

To: Jeff Gilderson-Duwe
From: Karen Boehning
Date: July 21, 2009
Re: Update on Broadband Grant for Libraries

The state's Department of Administration (DOA) will be filing a federal grant application to bring fiber optic cable to all school districts and public libraries on the BadgerNet network. This grant will be part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. All of the Winnefox libraries, except Menasha, Neenah, and Oshkosh are on BadgerNet. As participants in the grant, each of the libraries would receive fiber optic cable at no cost. On average, the grant will cover the approximately \$20,000-\$25,000 to bring fiber to each library, plus equipment to connect it.

Some of the libraries receiving the fiber will not see an increase in Internet bandwidth, at least initially. The state is finalizing both its own budget and dealing with a federal audit that has left BadgerNet funding uncertain at this time. The state is being conservative on committing funds.

Our records indicated that the libraries below would receive additional bandwidth at no additional cost. As part of the WALs budget, Winnefox pays \$100 per month for network access for each of these libraries, except \$250 per month for Fond du Lac PL because it has more bandwidth.

Brandon
Coloma
Endeavor
Fond du Lac
Hancock
Kingston
Neshkoro
North Fond du Lac
Oakfield
Omro
Oxford
Pine River
Poy Sippi
Redgranite
Winneconne

The other Winnefox BadgerNet libraries would receive the fiber, and would have the potential to increase their bandwidth in the future. Menasha, Neenah, and Oshkosh are on FoxNet, a locally-owned high-speed fiber network managed by Winnebago County. They are not affected by this grant.

The grant participants would need to stay on the BadgerNet network for five years, or pay a possible penalty for leaving the network early. The grant application is complex and due August 14. We are happy that the state is taking the initiative on this. We need to proceed with this now and recommend that the libraries participate. We have not done research to determine if there are competitive options, but we will be doing an initial evaluation.

All the libraries need to do is provide is a simple email response, since there is no time for them to consult with their boards and formally commit.