

*The Midcoast Internet Coalition (MIC) meeting streamed from and recorded by The Town of Camden, including LiveStream, Broadcast on Town of Camden YouTube Channel.*

**Midcoast Internet Coalition Meeting**

**June 14th, 2021, 5:00 p.m.**

**Zoom**

**AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order**

**Participants:**

Chair: Debra Hall (Rockport); Vice Chair: Matt Siegel (Camden)

Representatives:

Camden: Marc Ratner (SB), Jeremy Martin, Planning Director, Lisa Sheprow

Cushing: Craig Currie (SB)

Hope: Sarah Ann Smith (SB), Brian Powers (SB), Melissa Foster Hall

Lincolntonville: Josh Gerritsen (SB), Jordan Barnett-Parker (SB), Steve Koltai

Northport: Shelley Patten (SB), Jamie Ritter, Ann Frenning Kossuth, Brady Brim-DeForest

Owls Head: TBD (SB), Jacob Post, Jason Philbrook, Kim Slawson

Rockland: Ben Dorr (City Council), Nathan Davis (CC), Tom Luttrell, City Manager

Rockport: Denise Munger (SB), John Strand (SB), Joe Sternowski

Searsmont: Peter Milinazzo (SB), Darryl C, Chris Halsted (Guest)

South Thomaston: Cliff Dacso, Lynne Canavan

Southwestern Waldo County: Bob Kurak (SB) (Guest)

Thomaston: Zel Bowman-LeBerge(SB) , Diane Giese (SB), Brian Doyle, Econ Dev Director

Union: Adam Fuller (SB), John Gibbons (Guest)

Vinalhaven: Gabe McPhail, Jan Ann Sherman, Matt Jablonski, Island Institute (Guest)

Camden National Bank: Steve Matteo

Knox County: Leticia Van Vuuren

**Other Invited Guests: (July 2021)**

Brooksville

Abbie McMillen [abbiemcmillen@mac.com](mailto:abbiemcmillen@mac.com)

Western Kennebec Lakes

Joe Young [joe.younggis@gmail.com](mailto:joe.younggis@gmail.com)

Kathryn Woodsum [kwoodsum@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:kwoodsum@readfieldmaine.org)

Eric Dyer [manager@readfieldmaine.org](mailto:manager@readfieldmaine.org)

Wiscasset/Lincoln County Broadband

Carla Dickstein [carlabdickstein@gmail.com](mailto:carlabdickstein@gmail.com)

**2. Action Item – Motion to Approve May 12th, 2021 Minutes –**

Attachment A – Draft May 12th, 2021 minutes

Distributed on July 12, 2021.

- 3. Action Item – Motion to Approve June 16th, 2021 Minutes –**  
Attachment B – Draft June 16th, 2021 minutes  
Distributed on July 12, 2021.
  
- 4. Report by Leadership Team– Discussion Items**  
Chair Debra Hall, Denise Munger and Matt Siegel report on activities since the last MIC meeting:  
Shifting regional strategy: Facing the fiber vs fiber from Otelco, Core Four build  
Planning Grant: Not funded, area already served  
Axiom planning study  
Work on many levels: Fed lobbying, state legislation and policy implementation, county appeal for ARP funding, upcoming County Commissioner Meeting  
Statewide: As a resource, partner, and development corporation
  
- 5. MIDC Regional Utility Update – Discussion Item**
  - a. Review of legal structure
  - b. Camden, Rockport signed on as charter municipalities. Thomaston and Rockland updates.
  - c. MIDC Articles of Incorporation filed and distributed
  - d. MIDC Interim Bylaws adopted and distributed
  
- 6. Axiom Technologies planning study / network design**
  - a. AXIOM, Phase One – underway, initial payments made directly to Axiom from participating towns (Camden, Rockport, Rockland, Owls Head, Cushing, Union) (Note: awaiting SB action in Thomaston, South Thomaston and Lincolville)
  - b. Updates: Report/study of network design, rough costs, pro-forma financial statements, revised strategic plan in the face of Otelco.
  - c. Target delivery of 1<sup>st</sup> round: End of August
  - d. MIDC and Axiom spoke in Lincolville
  - e. Meeting with potential network ISPs regarding build requirements
  
- 7. Project Funding Updates**
  - a. Seed Money - Discussion  
Goal: To secure (public and private investment), approx. \$4 mill
  
  - b. Federal guidelines for ARP funding - Discussion  
Roadblocks at the County and State levels  
Funding steps and timetable: Q4 2021 to secure seed
  
  - c. ConnectME - Discussion  
Planning Grant Application filed for \$20K: Rejected, area/region designated as “already served”
  
  - d. Knox County Commissioners - Review and updates status

June 8<sup>th</sup> Review: A solid team effort, not well received

Follow-up: Letter to County Commissioners, set up workshop session in August

Op-Ed Village Soup and Camden Herald July 7<sup>th</sup>

Village Soup link, editorial on the subject:

<https://knox.villagesoup.com/2021/07/08/the-time-is-now-for-broadband-expansion/>

