

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

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
MEETING HELD September 3, 2019 1:30 p.m.  
AT Lower Colorado River Authority  
LCRA Service Center, Room A502/503  
3505 Montopolis Blvd.  
Austin, Texas

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

GAATN Chairman Dain Herbat called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

The following announced as present at the start of the meeting:

Dain Herbat, on behalf of Travis County

Bruce Hermes, on behalf of City of Austin

Steve Pyle, on behalf of State of Texas DIR

Sarah Eichelberger, on behalf of GAATN

Syd Falk, GAATN attorney

Carlos DeMatos, on behalf of GAATN

Jaime Guerra, on behalf of UT-Austin

Harold Nall, on behalf of UT-Austin

Bobby Saddler, on behalf of LCRA

John Kohlmorgan, on behalf of Austin ISD

Gary Weseman, on behalf of Austin Community College

A quorum was established at roll call.

Members of the public:

Wayne Wedemeyer, on behalf of UT-Austin

Chris Gonzales, on behalf of BryComm

Cory Brymer, on behalf of BryComm

Jonathan Baker, on behalf of JC Communications

**2. Citizen Communications:** There were no citizen communications.

**3. Review and Approve the minutes for the regular Board Meeting of August 6, 2019**

Gary Weseman moved to approve the draft minutes as presented; Bruce Hermes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**4. Board Chairperson Update – Discussion and possible action regarding:**

**A. Seeking approval for GAATN 2020 Board and Technical Subcommittee meeting dates**

Sarah said she had not yet received confirmation from LCRA on the proposed dates and will bring this item to the next Board meeting for approval.

**B. Seeking approval for B2S and B1S new ACC sites at Austin co-location data center**

Jaime noted this item was reviewed at the August technical meeting. Jaime Guerra moved to approve a new B2S site for ACC at Austin co-location data center; John Kohlmorgan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Jaime Guerra moved to approve a new B1S site for ACC at Austin co-location data center; John Kohlmorgan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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**C. Seeking approval to update fiber standard to 144-count on seven subrings in GAATN Technical Guidelines**

Jaime said changing the standard on the seven subrings from 114-count custom to 144-count standard cable would benefit GAATN because the standard cable is readily available and only one manufacturer charges less for 114-count than 144-count. He said there's a slight increase in maintenance costs, but those costs would not be realized until the rings are fully built out in 144-count through repairs, which would be approximately 15-20 years. Dain asked if this would change the allocations; Jaime said no, he's not proposing changing any allocations, because applying the same formula used with the transport rings 192-count allocations would cause more than two entities to share buffer tubes. John asked why there's an urgency for this proposal; Jaime said there's no urgency, but GAATN is doing itself a disservice by locking itself in a non-standard configuration. Gary said he would like to determine if GAATN will still require the maintenance vendor to store fiber in their yard since 144-count is readily available from GAATN's fiber vendors. Dain said he thinks it'd be good for the maintenance vendor to keep the required fiber in their yard in the event of a catastrophe; Carlos said he agreed. John asked whether the Board should consider standardizing on 192-count for all rings; Jaime said that was discussed at the July Tech meeting and that 144-count was discussed at the July and August Tech meetings. Steve suggested postponing the discussion to the next tech meeting; John agreed. Dain said this topic was already discussed at the last two tech meetings. Jaime said after the discussion at the July tech meeting, he felt that the committee preferred 144-count over 192-count. Bruce asked if there is any planning value for entities if GAATN were to upgrade the strand count standard today. Jaime said he doesn't want to discuss the same topic at the tech meeting again. John said there are costs that haven't been shown; Jaime reviewed a handout showing the cost difference for MAC/maintenance costs. Dain said this is simply changing the standard, so GAATN would use up its 114-count in emergency stock and then start stocking 144-count. Carlos said the increased annual maintenance cost of \$22k will only be realized once all of the seven subrings are built out in 144-count. Carlos said GAATN's satellite supernodes are due for changing out the connectors and if GAATN updates their standard, then management can plan ahead for that project rather than having to go back and retrofit for the 144-count cable. Bobby asked if all strands are tested once they are aerial; Carlos said all strands are tested upon receipt. Bobby asked if there is a splicing standard for 114- to 144-count; Carlos said yes. Jaime Guerra moved to change the fiber standard in the GAATN Technical Guidelines to replace 114-count cable with 144-count cable on the seven subrings; Dain Herbat seconded the motion. Gary Weseman asked for the cost of re-terminations and changing out the enclosures; he said he would like to have a plan in place as to how this would be implemented. Carlos said the only cost will be the delta of terminating the additional 60 strands (30 in and 30 out), since those sites are already due to be re-terminated; Carlos estimated it will be an additional \$20k per site. Dain asked for management to add Gary's request as an agenda item at the next technical meeting. Dain requested a vote on the motion on the table. A vote was taken and the motion passed with five members (UT, LCRA, DIR, COA, and Travis County) comprising 58.58% of network rights voting yes, AISD voting no, and ACC abstaining.

