

**GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS
NETWORK (GAATN)
INTERLOCAL AGENCY**

**1111 West 6th Street
Austin, Texas 78703-5399**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING HELD April 2, 2001

Agenda Item No. 1:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Bard at approximately 1:35 p.m.

The following Board members announced as present:

Bill Bard, on behalf of the University of Texas
Wayne Wedemeyer (alt.), on behalf of the University of Texas
Dave Kelly, on behalf of the State of Texas, General Services Commission
Steve Zoromsky, on behalf of the Lower Colorado River Authority
Tom Lott (alt.), on behalf of the Lower Colorado River Authority
Patrick Jordan, on behalf of the City of Austin
Debbie Opdahl, on behalf of Austin Independent School District
Martha Riekenberg (alt.) on behalf of the City of Austin
Walter LaGrone, on behalf of Travis County

Agenda Item No. 2:

Citizen Communication

There were no citizens present but Patrick took the opportunity to introduce Brownlee Bowmer to the GAATN Board. Brownlee is the CIO for the City of Austin.

Agenda Item No. 3:

Executive Session

GAATN Counsel was present but stated that she had nothing to report.

Agenda Item No. 4:

Approval of March 5, 2001 Board Minutes

GAATN Counsel had some corrections for the March 5, 2001 draft minutes. These changes were under agenda items 4 and 8. Patrick Jordan moved to accept the minutes with amendments and this was seconded by Steve Zoromsky. Minutes were then approved unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 5:

Hear report and discuss/consider Board Chairman Update.

Chairman Bard stated that he had nothing to report or update.

Agenda Item No. 6:

Hear report and discuss/consider financial report and budget issues.

Debbie Opdahl passed out the financial report for GAATN and noted that the report was through the month ending 2-28-01. She then added that she had given the transfer orders discussed and authorized at the March meeting to the accounting office for processing the move of funds from 6344 to 6319. At the March meeting, several entities had expressed concern about payments that were not reflected on the 1/31/01 financial report. Debbie pointed out that these payments were included in this 2/28/01 report. Chairman Bard asked generally about participant payment status Debbie reported that Travis County is still working on a few previous fiscal year issues and that ACC is behind on payments for this FY so she would be talking with them soon.

Agenda Item No. 7:

Hear Report and discuss/consider Technical Subcommittee Update.

Tom Lott reported that the Texas History Museum project was now completed and that the Intel project is on hold. Patrick asked if any costs were incurred when the Intel project halted. Martha informed him that we had quoted the reroute and were waiting on a check when the project was stopped. Martha went on to say that Austin Energy was still being encouraged to move their facility and that Time Warner had built their conduit without reimbursement. Tom finished by stating that the balance of his report was listed as separate agenda items.

Agenda Item No. 8:

Consider request from General Services Commission to add a POP on A1N for its Disaster Recovery Center (DROC) near 51st and N. Lamar.

Dave Kelly explained that GSC was looking to use this POP as a back up for their Disaster Recovery site and that he had heard from Wayne that UT was now interested in going in with them. Wayne noted that UT was looking for rack space. Chairman Bard asked what goes on at the Disaster Recovery center and Dave explained that they had a contractor set up at the facility right now providing back up services and utilizing only about 25% of the building. He also said that there was another conduit bank from the DROC connecting to the Winters Building. Patrick asked how much space they had available at DROC and was told by both Wayne and Dave that it was a large building with a raised data floor already in place throughout. Patrick then asked if it was on A1N only and was told yes by Wayne. Chairman Bard asked what the Technical Committee had discussed about it and was told by Dave that the technical committee had approved adding the POP. Martha noted that the State's request to add the POP had been emailed out to Tech Committee members after the meeting as a courtesy so that the participants that were not present had a chance to review and respond. Patrick moved to accept the State's request and Steve Zoromsky seconded it; the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 9:

Consider request from the University of Texas to add a POP on SRN on the East side of IH35 near the intersection of Manor Road and IH35.

