



Northern Tier Network Consortium

NTNC Steering and Planning Committees meeting
Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022, 2 p.m. Central time
Via Zoom

Participants: Marc Wallman (NDSU), President; Al Anderson (Salish Kootenai), Joshua Arce (Partnership with Native Americans), Robert Aylward (U of WY), Kevin Brandt (SDSU), Andrew Buker (U of NE), Morri Conway (Little Priest Tribal College), James Deaton (GPN), Scott Francis (SDBOR), Alex Grandon (AIHEC), Greg Gray (U of NE System), Bernard Gulachek (U of MN-Twin Cities and Northern Lights GigaPop), Harold Heppner (ANC), Jonah Keough (PNWGP), Paul Kern (SDBOR), David Lois (WiscNet), Madhavi Marasinghe (UND), Matthew McCowan (CCCC), Marla Meehl (PNWGP, Women in IT and Supercomputing), Kim Owen (NDSU), Amy Philipson (PNWGP), Sasi Pillay (Washington State U), Matt Riley (U of IL-Chicago), Linda Roos (I2), Jeanne Skul (UW Madison), Dale Smith (AIHEC), Robert Stovall (Merit), Rob Vietzke (I2), CeCe Rohwedder (NDSU).

Meeting notes

1. Marc welcomed everyone, and introductions were conducted.
2. Marla provided information on the SC22 WINS Call for Participation. Apply: <http://www.women-in-networking.net/apply-to-wins/> . The submission deadline is January 21, 2022
3. Madhavi provided info on USDA grant opportunity for distance learning and telemedicine - particularly for rural areas, available at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-programs/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants>
2. Review of bylaws: anyone outside the actual charter who is interested in attending its functions is welcome to do so. Per Rob Vietzke, there is a letter form MOU, dated 2/9/2004 from Annie Stunden and Bonnie Neas accepting Internet2's offer to host the NTNC finances. At a later date, a supporting arrangement was established with the University of Montana for various support services. That may have expired at this point, and Rob will check.
3. Budget update: Matt Riley reported that through 2021 we were at \$238K+, and there were no expenditures in that year. Most all members are billed for their institutions' dues on an annual basis. We'll be at approx. \$266K+ in 2022 after dues have been paid.
4. NTIA Middle Mile Proposal: Jonah presented this proposal; please refer to the map at <https://www.ntnc.org/> . Marla provided a link to relevant information for Wyoming: <https://laramielive.com/wyoming-governor-appoints-new-cio-of-enterprise-technology/> .
5. Network support for TCUs was discussed, and two proposals were developed:

- A. Proposal 1, Network Consulting Proposal: each NTNC dues-paying member can be reimbursed for up to \$3,000 in consulting fees used to help a TCU in their area improve their network infrastructure. Members should indicate their intent to use these funds to NTNC Exec. Committee and AIHEC. This funding commitment will apply to any consulting work done during the 2022 calendar year. This proposal was voted on and approved.
 - B. Proposal 2, WINS: fund one WINS scholarship (\$7,500), with the request that preference be given to an individual from an NTNC member state or from a TCU. This proposal was voted on and approved.
6. General membership meeting this summer:
- A. There may not be a lot of time to plan a face-to-face meeting this summer, but we'll at least hold a virtual meeting, if needed. Suggestions were a Tribal College (perhaps United Tribes in Bismarck or Crazy Horse Memorial, Crazy Horse, SD), Mystic Lake Casino, Grand Casino Mille Lacs in Hinkley, MN, a casino in Spokane, WA, a casino in Bellingham, WA, and NDSU/Fargo, ND.
 - B. The Exec. Committee will meet in early March to consider recommendations from Paul Kern, Josh Arce, Kim Owen, Dale Smith, Kevin Brandt and Bob Stovall and determine how we'll proceed.
 - C. Travel vouchers for TCUs would be very helpful.
 - D. Election of officers will be held at the general membership summer meeting.
7. Reports:
- A. ND: NDSU's work with tribal colleges is progressing, as part of a cyberteams grant.
 - B. Nebraska: data center equipment refresh is underway. Eduroam is being rolled out to K-12.
 - C. SD: completed 100-gig upgrade in the western part of the state. A proposal for a CC* grant has been submitted. Considering upgrading edge security firewalls across the state.
 - D. IL: discussing what IL can be doing in building community around the university network.
 - E. I2: the major portions of the network upgrades have been completed in 2021. Conversations continue on improving connectivity from Chicago to Minneapolis and back to Kansas City.
 - F. WI: working on network upgrades to the system campuses, as well as network automation. Improving the cybersecurity footprint on campus is a current initiative.
 - G. MN: cybersecurity efforts are underway. The state is running a \$7.7B surplus, and the U of MN has submitted a supplemental request, with a large portion of it for IT services.
 - H. WA State U: looking at zero-trust networks that are secure and reach all points. The state is renewing long-term contracts with some of its IRUs, and working on improving rural connectivity and telehealth.
8. Adjournment.