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**D. Seeking approval for A1N Upgrade Project Segments 1-4**

Jaime said, as previously discussed at the May 21 design session, A1N upgrade project is GAATN's number one priority project. Gary asked where segments 1-4 are located; Carlos said they are coming out from Treaty Oak going clockwise. Jaime Guerra moved to approve \$300k from GAATN's FY20 MAC budget to fund A1N Upgrade Project Segments 1-4; Dain Herbat seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**5. Network Manager's Update – Discussion and possible action regarding:**

**A. Convention Center NOCC status**

Carlos reported that Frank has been working with COA Public Works and they have engaged the consultant whose fee will be paid out of the \$175k management fee that GAATN has already paid. Carlos said the request for a bid from a sole source provider will be going out this week. Jaime said he looked into the sole source provider and feels they should give GAATN a fair bid and he thinks the project schedule looks good. He pointed out the City Council agenda item that will take place. Gary asked about the cost; Jaime reviewed the estimated cost is in the handout and said this is slated to come out of the GAATN fund balance. Carlos said he hopes that GAATN will have an actual cost proposal by the next Board meeting. Dain asked if bringing A1N into the Convention Center can happen simultaneously with the room buildout; Carlos said yes.

**B. Project Status Report**

Carlos reviewed the following pending/upcoming projects:

- *COA UPS replacement at City Hall* – scheduled to complete 9/7 but should have no impact to any entities.
- *C1S relocation at FM1626 Travis County and TxDOT project* – Carlos said this is a TxDOT/Travis County relocation of PEC poles that GAATN is on between Manchaca and Brodie Lane. He said management is working on a new design, because GAATN will not be able to attach to the new PEC poles on private property since they will be electric only. Carlos said management is looking to install a new pole line for GAATN to accommodate the reroute. Dain asked if any other comms are impacted; Carlos said yes, and AT&T is leasing conduit, but it's in GAATN's best interest to create its own pathway. Carlos said that at the last project meeting, AT&T said all of their available conduit space has been leased. Syd said he spoke to Frank about this project and GAATN would have to get landowner approval to attach to the PEC poles since they would have to grant easement, and PEC only got electric easement. Carlos said management will come up with design options and pricing and will bring this to the next technical meeting since this project is being expedited.

**C. Job Budget Tracking Report**

Sarah reported that, with the approval of \$300k for the A1N upgrade project, \$220k remains in the MAC budget for additional jobs. She noted that she is now capturing the expected recovery in this report for projects for which GAATN will be reimbursed. She asked the Board if management should consider the amount expected to recover as available to allocate for additional projects; John said he can't budget for it until the reimbursement is received. Sarah said she will continue to track this data so the Board can have this information when approving future projects.

**D. GAATN Property Insurance 20RFP025 update and request for evaluation subcommittee**

Sarah noted that the GAATN Property Insurance RFP will close on September 10; she asked for a member to participate on the evaluation subcommittee. Steve Pyle offered to be on the subcommittee.

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6. **Executive Session:** There was no executive session.
  
7. **Discussion and possible action regarding the financial report and current fiscal year budget issues.**
  - A. **Financial Report**

John reviewed the preliminary FY19 financial report from AISD and noted that approximately \$556k was moved into the fund balance, bringing the total to \$3.14 million. Bruce asked about the 10-year financial forecast in the handouts; Sarah explained that it illustrates GAATN completing the convention center backup NOCC as well as its top four priority projects by FY28 all while keeping the annual budget flat at \$1.7 million and ending up with approximately \$975k in the fund balance.
  
8. **Meeting & Action Items Summary:**

Carlos reviewed the following action items for management from this meeting:

  - Add Technical agenda item regarding 144-count upgrade costs and plan
  - Add Technical agenda item regarding FY 1626 project
  
9. **Confirm date, time, and location for the next regular Board meeting on October 1, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. at the LCRA Service Center, 3505 Montopolis Blvd., Room A502/503, Austin, Texas.**

The date, time, and location for the next regular meeting were confirmed; the meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.