

SPECIAL MEETING of the WYOMING BUSINESS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Friday, October 16, 2020 | 1:00 P.M. | via Zoom Webinar

Join the webinar here: <https://zoom.us/j/295704768>

Join by phone at 1-346-248-7799 or 1-669-900-6833

WPMA NOTICE: This Special Meeting of the Wyoming Business Council Board of Directors is called for the consideration of a ConnectWyoming contract with Mountain West Technologies Corporation, consideration of an amendment to the Contract with Warehouse Twenty One, and to hear a preview of a BRC project for the City of Evanston.

AGENDA

1:00 p.m. CONVENE PUBLIC MEETING

- Pledge of Allegiance video – *all panelists will be muted*
- Roll call of members present

1:05 p.m. CONNECTWYOMING

- Program update – Agency Services Manager Warren Appel
- Proposed ConnectWyoming Contract with Mountain West Technologies Corporation
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Consideration of staff recommendations

1:30 p.m. AMENDMENT THREE to the CONTRACT WITH WAREHOUSE TWENTY ONE

- Contract history, discussion, presentation of staff recommendations – Chief Strategy Officer Sarah Fitz-Gerald, Northwest Regional Director Amy Quick
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Consideration of staff recommendations

1:45 p.m. PROJECT AVALON

- Project preview – Economic Development Finance Manager Josh Keefe

2:00 p.m. OTHER BOARD MATTERS and ADJOURNMENT

- **Standing Committees** will meet by teleconference this quarter during the week of November 2:
 - **Community Grant and Loan:** Tuesday, November 3 at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 - **Personnel, Budget and Audit:** Wednesday, November 4 at 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
 - **Business Contract and Loan:** Friday, November 6 at 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- **Next Regular Meeting of this Board:** December 9-10 via Webinar
 - Community Spotlight: Sundance

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wyoming Business Council Board of Directors
Mr. Mike Easley, Chairman

FROM: Joshua J. Dorrell, Chief Executive Officer
Warren R. Appel, Agency Services Manager

DATE: October 16, 2020

RE: ConnectWyoming award to Mountain West Technologies Corporation for a fixed wireless build in Natrona County

Mr. Easley and Board Members,

Staff recommends award of a ConnectWyoming contract in the amount of \$1,885,200.00 to Mountain West Technologies Corporation of Casper for deployment of fixed wireless broadband infrastructure and services in the rural Casper/Natrona County area.

An application for this project was received during the initial call for ConnectWyoming applications which closed on July 27, 2020. During the review of all applications, our team required maps of proposed areas of coverage, however the maps for this particular application were overlooked as they were attached to the proposal as separate files. In subsequent discussions with the applicant, our team was alerted to the map files that were submitted with the original application. Upon review of the files, our team realized that this project qualified under the ConnectWyoming rules and subsequently worked with the applicant to develop a final scope of work.

The final scope of work includes the installation of ten new towers in the Casper area and upgrades to an existing six towers, resulting in improved coverage and 50 Mbps download/5 Mbps upload speeds in 240 currently unserved/underserved census blocks in rural Casper and Natrona County. This represents some 1,060 residents which, due to their rural nature, are the most difficult to serve via other technologies. These figures are based on 2010 census information and the most-current mapping provided by the FCC under the Section 477 reporting.

It is worth noting the build funded under this proposal represents only a portion of Mountain West's overall network buildout and consolidation in Natrona County, the remainder of which is being funded by nearly \$1 million of private investment provided by the applicant. Company principals have assured Council staff of their ability to

complete the project on or before December 30, 2020, the deadline required by the CARES Act funding.

In summary, the application submitted by Mountain West Technology Corporation falls within the parameters and guidelines of the ConnectWyoming program and CARES Act funds and will connect over 1000 unserved/underserved Natrona County residents with reliable broadband access. Accordingly, staff recommends approval of this contract award.

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