

Notes from our 04/10/14 meeting

Board members: Ron, Mark
Contractors: Barry, Jean
Members: Peter Rhem

We did not have a quorum so there were no significant decisions taken.

However Barry did address the financial report.

Peter feels that between June 2003 and December 2003 that his usage does not warrant the amount he is being charged. We explained that we budget based on the number of subscribers at given levels that we expect to retroactively reduce that would endanger the financial solvency of the CCCS. It is member's responsibility to ask for reduction of their subscription or suspension when they expect reduced usage or non-use of their accounts. Be that as it may, Peter asked if there was some way we could perhaps meet him half way on his outstanding bill. It was explained that what we do for him we must do for everyone in the CCCS. The board promised to discuss Peter's situation and get back to him within 2 weeks.

On-line discussion:

I can think of reasons why we would NOT do what I am about to suggest, but for the moment to get this discussion off the ground, I'll play devil's advocate.

If a member is in Peter's situation, owing us a largish amount of money (say over \$100) and have been cut off for more than say 6 months, and would like to be reinstated, perhaps the board could negotiate and on compassionate grounds and onetime only offer to forgive xx% (40%, 30%, 20%?) of the debt if the remainder is paid in full and the \$100 deposit and connection fee is made. This of course would have to be a publicized policy and to receive this consideration, the member must apply for it and acknowledge the fact they do owe CCCS the amount stated.

OK that's a start, what do you want to do with it?

BROADBAND

We also discussed various parts of the Broadband project. Barry please circulate a short summary of what direction you felt you were given where the payment for the Client Premise Units and their installation is concerned.

The 25-75 split was again discussed and I stated that I could live with it if there was some cap on how much we would pay for broadband. For instance if the equivalent of 2 T1 lines are used by CCCS members then we would agree to pay 75% of our broadband income until it reaches a maximum of what that much bandwidth would cost under normal bandwidth market + something like 10% since we are in a remote region. After that if we add more clients to broadband then our cost for bandwidth would not increase until we exceeded the equivalent of 2 T1s by something like 40% or 50% or something like that.

That isn't entirely formulated in my mind but it is something we can explore.

Yes Barry, by all means, get us a meeting with Hans. Meeting with Karen is costing us a lot of money and she, as much as she might like to, obviously can't discuss what we need to discuss. Here is a beginning of some questions we need to ask him.

1) Make the case that the 25-75 split is a regressive pricing scheme that reduces our viability with every member who switches to broadband. Financially this does not encourage us to ask members to switch to broadband. See what he says.

- 2) What about a maximum bandwidth cost so we have a known point at which our bandwidth cost won't increase exorbitantly anymore (as I suggested above)?
- 3) We are an independent member run grassroots organization and that needs to be respected. CCDS cannot dictate what CCCS charges for service, only what we have to pay for bandwidth. See what he says.
- 4) We fail to see the need for our authentication to be done in Victoria. Wouldn't it be more efficient and cost effective for us to do the authentication of our members here before it goes outside the Central Coast? For that matter we could also use our server to authenticate all users of the network in-region as a service to CCDS and perhaps charge less for the service. See where that leads.

I think there were several other things mentioned as well but as I didn't write them down, please suggest other questions that we should ask.

Survey should proceed with all expediency. Barry, do you need me or the other board members to do something toward this end? Please add the question "If you won't switch to broadband at \$55/month, at what cost would you switch to Broadband?"

That's all I can think of, does anyone else have any additions of suggestions?

Ron