

networkMaryland™ Advisory Group
November 14, 2006
Annapolis, MD

Next meeting to be held
January 16, 2006 10 AM to 12 PM
Judicial Training Center
2011 Commerce Drive
Annapolis, MD 21401



Attendees:

Advisory Group

Ron Brothers
Mike McCarty
Steve Molnar
Chuck Bristow
Ron Ward
Michael Walsh
Barb Pivec
Sydney Drake
Pat Wallace
Richard Aldridge
Renee Winsky
Sandy Johnson
Mary Baykon

Guest

Jason Ross
Dan Vestal
Paul Lennon

DBM

Ellis Kitchen
Greg Urban
Tim Kwong
Gary Moulton
Tia M. Johnson
Joe Scher

Welcome & Introductions

Greg Urban called meeting to order at 10:15 AM.

Introduced himself, Tim Kwong, Gary Moulton and Joe Scher reviewed agenda. Ellis Kitchen was called over to the State House and would be arriving late.

Approval of minutes from July meeting

There were no changes or corrections to the minutes from the meeting in September. Motion to approve the minutes made, seconded and accepted.

State of the Network

Operational Customers
65 Subscribers today

Circuit Breakdown
72 ISP Circuits
79 SwGI Circuits
1029 Layer 2 Circuits
12 VPN Connections

The count from the last meeting was off and has now been corrected. There was some double counting previously due to some of the smaller agencies that actually falling under the umbrella of a larger agency being counted as independent.

Executive Branch

There is not much of a change since the last meeting, because a good portion of them have already migrated to networkMaryland™.

Non Executive Branch

The State Board of Contract Appeals was turned up in September.
Baltimore City Community College is in the process of migrating their Legacy/FMIS connection over to SwGI.
Maryland Stadium Authority made their transition in October.

Operations

Milestones\New Business

Legacy FMIS migration continues
Only 2 remaining customers
Remaining Agencies waiting for equipment\circuit to arrive
New SMTP Mail appliance installed at 6 St. Paul
Currently In testing stages
We anticipate the Comptroller to be our first test bed.
Baltimore ISP bandwidth upgrade

Turning up new connection by the end of this month

Quest won the contract for providing ISP services in the Baltimore LATA

The fiber is in place. We are coordinating with engineers on both sides to turn up the connection and migrating the bandwidth utilization onto the newer, higher speed circuit.

Working with Bearing Point, Inc. on Disaster Recovery Planning (facilities level)

Anticipate DRP document to be ready by Dec. 29, 2006

DNS for SwGI

Identified hardware for providing the service

SAILOR connection from Baltimore to JFK PoP enabled

150 Mbps connection active today

Upcoming Tasks

Customers on the Horizon

Carroll County Gov't – ISP & SwGI (pending MOU)

SAILOR Ethernet hand-off @ Elkton (pending PoP completion)

St. Mary's County – ISP & SwGI (pending MOU)

Garrett County – ISP (pending MOU)

Caroline County

Splice enclosures installed in Denton

Ready for Discussion of a D-MAN

VoIP trial with MSP (Northeast to Easton)

Router is in place and ready to deliver services

Coordinating interface details with MSP

Circuit Provisioning and Acceptance

206 circuits are currently in the customer's testing/implementation phase.

Are any of these 206 circuits aged that require a customer acceptance form to be submitted?

There are a few but we've implemented a new policy, if we've already submitted a Customer Acceptance Form to the customer and we haven't heard from them for 30 days we are going to automatically mark it as operational.

One of our focuses has been to go through the back log of circuits and resubmitting forms to the customers getting them to accept. If after two or three contacts they don't respond we are going to mark them operational. We can determine whether or not it's being used. We will notify them that it's an up circuit that it's being used and billing will commence on it.

What is the notification process?

We send emails to the specified contacts listed on the WAN request forms they submit. We also make follow up phone calls.

54 new circuits have been provisioned since the last meeting.
20 circuits have been accepted by the customer since the last meeting.

Growth Chart

We've recently broken through the thousand circuit mark. This is a major milestone. There is continuing growth for our circuits.

Project Status

We've turned up a presence in all 24 jurisdictions, the 23 counties and the City of Baltimore.

Garrett County MSC PoP completed

Accepted and signed off in October

Currently provisioning ISP & SwGI services for Garrett County

Leonardtown MSC completed:

Accepted and signed off in November

Currently provisioning L2 services

We have one customer who has submitted a WAN request.

JIS Data Center - completed

Accepted and signed off in November

POP is connected redundantly to the AMAN core

AA County is receiving their nwMD services from this PoP

Stabilizing the Core / Annapolis spur - completed

AMAN Core now connects to Parole via two diverse fiber routes

Rowe Blvd

West St

DWDM Ring (Partnership with USM, MDOT)

All fiber construction and splicing has been completed

Equipment installation completed

Equipment configuration completed

System is being tested

Expected cut-over January 2007

The University is running 10 gig connections

The MOU is currently out for final review.

Elkton SONET PoP

Partnership with Sailor

Located at Elkton Library

Shelter delivered to site, requires assembly

Once the issues like the generator taken care of we'll be able to construct the shelter, there will be a Sonet PoP in there that will help us service the MSC in Elkton.

