

## DRAFT MOREnet Council Meeting Minutes

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Friday, October 22, 2010

PLACE: TelePresence and Videoconference

### Members present:

Tim Gallimore, Chair  
Margaret Conroy  
David Doennig  
John Gillispie  
Rita Gulstad  
Craig Klimczak

### Alternates present:

Margaret Cline  
Mark Mabe  
Barbara Reading  
Tim Robyn (for Doug Young)  
Deborah Sutton

### MOREnet staff present:

Natasha Angell  
Chip Byers  
Sherry Loyd  
Tino Mamatas  
Hank Niederhelm  
Randy Raw  
Greg Silvey

### Guests:

Tim Lance, NYSERNet  
Jen Leasure, The Quilt  
Paul Schopis, OARnet

Chair Tim Gallimore called the MOREnet Council meeting to order. Those who were in attendance are listed above.

### ACTION ITEMS/INFORMATION ITEMS

#### Minutes of the July 30, 2010 MOREnet Council Meetings – Approval

Chair Gallimore asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Rita Gulstad moved to approve the July 30, 2010 minutes as distributed. Margaret Conroy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

#### Quilt Peer Review Recommendations – Information

Jen Leasure, of The Quilt, started by recognizing the important contribution MOREnet has made to advanced networking in Missouri and the high caliber of staff and Council who are associated with MOREnet. Tim Lance added that all regional research and education networks are encountering the same budgetary issues as MOREnet and that MOREnet has been a leader for these networks in years past. Paul Schopis relayed that as a reviewer, he was impressed with the wealth MOREnet has in terms of its staff, Council and community buy-in.

Within the project's scope, the reviewers identified Service Delivery Model, Communicating the Value of MOREnet, Effective Engagement of the Council, and Seek New Partners as the areas that MOREnet should focus on. Leasure noted that MOREnet is highly regarded for the technical support services it provides and suggested that technical support might be offered as a separate service.

The group suggested MOREnet might use the advocates who met with them during the peer review process, as well as other members, to advocate for MOREnet. The reviewers feel it's important to MOREnet's future to be seen as positive and important to the community. Gillispie has a meeting with University System's Governmental Relations in the coming weeks to gain insight about how to proceed in regards to the legislature. Leasure added that distance learning could be an economic development aspect and should be important to the state in regards to education.

The peer reviewers said that the current composition of the Council is the right one because it is representative of MOREnet's membership. Lance was impressed at the July meeting by how the Council members were

considering MOREnet as a whole instead of the individual membership groups they represented. Schopis mentioned that OARnet uses subcommittees to assist its board and indicated that the process works well. Gillispie intends to have a sponsors' meeting in the near future to determine their thoughts on how the Council should proceed. The Council members present would like to see more engagement by DESE due to its number of members.

The BTOP awards may provide MOREnet the opportunity to develop new relationships with the award recipients as well as their anchor institutions. The reviewers also suggested Healthcare, telehealth, and private research as areas to be investigated to further increase membership.

Gillispie thanked The Quilt and individual peer reviewers for their assistance in this project and for sharing their findings with the Council.

### **FY12 Membership Models - Information**

It was noted that the FY12 membership models agenda item was an informational item instead of a decision or endorsement item. This led to a discussion of the current Council MOU and the fact that due to the lack of appropriated dollars, the current MOU does not require that MOREnet obtain Council approval of the proposed FY12 membership models. Conroy suggested that the Council should endorse the membership models so MOREnet members will know that the sponsoring agencies, as well as Council members, are behind their decision. Chair Gallimore asked about the University's position and how it would like to proceed given the lack of funding. Gillispie reported that the University's perspective is that the Council MOU needs to be reformulated. The Council mentioned in the MOU still exists because there is still an appropriation; the question is what their authority is since the money associated with the appropriation has been withheld. Gillispie suggested a subcommittee of Council members, or the whole Council, should work together to define the future of the Council governance structure within the next six months, prior to the expiration of the appropriation on June 30, 2011.

Klimczak asked if there was as an established group of individuals within DESE who could act in a way like MERC does for higher education. Gillispie has contacted the Missouri Association of School Administrators (MASA) regarding forming a technical advisory council to help ensure MOREnet is providing products and services that K-12 users want. Gillispie said that they may very well be open to expanding that relationship with MOREnet should that be the decision of the Council. Gillispie added that he believes the Commissioner of Education would need to be involved to get that change in representation accomplished.

Craig Klimczak moved to endorse the proposed FY12 membership models. Conroy seconded.

Gillispie reviewed the proposed membership models; Model A – a traditional service package, Model B – a base package with a la carte option, and Model C – tiered service packages. These package details were shared with members and survey results were compiled and including in the meeting materials provided.