Wayne began by discussing the reasons why UT wanted to add this POP. He explained that the losses found on D1N made going the long way around a bad option; one that UT would like to avoid since they had conduit in place under IH35 that could be used to connect back to campus. Further, he noted that there was sufficient fiber already in place for other entities to participate also but that he had heard only from the City at present. Wayne went on to note that the project was primarily for Internet 2 access. Patrick asked what the relationship to Broadwing was and Wayne explained that it depended on implementation but that UT may or may not connect with them this way. Patrick asked if this was consistent with GAATN thinking on use of the Treaty Oak site for Internet access, and also about UT's fiber cable that connects routes back to UT's NOCC. Wayne responded that funding issues could alter connectivity plans at Treaty Oak and that the ability for others to interconnect with UT by this alternate route might be useful. He further stated that he was requesting that the GAATN maintenance contractor provide a cost comparison on placing the extra fiber now versus later. He noted that the primary cost was labor, which would increase if a participant wanted to pull more fiber through the existing conduit at a future time. He commented that the other entities would surely benefit by participating now. Wayne would like to see all entities' fiber included even if it was not utilized right now. He also shared the information that there was a 12 x 10-foot closet at PP2 that contained two 4-foot racks at present.

Chairman Bard asked if the Technical Committee had been made aware of this and was told that they had been by Martha. She added that this request had been emailed out to the Tech members and voted on. Patrick asked about an insertion to the super ring and Martha told him that it would have insignificant impact unless an entity was using a portion of the ring for point to point connections. Wayne added that AISD had video point to point running there now; a fact affirmed by Debbie. Patrick then asked if Internet 2 was important to GAATN at this time. He was told by Chairman Bard that it could be very important in the future and encouraged everyone to plan on visiting the Internet 2 conference to be hosted by UT this coming September at the Arboretum. He added that although it was difficult to assess its prospects right now, Internet 2 already has roughly 175 research institutes involved with it and that several government agencies have also opted in. Chairman Bard then asked if there was a motion to approve the new POP at Manor Road, at which time Steve moved with a second by Dave. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 10:

Hear report and discuss/consider Network Manager's Update.

Martha began by introducing the new GAATN employees time report to the Board. She explained that this would be a supplemental report to accompany the Network Manager's budget report and that it would be presented monthly from now on. She also noted that it could be modified if necessary and welcomed suggestions from the Board. Steve asked to be reminded why we needed the report and Debbie commented that the Board at one time had discussed it as a means to identify where needs existed for GAATN. Patrick added that the top columns tracked SLA categories. He also shared that Ashley Wolf had met with LCRA and GSC to begin developing a draft technology plan for GAATN and its participants. He added that she would continue to seek input and to meet with participants to gather data that would be useful in forecasting network needs or opportunities. Patrick referenced as an example a possible future need for LCRA acting as provider of Internet access to rural service area schools. He also noted that per the SLA, a draft plan was due in November and that the Board should discuss and define what that plan should be. Debbie agreed and stated that this was a necessary tool for positive growth for GAATN. Wayne noted that GSC had also come to UT to connect with Broadwing and QWest to enhance services that GAATN can provide to its participants. He added that a comprehensive plan would facilitate better design for sites allowing more sharing with reduced costs. Chairman Bard added that a planning process and basic telecommunications infrastructure design would help in initiating cost recovery and perhaps could bring all prospective Internet carriers in to a common location thereby providing a neutral arrangement. He further stated that UT would continue to work with carriers to set up wireless domains for communications at places like the convention center, but noted that it would have to be a joint decision by participants. Patrick asked if we would want to use the technology plan to capture these concepts. Chairman Bard responded that it would be good to do so and even added the possibility of setting up event horizons like 1 year or 5 year goals. Patrick then asked about distance learning and Debbie shared that AISD would need more bandwidth in the future and that a plan would be a benefit to their planners who are already looking ahead.

Agenda Item No. 11:

Confirm date, time and location for the next regular Board meeting as May 7, 2001 at 1:30 p.m. in room 517 of the Shapiro Building at LCRA on Lake Austin Blvd.

Steve Zoromsky confirmed that next month's meeting will be at LCRA in room 517 of the Shapiro Building.