

Fiber Partnership Workgroup Discussion Summary

May 20, 2019

Participants in the May 20 work group discussed interest and opportunities, as well as challenges and concerns related to fiber partnerships.

Highlights from the discussion include:

- **Fiber connectivity availability:** Some areas and WAPA customers don't have access to broadband. The "middle mile" level is a significant need for these communities. WAPA's infrastructure at the "middle mile" level could bridge the gap of connectivity.
- **Fiber partnerships:** Existing fiber partnerships work well and are mutually beneficial both operationally and economically. This is essential for future partnerships as well.
- **Fiber partnership planning:** Sharing fiber development information is an opportunity and a challenge, specifically as it relates to lead time for new partnerships.
- **Costs and value:** Cost allocation, term length of agreements, value lifecycle must be a mutual fit for fiber partnerships.
- **Use:** Non-utility use by 3rd parties, emergency services and outage duration are challenges to address.
- **Operational issues:** Addressing policies and procedures for planned and unplanned fiber communication outages, levels of service, maintenance practices and ensuring NERC/CIP security are vital to successful partnerships.
- **Lands issues:** Partnerships must address lands issues; associated time and costs for lands issues are a barrier.