The Network Connectivity Fee (NCF) is currently under consideration and Gillispie introduced Tino Mamatas, MOREnet's new Marketing Analyst/Facilitator to explain. Mamatas believes that member costs will be further reduced and member retentions will increase with this decrease in the FY11-12 connectivity fee. In order to keep costs down, large members must remain connected to the network and staff feels confident that they will be able to lower the fee such that those large members will remain. In addition, in FY12 all fees will be offered in one and three year options to enable members to plan ahead for multiple years, and in some cases, be able to mirror their network connection term. As such, all members should be able to benefit from this change. Overall NCF cost savings across membership ranges from 3% to 50%. Staff hopes to have final pricing soon so an announcement can be made to help members make decisions. Gillispie added that this work was done as several large members were questioning their network connection due to the NCF. Without the large members connecting to the backbone, the backbone isn't sustainable so he asked staff to investigate what changes could occur.

Barbara Reading asked why there would now be a Managed Connection Fee and a Network Connectivity Fee. Gillispie explained that it's being done that way to preserve membership. MOREnet currently has members who are not connected to the network and who do not want to pay the Managed Connection Fee.

Staff is holding regional meetings, individual meetings and will be making phone calls with all members to ensure that by January everyone is aware of the membership models. The logic and theory of the fee structure will be explained to them and custom quotes will be generated for each member so they can determine which model works best for their institution.

Klimczak moved that the Council endorse the FY12 membership models presented by MOREnet. Conroy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### **MOREnet Council Governance – Discussion**

Klimczak moved to form a task force to review the Council governance model and come back with a governance recommendation. Gulstad seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Conroy suggested that the task force be made up of members of the Council because they know MOREnet. She also suggested there be no more than five task force members. Gulstad suggested former Council members would be likely candidates if the Council chooses to have non Council members involved. Gillispie is to identify task force members and schedule meetings.

All were in favor and it passed unanimously.

Chair Gallimore suggested getting the University Legal Counsel's opinion about the status of the MOU and the authority of the Council as well as advice to assist the task force in how to move forward.

#### **Final FY10 Actuals – Information**

Greg Silvey reviewed the FY10 actuals. Gillispie added that \$2.8M in reserves was needed and that \$6M wasn't received. He also reported that the FER would be recalculated due to the change in staffing and the movement of early termination fees to members.

#### **Member Reports**

Conroy reported that MOSL is rebidding the online resource databases and the RFP is in final review before being released. Reading added that the process of enlisting different member groups worked well as they were able to agree upon the priorities. She complimented MOREnet staff on their ability to assist in the process. The RFP should be out before the end of the year and the results should be known by spring.

Conroy said that the Missouri Broadband Summit will be taking place October 26-27. The goal of the summit is the creation of a statewide broadband plan. Regional meetings are to start in January and the information gathered from those meetings will be reported to the overall summit group. Chair Gallimore, Gillispie and Klimczak also plan to attend the summit next week. MOREnet hopes to publish the regional meeting schedule to membership in hopes of informing people about the services that MOREnet provides statewide.

Gallimore reminded everyone that DHE was awarded a BTOP award to expand computer capacity in the community colleges. He added that the grant would not have been possible without MOREnet's assistance. DHE will be making a presentation at the Missouri Broadband Summit about the award. The award is also featured on the federal BTOP website. Klimczak added that 7 out of 12 community colleges are participating. Gallimore expects that MOREnet assistance will be needed to implement the project and that staff will be contacted.

There is an interest by higher education presidents and provosts in redesigning courses for more efficiency. The initiative is coming from the Governor's announced agenda for higher education. There is an increasing interest in

how to deploy technology in a way that will make teaching more efficient, cost effective and of higher quality. Grant funding may be available and DHE would be interested in collaborating with MOREnet in this effort.

Klimczak reported that the MERC IR meeting is going to be November 11 at the MOREnet office. The agenda is still in preparation; however, he assumes the proposed membership models will be discussed.

Deb Sutton said that DESE is also involved in the broadband summit and that they shared the meeting details with some superintendents hoping to get them involved in the event. She also said that staff in the Jefferson Building has been reorganized with some staff moving to offices on different floors.

The eMINTS National Center was notified September 20, 2010 that it was one of 49 recipients of an Investing in Innovation (i3) grant award. There were nearly 1,700 applications. The grant will fund eMINTS projects in 60 rural Missouri districts over the next five years along with a research study to examine the effects of eMINTS on teacher practice and student achievement.

#### **Meeting Schedule**

- December 14, 2010

Chair Gallimore adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Sherry Loyd