
 - c. Want to see MN be a leader
 - d. MN could emerge with a plan/strategy that will move us ahead and a strategy that is “best in class” – in the process respect each other
 - e. Try to make investments on the public’s behalf that advance the public/private partnership
 - f. Strategy should be clear – same standards for everyone
 - g. End of the day it should foster jobs and continue partnership
 - h. Bottom line judgment – serve its citizens well

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 15, 2008

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

1. Name and the group you represent
 - a. **Steve Cawley** – higher education
2. Any guests here – no guests
3. “day job” – what is it that you do - How does that relate to your task force role
 - a. VP of Information Technology at the U of MN
 - b. Twin Cities campus focus
 - c. Working to build/leverage telecommunications council
 - d. Serve on the LambdaRail board of directors
 - e. MN, Iowa, Iowa State and Wisconsin – connected our regional network to national network
 - f. Working on Northern tier initiative – to fill the fiber gap - across North and South Dakota
 - g. Started career as a CWA member
4. Consider one hope that you have for the task force to accomplish
 - a. The main thing that he’s learned about collaborating is that it takes a lot of trust to think big
 - b. There is not one solution, no magic bullet,
 - c. Have fun

1. Name and the group you represent
 - a. **John Stanoch** -
2. Any guests here
 - a. Andy Schriener
 - i. Looks at broadband issues
 - ii. Monitors consumer and business trends
3. “day job” – what is it that you do - how does that relate to your task force role
 - a. President of MN operations for Qwest
4. Consider one hope that you have for the task force to accomplish
 - a. Agrees with Gopal’s comments that broadband is one of those transformational issues
 - b. When we talk about broadband in MN we have not have had a complete discussion
 - c. There are a bunch of pieces out there and no one has had a full view
 - i. Talk about supply, demand
 - ii. Economic issues
 - d. Hopes that this group can bring all of the pieces of the puzzle together
 - e. Spent 10 years in public sector
 - i. Hopeful
 - ii. Availability and affordability needs to be linked
 - iii. Public/Private partnership have been established
 - iv. Connected discussion

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 15, 2008

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

1. Name and the group you represent
 - a. **Rick King** – metro business
2. Any guests here – no guests
3. “day job” – what is it that you do - how does that relate to your task force role
 - a. COO of Thomson Reuters
 - b. 5 year MN resident
4. Consider one hope that you have for the task force to accomplish
 - a. Make the impossible happen
 - b. Have the opportunity to create our own policy/plan
 - c. Actionable plan – taking into account all the divergent views
 - d. Have the opportunity to put together the world class plan for the state.
 - e. Put together something that is executable, give it to the legislators and Governor’s office, something that can be executed by DEED, OET, etc.
 - f. True view – an agreed to plan is the most important thing, a plan and vision with a direction that works.

1. Name and the group you represent
 - a. **Karen Smith** – Verizon Wireless
2. Any guests here – no guests
3. “day job” – what is it that you do - How does that relate to your task force role
 - a. Public Relations director for Verizon Wireless 5 state region
 - b. Verizon’s 3G network has been deployed in MN
4. Consider one hope that you have for the task force to accomplish
 - a. Sees her role to help bring some understanding on what the wireless industry can provide
 - b. In the wireless industry for 9 years – have gone from analog to digital to 3G
 - c. Have the task force remind the legislature that legislation should not limit/hinder the competitive market.

1. Name and the group you represent
 - a. **Mike O’Connor** – at-large representative of metropolitan area residential users
 - b. Urbanusers.com – has a blog there
 - c. Want to represent them as well as he can
 - d. Received a request from someone up north asking if meetings can be streamed
2. Any guests here – no guests
3. “day job” – what is it that you do - how does that relate to your task force role
 - a. Retired but remains very active in the Internet community, including membership in the Business Constituency of ICANN
4. Consider one hope that you have for the task force to accomplish
 - a. Think bigger, go faster, further outside the box
 - b. Why 100 MB, why 1 Gig – he’ll be there answering why it’s needed
 - c. Not a one way medium – it has become two way
 - d. Set the bar really high – get us out of below average – compromise but be demanding – result should be something that is truly excellent and satisfies constituents

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 15, 2008

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

1. Name and the group you represent
 - a. **Michael Muilenburg**
2. Any guests here – no guests
3. “day job” – what is it that you do - How does that relate to your task force role
 - a. Here to support Gopal and Jack Ries at OET
4. Consider one hope that you have for the task force to accomplish
 - a. Improve electronic Government services

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 15, 2008

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Anne Losby than introduced the next exercise, which was to have each task force member complete the following sentence:

“One way I will measure this task force’s success is...”

Steve Cawley – higher education students all have access to network resources to take advantage of higher education opportunities.

Tom Garrison – by how much of our recommendations get enacted and then by the extent to which the legislation results in higher speeds and jobs.

