

**Porter Broadband Expansion Request Pre-application Letter
Town of Porter, Maine**

March 29, 2012

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To the ConnectME Authority,

The Porter Broadband Expansion Committee and the Town of Porter are seeking funding from ConnectME to help provide High Speed Internet service to the final unserved section of the Bickford/Colcord Ponds Corridor (BCPC) of Porter ME. See attached map.

BACKGROUND

The Town of Porter generally receives Broadband service from both Time Warner Cable (TWC) and Fairpoint Communications (FP), with some overlap areas between the two providers. Thanks to a 2011 grant from ConnectME, the BCPC central area will be served, approximately in June 2012 by TWC (solid lines) and the southernmost area from Rt. 25 will be served by a mix of TWC and FairPoint. Kennard Hill Rd. (dashed line) is the final unserved area within the BCPC. The topographic profile is hilly, and mostly heavily forested, precluding communication through cell towers.

Three Dwelling Density surveys of Kennard Hill Rd. have been made. Mr. Miller and TWC made surveys in 2011. Head Selectman Robert Heard made a third survey in the winter of 2010, as part of a town-wide survey, including the BCPC. There is a current TWC count of 17 unserved dwellings on Kennard Hill Rd.

Funding this grant request will raise total Broadband accessibility to approximately 99% of the dwellings, and 100% of the Students in the BCPC. Included in this pre-application letter is a tabular description of the proposed expansion area with an estimated cost of the project by Time Warner Cable as the primary service provider.

There has been no formal survey or polling of individuals within the corridor to date, to determine the degree of interest in connecting to cable, should it become available. It can only be suggested, from anecdotal

conversations and emails recently received from Kennard Hill Rd. residents that interest would be at least as high as has occurred for other areas that previously were served only by telephone dial-up Internet service. Communications in response to our 2011 Grant have been numerous and positive. Many comments point out that Broadband access will considerably increase the amount of time that seasonal residents will spend in the area. That will produce numerous consequent economic and other beneficial impacts within our town and state.

THE AREA TO BE SERVED BY THIS GRANT

It is proposed to extend cable service to the entire length of Kennard Hill Rd, beginning south at Dana Weeks Rd. and ending north at the Brownfield Town line (see attached map) This would bring Broadband and allied communication services to 17 currently unserved Dwellings along 3.5 miles of roadway, at an average density of 4.9 Dwellings-per-mile. This would include service to 100% of currently unserved K-12 Students, and an undetermined number of home-schooled students. As a lifelong educator, I feel that bringing Broadband to the later group is of especial importance.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH EXISTING BROADBAND SERVICE PROVIDERS

The committee has chosen Time Warner Cable as the primary and preferred provider for the project. TWC currently will be the sole Broadband provider in the adjoining Expansion of the BCPC.

The committee discussed the grant proposal for the BCPC in May 2011 with Fairpoint Communications, that provides voice-grade-only telephone service to the area, including Kennard Hill Rd. Rojean Tulk of Fairpoint informed us that they would not participate in bringing Broadband to the BCPC area.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Time Warner will use their hybrid fiber/coax system, utilizing DOCSIS cable modem technology providing 512K upstream/ 6mb downstream speeds as standard service. Time Warner will use the existing utility poles in the areas where service is to be extended.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDING REQUESTED

Funding for the project will come from the ConnectME Authority with Time Warner Cable providing \$250 per passing, to the actual project cost. The Town of Porter will not supply any funding for the project. The project is

expected to be completed within the 12-month period required by the ConnectME Authority.

Grant request is based on the assumption of \$14,924.00 per mile average construction costs. The “total mileage” will include the total roadway distances, plus the cumulative short distances for Dwelling setbacks in excess of 300 ft. Extenuating circumstances, (high make ready costs, engineering challenges, or any other unforeseen costs), may increase the actual cost of the project. Actual cost will be determined by engineering and design after acceptance of pre-application and will be included in the final grant proposal.

Area	Homes to be Serviced	K-12 Students to Be Serviced	Distance Covered	(Time Warner Cable) Estimated Cost
Kennard Hill Rd.	17	1*	3.5 miles	\$52,234.00
Estimated Grant Award				\$47,984.00
Estimated Time Warner Cable match				\$4,250.00
Estimated price per household				\$2,822.59

*Plus an undetermined number of home-schooled students.

