

Demonstrated experience – OCIO Application

North West REC's Partnership with Evertek In N.E.T. Broadband

North West REC (NWREC) is a rural electric cooperative that is headquartered in Orange City, with district offices in Le Mars and Ida Grove and a service center in Primghar. The Cooperative provides electric service to 10,200 farms, homes, commercial and industrial and value added ag customers in Sioux, O'Brien, Plymouth and Ida counties. We continue to experience strong growth in both kilowatthour sales and new services and have been averaging over 100 new services per year.

NWREC has a long history of working with partners to help improve the quality of life for our members in northwest Iowa. This includes our involvement with many development partners in the area regarding economic development projects. We have also been involved in several partnerships in the last 20 years to work to help improve telecommunications and broadband services in northwest Iowa.

One of those partnerships is with Evertek. We entered into a partnership with Evertek to form **N.E.T. Broadband, LLC**, in 2002. Both partners were concerned that unserved or underserved areas would not receive access to high-speed Internet without us getting involved. We originally deployed wireless broadband services in the Sheldon, Ida Grove and Holstein areas. Over the years we have significantly expanded our coverage area and today provide broadband service to over 500 customers in four counties in northwest Iowa.

We are looking at opportunities to provide expanded broadband through fiber to the home deployment in several areas that have been asking for improved broadband services.

Evertek, Inc., founded in 1986 and **United Farmers Telephone Company**, founded in 1905, are headquartered in **Everly, Iowa** and subsidiaries of Evertek Enterprises.

Evertek is a total communications provider offering an array of services via fiber, cable, copper, fixed wireless and satellite. These services include Internet, IPTV, Digital Phone and Cable TV. The company started offering some of the 1st dial up Internet services in 1995 and grew the business into the network it is today.

United Farmers Telephone Company deployed FTTH in 2008 and is a 1 GB capable network to every town, rural customer and business in the Everly exchange. We also have redundant fiber rings that are managed and maintained by our staff to serve all the fiber and wireless sites in Northwest Iowa that we serve.

We have been operating as a Fixed Wireless Service Provider (WISP) since 2001 in Northwest Iowa and serve 40 fixed wireless sites that are all fed via licensed wireless Point to Point and fiber connection in Northwest Iowa. Evertek holds and has deployed

the BRS spectrum for Mason City, Sioux City, and Fort Dodge and recently purchased CBRS licenses to meet the demands of customer needs.

Evertex, Inc. is managed by Roxanne White as CEO. Roxanne has over 36 years of service to this industry and the company. She has been the CEO since 2000 and was a past Board Chair of the Iowa Communications Alliance (ICA). Roxanne and her team of 14 employees have established unique partnerships with Municipalities, ILEC's, CLEC's and rural electrical cooperatives across the State of Iowa. This aggressive team has opened the door to new opportunities extending the coverage area while closing the gap for underserved areas.

A fiber-to-the-home project offering 100/100 service would not be feasible in the areas currently served by fixed wireless, unless matching state funds can be awarded for this project, as requested.

The proposed FTTH system offers:

- a. Calix Shelf with redundant internetworking paths. Dual 10G connections to Core Router.
 - i. Core Router has connections to two 10G fiber routes.
- b. Capable of up to 1 gigabit connection to every premises served.
- c. 10G to 100G interconnection between Hubs

Current Evertex Network and Operations:

Network Capacity Planning: 1) Evertex Core network currently has redundant 10GB connections to geographically diverse Internet providers. BGP is used to balance traffic and failover during upstream network maintenance or outage scenarios. 2) Wireless and FTTH client access points are connected via 1GB or 10GB fiber depending on capacity needs. 3) Evertex has redundant voice switch attached directly to Evertex Core routers with multiple 1GB connections. 4) Links between remote access points to the core network are either 1GB or 10GB fiber depending on capacity needs. Network Capacity Monitoring: Evertex network monitoring tracks usage on all site to site links and links to customer access points. When capacity reaches predefined levels, alerts are issued so that technicians can plan for increased capacity. Network Latency monitoring: Evertex network monitoring tracks latency to all customer access points and alerts are issued if it increases beyond predefined levels.