Brent Christensen – we are able to put a comprehensive plan together that meets the needs of everyone in MN.

Jack Geller – the degree to which we receive compromise and consensus between everyone in the room. If we can agree, the result will be good.

Joanne Johnson – if at the end of the process everyone in the room feels their viewpoint was heard and appreciated.

John Gibbs – all voices heard and there is integrity to any conclusions. – whether the research is being done

Tim Lovaasen – that the workers providing the services continue to have good wages and benefits and good retirement benefits.

Kim Ross – if the task force plan provides access to all K-12 students in their schools and homes.

Vigay Sethi – if there is a realistic set of strategies and a plan aimed at providing affordable high speed access to all Minnesotans.

Michael Muilenburg – having actionable strategies and initiatives that legislators can enact and realizing some achievable goals and measures.

Jack Ries – if we are able to answer all 8 of the items itemized in the legislation in our report.

Chris Swanson – if Minnesota is recognized as the leader in the US in broadband deployment and actionable deployment strategy.

Craig Taylor – if we put the state of Minnesota in a leadership position regarding our broadband infrastructure.

Mary Ellen Wells – ditto – same as Craig.

Mike O’Connor – ditto and if we can break the duopoly and monopoly of the ownership of the last mile.

Peg Werner – to create a true state of “haves” and not a state of “haves” only if they knew how to use it. So there needs to be a means of access and the knowledge of how to get there. It’s the same as roads – it’s the new interstate

Dick Sjoberg – produce a format that will give us a methodology for ubiquitous, affordable, high speed access to MN.

Robyn West – by the true demands for high-speed access identified and the solutions set to best meet those demands.

Karen Smith – that whatever goals are set, Minnesota continues to be a place where companies want to come and bring innovation.

Rick King – to take the actionable report and have the Governor and legislators agree that it is in the best interest of the state and we implement it so that we are a true leader.

John Stanoch – that we have a policy to achieve universal broadband access.

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 15, 2008

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Anne Losby than asked each task force member to complete the following additional sentence:
“One thing I recommend we do that will make participation in the task force a good experience for all (how we work together) is ...”

Vigay Sethi – to have an open dialogue where we feel free to express our opinions without negative feedback.

Kim Ross – that all perspectives are valued and understood.

Tim Lovaasen – to laugh a lot.

John Gibbs – full participation.

Joann Johnson – recognition right up front that there are different areas of specific attention that need to be addressed.

Jack Geller – that there will be easy things and hard things that we will discuss and that we don't save the hard things until last.

Brent Christensen – don't say no to new ideas, but get past the first no.

Tom Garrison – mutual respect to viewpoints and a collective view for the group to step beyond their positions to get something done for Minnesota. Also, to sit next to a different person each meeting.

Steve Cawley – to have everyone come prepared, do our homework. There is a lot of reading material but the result will be evidence driven.

John Stanoch – be respectful, don't make it personal, handle difference with courtesy and respect.

Rick King – to have fun, laugh a lot.

Karen Smith – that there is a lot we can learn from each other.

Robyn West – to listen.

Dick Sjoberg – that each occupation has its own sublanguage so if you are going to use an acronym, explain it.

Peg Werner – that everyone is comfortable speaking.

Mike O'Connor – that we walk the talk and use the Internet effectively.

Mary Ellen Wells – we have tangible goals for every meeting so we feel success; have different venues and ways in which we communicate.

Craig Taylor – to listen, learn, and openly share in the room.

Chris Swanson – for honesty and openness to new ideas, respect for the collective wisdom and knowledge in the room. We would not be here today if it weren't an important issue for the state.

Jack Ries - Great opportunity to learn – also a great opportunity to ensure that work is not a four letter word and to have a lot of fun...

Michael Mulenburg – feel free to talk and speak beyond our positions but also as Minnesotans.

Anne Losby summarized some of the discussion items:

Is there transparency in equitable infrastructure investments

... some that use the roads a great deal should pay more?

It is not necessarily free -

Is everyone making their fair contributions – people, businesses?

Are truckers that are more dependent on the road system paying more?

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 15, 2008

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The group took a break for lunch from noon until 1:00.

After lunch, Anne Losby had the task force members split into groups of five and talk about communication:

1. Among task force members
2. To the public and having the public communicate to/with us
3. Leveraging the web site

Ideas brought back by the small groups for discussion by the large group included:

Clarifying the open meeting law requirements:

- Are we required to keep minutes?
- Everything we do is absolutely public?
- Tutorial for “public meeting”.
- Should we be paying attention to who buys lunch? (Note: The Department of Commerce paid for lunch.)
- Make sure we are clear about what we need to follow in regards to open meeting guidelines.
- Can someone from government come in to talk about the do’s/don’t?

How we conduct our conversations – should the chairman call on someone to talk?

Everyone has equal opportunity to talk – should there a little bit more structure and procedure?

There should be some ability of the chairman to regulate the ebb and flow of conversation.