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Porter Broadband Expansion Committee has the strong support for extending Broadband to the BCPC. Support letters were received from: School Administrative District 55; the Sacopee Valley Health Center, the Porter Fire Department and Kennard Hill Rd. residents. We also have strong support from State Representative Helen Rankin. Letters of support will be provided with our final grant application. The Porter Broadband Expansion Committee has been a strong participant in the Sacopee Valley Broadband Initiative that has been working with the 5 towns of the Sacopee Valley to develop ConnectME applications for their unserved areas.

SIGNATORIES

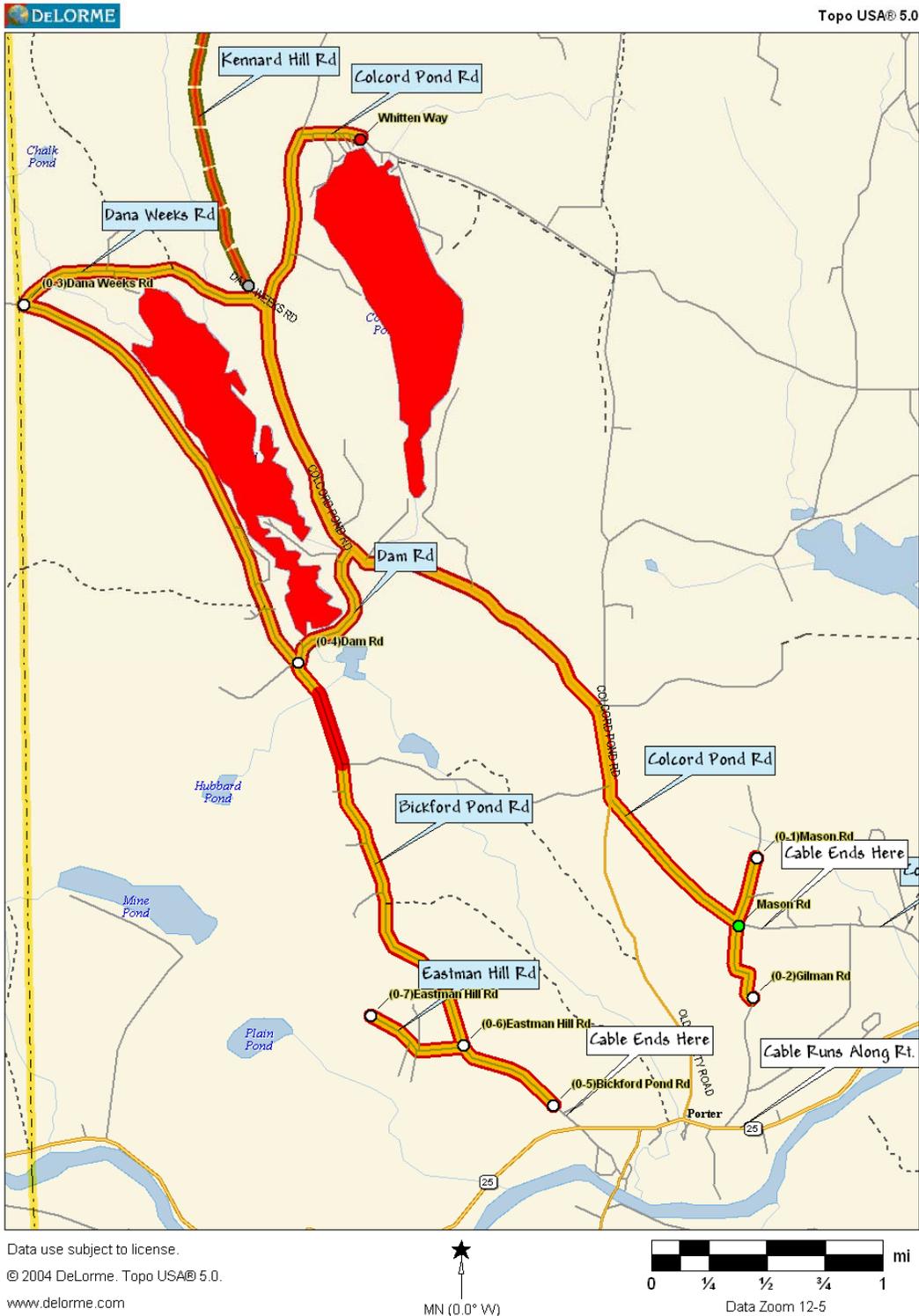
Thank you for your consideration,

Charlie Miller
Porter Broadband Expansion Committee

Robert Heard
Chair, Porter Board of Selectmen

The Bickford-Colcord Ponds Corridor (BCPC)

C. E. Miller



C. E. Miller, 2011-06-04