

# Adirondack.org Broadband Conference Call Minutes

## July 20, 2017

- 1) **Conference Call Participants:**
  - a) Nick Carter
  - b) Adele Connors
  - c) Dave Genito
  - d) Jason Guzzo
  - e) Kevin Lynch
  - f) Paul O'Leary
  - g) Ana Rua
  - h) Chris Stewart
  - i) Scott Wilcox
  - j) Dave Wolf (DANC)
  - k) Dave Wolff (AdkAction.org)
  
- 2) **The next team conference call is scheduled for Thursday, August 17, 2017 at 2:30pm.**
  - a) **PLEASE NOTE conference call-in information is:**

<b>Conference Number:</b>	<b>1-712-775-7031</b>
<b>Participant Code:</b>	<b>768314#</b>
  
- 3) **Future conference calls:** For planning purposes, the 30 minute calls for September, October and November will be held starting at 2:30pm on:
  - a) **Thursday, September 21** (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday)
  - b) **Thursday, October 19** (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday)
  - c) **Thursday, November 16** (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday)
  
- 4) **The New NY State Broadband Program: Dave Wolff (AdkAction.org), Dave Wolf (DANC), and Ana Rua**
  - a) In addition to giving presentations to town officials in Franklin and Washington Counties, Dave (AdkAction.org) gave a presentation last Monday to the Essex County Board of Supervisors urging them to meet and work with providers and to encourage the providers to submit applications to pass as many new households as possible during Phase 3 of the New NY Broadband Program.
  - b) On June 20<sup>th</sup>, Dave (AdkAction.org) attended a presentation with William Dudley, President of the Federal Reserve. Also in attendance was Gregg Saygre, Chairman of the Public Service Commission (PSC) as well as North Country broadband and adoption program providers. Dave said a key objective of the meeting was to give Mr. Dudley a better understanding of the North Country's need for broadband and the challenges that we face trying to provide universal access.
  - c) On June 19<sup>th</sup>, a tentative agreement was reached between the [PSC and Spectrum](#) that addressed the fact that Spectrum was not able to add at least 35,250 new households to its network by May 18, 2017, as required by the Charter/Time Warner merger agreement with the PSC. Because Spectrum was only able to pass approximately 15,000 new households, they were fined \$13 million. However, they can recoup \$12\$ million if they meet certain milestones going forward. Per Ana, the settlement route was taken so the network buildout would not be delayed which would have happened if the PSC had pursued a punitive legal action.
    - i) As a way to underscore why it was not able to achieve it 1<sup>st</sup> year's network expansion goal, Spectrum filed complaints with the PSC against [Verizon](#), [NYSEG](#), and [National Grid](#), the pole owners of almost 85% of the poles that Spectrum must use in its broadband expansion. In the complaints, Spectrum alleged that the three

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pole owners were not executing the pole attachment process in a timely manner. Ana said that the PSC and the Broadband Program Office were working with NYSEG and National Grid to flush/clear the backlog and to set procedures and protocols in place to prevent future delays.

- ii) As part of the June agreement, Spectrum also committed to make a web portal available to the public that will allow a person to input their address to see if they are to be included in the Spectrum network buildout. The portal is to be available 60 days after the settlement is approved. In addition, municipalities that sign a non-disclosure will be able to go to DPS and get all addresses to be included in the Spectrum network buildout within their municipality.
- d) Ana urged town and county officials and municipalities to work closely with the providers in their areas to help remove impediments to bidding. For example, they should be forthcoming with maps and any other information providers need for their applications and they should investigate financing alternatives, such as bridge loans and pilot programs (like Franklin County is doing) where the cost of connecting homes is very high.
- e) Dave (DANC) mentioned that NYSEG sent a message stating that they are changing their make ready process. Ana said that they are changing their model to be more like National Grid. They have overhauled their system and single sourced to a company to handle the make ready application administration, survey, and design work. In the process, NYSEG raised its rates to 162\$ per pole (3 times higher than the rate charged by other pole owners). Providers are understandably upset because they built their Phase 2 bids assuming the old make ready rates. Ana said this is one of the reasons that the PSC and the Broadband Program Office are working so closely with National Grid and NYSEG to improve their make ready processes.
- f) Dave (DANC) went on to explain that National Grid is now refusing to do a joint walk thru during the make ready process. After they do their walk thru, Verizon then does a separate walk thru followed by a walk thru by the provider. This new process delays things, and it makes it impossible for providers and pole owners to make joint decisions in the field such as which costs are transferable to the provider. Ana is in direct communication with the pole owners and the PSC and can advocate for providers on issues such as the value of joint walk thrus. She welcomes e-mails and phone calls from providers whenever they run into this type of problem.

## 5) Slic: Kevin Lynch

- a) Slic, along with DANC, is constructing a four mile fiber ring in Saranac Lake. Slic has been providing free wifi for the Farmers Market for a couple of weeks. Next week they are turning on municipal locations and in mid-August they are bringing commercial and residential subscribers online. This project is a public private partnership with the Village of Saranac Lake and DANC that worked well for all parties involved.
- b) Construction has started on the Belmont North project. The make ready has been in progress for about eight weeks. The fiber is to be hung beginning in August by Todd Cable Construction.
- c) A second project in Schroon Lake is about to be started with Todd Cable construction running the fiber for that area as well.
- d) Some fiber has been installed in downtown Tupper Lake with the help of DANC and Tupper Lake Hardwood is now online. In addition, Slic has signed a contract with the Village to provide some short range wireless in the business district.

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### 6) Hudson Valley Wireless: Jason Guzzo

- a) They are working on the cost models for their Phase 3 applications.
- b) On July 10, Microsoft published a [white paper](#) with its ideas for a new national rural broadband strategy using TV white space. Per Jason, Microsoft has separate grant programs to work with communities to get them online using TV white space. There are about 6 megahertz of channel size to work with in TV white space. Realistically one can get 10-12 Mbps thruput and with channel bonding 25 Mbps is possible. So with a maximum speed of about 25 Mbps, TV white space could be an option for very remote areas in NYS.

### 7) Town of Saranac: Nick Carter

- a) Mohawk Networks has contacted Nick several times and he has provided everything they have requested. They are preparing a Phase 3 bid that includes the Town of Saranac.

### 8) Lake Placid: Adele Connors

- a) A meeting with the mayor, Paul Ellis and Dave (AdkAction.org) is scheduled for next week. Dave Genito is beginning a design of a physical network for the area.