

USDA ReConnect Project Update – Marian Walrath/Dan Long
Finance Committee 4/6/2021

1. Services Agreement with Empire Access

- a. The outstanding items in the Services Agreement with Empire Access have been agreed to by both parties. Signing will occur once the needed insurance documents are collected.
- b. The Agreement has been sent to the USDA for review and approval.

2. Engineering

- a. After thorough review of proposals from our preferred engineering firm candidates, the Broadband Committee is recommending New York Engineering Services for the ReConnect network design and construction management. The key factor in recommending New York Engineering Services is their Fiber to the Home and RUS expertise.
- b. Presented is a draft resolution authorizing the Chairman to sign a contract with New York Engineering Services using RUS Form 217 – Postloan Engineering Services Contract – Telecommunication Systems.
- c. The engineering costs will be paid from our ReConnect Grant and Match monies.
- d. The RUS Form 217 will be submitted to RUS from review and approval.

3. Construction

- a. Goal to start Construction Summer 2021.

4. Insurance

- a. The USDA Grant and Security Agreement signed in 2020 specifies required insurances – 7CFR1788 – e.g. network property, liability, flood, engineering, construction.
- b. In-process of gathering more facts and will provide recommendation to Finance Committee when completed.