**July 13<sup>th</sup> at 2pm: Knox County Commissioners Meetings. ARP funding for homeless coalition, affordable housing, and overtime pay for Sheriff's Dept on their agenda**

## 8. Maine State, Legislative Updates

Funding steps and timetable

- a. ConnectME Planning Grant - rejected
- b. Maine State legislative documents (LD)
  - LD 1432, Gigabit Fund, passed, unsigned by Gov Mills
  - LD 1484, passed, establishes Maine Connectivity Authority (MCA)  
MIC participated over two weeks as part of MCA Working Group and Advisory Committee.
    - Meeting with State reps (Doudera and Berry) over intention vs implementation. Proposed BOD stacked with pro corporate private ISP (Attachment C: Proposed MCA BOD list for review)
- c. Federal: American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) funding update and strategy
  - Muni
  - County
  - Plus \$129 million to state
- d. Federal: American Infrastructure Plan
  - Potentially another \$100 million (as per Senator King)
  - Senator Collins opposing funds to muni broadband initiatives
  - Letter to Susan Collins previously distributed

## 9. MIC Community and Regional Updates

Individual Town Updates (3 min each). North to South:

Northport	Rockport	Owls Head	Southwestern Waldo County
Lincolntonville	Rockland	Searsmont (Guest)	Western Kennebec Lakes
Camden	Thomaston	Union	
Hope	South Thomaston	Cushing	

## 10. Finance – Update

- a. MIDC establishing bank account with The First / bookkeeping through Rockport
- b. Seeking financial advisors, to create team
- c. Creating prospectus for private and commercial investors
- d. Meetings with financial experts, to design funding models
- e. Hybrid model. Incl Public Finance Teams and Commercial Lending Teams
- f. Meetings held with Bangor Savings (Skip Bates, Danielle Ahern, David Holden; Jake Miller and The First; Camden National)

g. Machias (needed to schedule)

Recommend: Digital Frontiers (MBC), panel on muni utility and their funding models

[To watch Digital Frontiers](#) Part One

[To watch Digital Frontiers](#) Part Two

**\*\*Establish Finance Committee**

With feedback and models from above financial institutions

**11. MarComm Committee: Branding, Marketing and Communications**

Josh Gerritsen, Steven Koltai, Cliff Dasco, Matt Siegel, Ann Frenning Kossuth. Advisors: Lisa Sheprow, Lynne Canavan, Craig Currie

Upcoming: Pre-subscription / ascertain take rate – stats, next drive, to design based on other models, cull information and find best method

Public outreach: Let's Connect campaign

Media creation

"Cheaper, faster, better...no taxes"

Social Media: Facebook Midcoast Internet page

<https://www.facebook.com/Midcoast-Internet-102078928721044>

Earned Media Resources: Courier Dan, Susan; Free Press; Bangor Daily News Lauren

Now available:

MI Two pages, FAQ one sheets, PPT slide pack for presentations

\*\*Committee seeks new members and a committee chair

**12. New business**

**13. Adjournment – Action item**

**Please note: Future / Regular Meetings for 2021**

The group set future meetings for the second Wednesday of each month at 5 p.m. as follows:

Aug 11 <sup>th</sup>	Sept 8 <sup>th</sup>	
Oct 13 <sup>th</sup>	Nov 10 <sup>th</sup>	Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>

**Reference guide, names to know, and industry contacts:**

Axiom Technologies

Mark Ouellette, President and CEO

Bernstein-Shur, Attorneys at Law  
Phil Saucier

ConnectME  
Peggy Schaffer, Executive Director  
Nick Battista, Chair, BOD  
Liz Wyman, Attorney, Maine PUC  
Jasmine Bishop, dire Telehealth MaineHealth  
Susan Corbett, Dir National Digital Equity Center

Downeast Broadband Utility  
Dan Sullivan

Eaton Peabody , Attorneys at Law  
Bill Ferdinand  
Dan Pittman

Educate Maine  
Jason Judd, Exec Dir

GWI  
Fletcher Kitteridge. CEO  
Kerem Durdaq, President and COO

Island Institute  
Nick Battista, Chair of the Board  
Kendra Jo Grindle

Katahdin Broadband  
Kyle Leathers, President

LCI  
Randal Manning, VP  
Alan Hinsey, Dir. Sales and Marketing

Maine Broadband Coalition  
Adam Butcher, Director  
Clara McCool

Maine Connectivity Authority  
BOD TBD  
Tim Schneider, Tilson  
Rob Souza, Otelco

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Economic and Community Development  
Heather Johnson, Dir

Mid-Coast School of Technology  
Bobby Detjen

Mission Broadband  
John Dougherty, VP and General Manager

Pioneer Broadband  
Tim McAfee, CEO and Chief Engineer

State Representatives

Rep Paige Zeigler

Rep Vicki Doudera

Sen Dave Miramont

Rep Seth Berry

Sen Rick Bennet

Federal Representative

Adam Lachman, for Sen Angus King

Chris Rector, for Sen Angus King

James Erwin, for Sen Susan Collins

Cameron O'Brien, for Sen Susan Collins