The Co-Op and WL Gore signed a deal that will build the same fiber path as networkMaryland, they are in the permitting process, if the path says the same through the permitting process then it will go right past the back door of both the Sonet PoP as well as the MSC. You might be able to piggy back on that effort.

Future POP & Fiber Builds

Elkton: Fiber build from SONET node to MSC

Towson POP: Baltimore County will build fiber route to County Data Center, networkMaryland will install POP

An MOU has been signed with Baltimore County; they are working on the execution of that and building the fiber into the County Data Center. We'll have some space assigned to us so we can build a PoP there.

Frederick MAN: Add an additional PoP in Frederick and build a diverse fiber path to the city. Partnership with Frederick County Government

We have some high risks where there is a single piece of fiber or a spur that if it is taken down we loose services so we are working with Frederick county in a partnership to exchange fiber and do some joint fiber builds then we'll have multiple presences in Frederick similar to what we have in Annapolis or Baltimore so that we have some more resiliency. We've come up with some preliminary designs in our meetings with the County. We'll have to fiber paths into Frederick and two buildings from which we service the customers within Fredrick.

Denton MAN: Utilize Caroline County fiber from PoP to building in city housing State Agencies

We have a presence where our radio tower is and we have access to the county fiber which gets us to where the customers are. This will enable us to bring customers on and utilize the Microwave infrastructure to bring them back to the other places they need to connect to.

networkMaryland™ Overview

There are still two red areas (Towson and Leonardtown), but we are working hard on those.

Other Business

How many leased circuits are we doing? Over the years we were trying to move away from the leased circuits and replace them with our own. How were we moving over the last couple of years? Are we acquiring more and more leased services or were we continuing to divest ourselves of them as the opportunities arise?

We have about 6 or 7 PoPs of leased circuits. We had to choose between getting the network built and continuing to wait for resource share agreements to fall in place. We opted to move to leased arrangements. We will continue to search for resource sharing opportunities and when they occur we will abandon the leased services and move to our own operating services. For example we are very hopeful that the Eastern Shore Broadband initiative will give some opportunities to do that. There is work going on with the Tri County Council in Southern Maryland to build a fiber ring between the three counties, we want to be involved in that and exchange assets for assets. We chose the correct course to get the network built using leased service rather than waiting for things that might never happen.

In 2003 we had all leased services except for College Park, Annapolis and Baltimore. We were mostly using something called the Digital Backbone network which was about a million and a half a year in leased services. That network has been decommissioned. The FMIS network that used to be a leased network has been decommissioned. We have decommissioned about four to four and a half million dollars worth of leased services in the last 12 months or so.

The Elkton PoP is an example of putting a leased circuit in but not abandoning the opportunity. We are still moving forward with trying bring them onto the network and fiber based, divesting ourselves from the leased circuit. It's still part of the plan and part of the ongoing build of the network.

Is the signal loss at the Eastern Shore PoPs repetitive? It looks like you are trying to tighten up that microwave network.

The microwave back bone was new to us when we built it, so we learned operational things when we started operating it. We learned some things in first six months of operating it. Going back, looking link by link and making sure that we can get the same level of performance and availability out of the Eastern Shore as we are on the Western Shore. Right now there are no customer affecting issues with performance on the Eastern Shore. It's a primary portion of our network and we are focused on its performance.

Are we using licensed frequency or unlicensed frequency for the microwave shocks on the Eastern Shore and throughout networkMaryland™?

Licensed frequency.

We are starting to work on a disaster recovery plan and additional redundancy is part of the network build out. Those are two other areas we are focusing on and coming up with some more strategy and planning for. As the network becomes relied upon by more customers, these are major issues that we and the customers have in common.

Are there any intentions on expanding the VoIP network?

Yes, the trial with Maryland State Police is using a trunk PBX to PBX. Once we get this successful we can look at standardizing that as an offering and can go ahead and take it to the next level and see what other ways we can support VoIP. Clearly it is a direction we are headed in as well as the industry.

Have we done any economic modeling in terms of offering VoIP to the public sector?
We haven't yet; we wanted to prove the technology first. Once we've proven that we'll do a business case on it. We believe that the incremental cost of rolling out VoIP is pretty small. But we do have to compare that the declining price points in the market place for local services and intra LATA toll.

Where are you pulling from in Elkton that you need a wireless shot over to the Eastern Shore? Is it wireless or is fiber?

Our shot to the Eastern Shore comes from the JFK toll plaza. Its wireless from there over to Chestertown.

nwMD Engineering Committee meeting
Oct. 9, 2006, 1:30 PM @ UMBC Tech Center
Merged with UMATS engineering meeting
Richard Rose is your host

Do think that we'll be able to discuss financial aspects by our next meeting?
Everyone is working on there FY08 budgets, that runs through about the second week in October, so our budget analysts are working six or seven days a week trying to get all that done.

Is networkMaryland going to be asking for additional funds?
Our funding is flat; I don't think we need to ask for additional funds, which means our billing rates will stay constant as well.

Meeting Adjourned.