Do you want to run with Roberts rules – yes...

Want to make sure everyone has the opportunity to have input.

Another way to run is by consensus or majority rules.

Desire for some kind of structured order – and a desire to be heard. Have a forum where everyone is heard and if the group can’t come to a consensus, then figure out what should happen.

Have an “I’m not ready” view and negotiate towards a consensus – as long as this does not hold up something for an extended period of time. – One month delay max.

Website

- Will we have private access to the website?
- Could we set up a closed listserve instead that is not out on the web – collaboration site – discussion forum
- Is it legal to have a private discussion site? Do we want to? Mike’s view is that it is not bad to work in public.
- One task force member desired to have something on the web to limit the e-mail received.
- A concern was expressed that if something is posted – this may come off as an endorsement.
- Discussed developing a policy disclaimer that what gets posted to the site isn’t an endorsement by the task force.
- For articles that get posted include a comment field.
- Have a simple process in place to get articles to Carlos to post articles and add the disclaimer.

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 15, 2008

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

- Make sure we have a simple print, if possible, so that printing is easier.
- Policy and guiding principles for posting on the public web site.
- Web site – subcommittee?
- Can we set up blogs which will be used to bring people information to the task force. Contact Carlos if you would like to link a blog.
 - Linked like Mike's is linked
 - Providers
 - Cable Co.
- Expectation that there will be updates, involvement from the legislature – periodically call out notices separately that we think legislators should see – they will see the minutes

E-mail

- Get a reminder about the upcoming meeting
- Preferred for short messages and a link back to the website for longer messages
- Website should be the repository for the longer documents
- E-mails between task force members should be considered public information pending clarification.

Public

- Press issues – how as a body we communicate to the public – should there be a designated person to speak with the press?
- Makes sense to have a committee or sub-committee to discuss with the press.
- Separate area for topics of discussion – city, cable, communication

It would be a mistake to limit ourselves to work inside the monthly meeting only

Agenda item for next meeting

- Data practice and open meeting briefing
- Communication – work around the open meeting
 - Staff
 - Diane
 - Carlos
 - Task Force Members
 - Mike O'Connor
 - Steve Cawley
 - JoAnne Johnson
 - Jack Ries
 - John Gibbs
 - Commerce has a data practices attorney – Diane will work to find someone
 - General direction – open meeting issues, work in progress
- Want to talk about everything without words being used against him/her
- We will have reporters here at some point – one thing to think about is the openness – when we get going we advertise a little more – there will be more interest as we get going.
- There is also a real difference between, publishing, talking , and discussing online.
- Don't try to control the things you can't control
- Communications – legal rules, etc.
- Get Data practices rules – legal aspects

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 15, 2008

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

- Develop a policy about what gets posted to the site so things don't come across as if it's posted the task force agrees
- Policy and guiding principles for posting on the public website

Guiding principles - purpose of the open meeting law

Do we need a communications sub-group – how to post things, how to segment the website, way to display information?

- Could send legislators an interim report
- Would be good to have the legislators in and hear their key concerns, points
- A road show around the state for these meetings and letting people attend from others areas
- Meeting locations
- Having forums around the state – there are a lot of newspapers looking for headlines
- Suggest caution – we are not looking to lobby, not trying to make headlines, we are a Government task force and have an obligation to complete a report and give it to the governor.
- Model used when the Governor had a higher education task force – don't feel good
- There to give our best thinking to the governor
- Urge caution about the scope
- Ultimately the views would be what are published on the website

Rules – laying out calendar, topics

What do we need to bring into the room?

- Public speakers
- Come in and talk to us about how the Internet works, the elements and economics of it, where the costs are
- MN got a federal grant to create some sort of health care network – have Myron come in and talk to the group
- What are potential health care applications
- Benchmarking area – what is best of class – who are the states that are doing the best job with this, which nations, who is our competition and what level do we want to be at
- Futurist – present their vision and crystal ball
- Someone who is an expert in the MN state budget and it's forecast and economy and 1-3-5 year outlook
- Hear from someone who's model works or different models
- Broadband mapping – State is in process of awarding contract
 - Preliminary maps – Feb 1 – get a presentation after that date
- Assignments – look at all state reports at this point – it's a fundamental baseline
- Invite someone from NSCL and give us an hour or so presentation – where is the cutting edge on state policy
 - Try to get people from this taskforce to sponsor?
- Speakers – Humphrey institute has their forums – can we leverage what they do.
- What is the budget of the task force?
 - Close to zero
 - Lunch is provided by commerce

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 15, 2008

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

One scheduling conflict was discussed. The meeting originally scheduled for October 17, 2008 has been rescheduled to October 24, 2008 to avoid a conflict with a number of people due to the MEA school holiday.

Binders for the taskforce members to use to keep notes were distributed as well as copies of several completed and interim state broadband reports.

The meeting concluded as scheduled at 3:00.