

Waverly Communications Utility provides world-class broadband services to the citizens of Waverly, Iowa and surrounding rural areas.

Waverly Utilities is applying for funding to provide unserved and underserved areas with high-speed Internet service. The areas we have identified to serve will utilize excess capacity on our existing fiber network and will be adjacent to our existing fiber territory.

In 2000, citizens of Waverly approved a referendum to start a Telecommunication Utility and have the Telecommunications Utility managed by Waverly Utilities. The referendum was approved by more than 80% of citizens voting. In 2013, Waverly Utilities Board of Trustees approved the formation of a Broadband Utility. In 2014, the local Board of Trustees of Waverly Utilities approved the project to buildout hundreds of miles of fiber optic cable to meet the broadband demands of the community. A driving factor in the buildout was the lack of investment by incumbent broadband companies serving Waverly that had no plans to upgrade their networks or improve their copper plant. Waverly Utilities connected their first broadband customer in 2016. Over the last 7 years, Waverly Utilities has grown to 3,900 customers and expanded its reach to over 400 rural customers surrounding Waverly IA.

In 2019, Waverly Utilities provided 10Gb service to customers. Waverly Utilities is a leader in broadband speeds and one of the few 10 gigabit service providers in the country. Waverly Utilities broadband service has helped local businesses innovate, compete, and grow.

Waverly Utilities was nominated for a Prometheus award by the Technology Association of Iowa (TAI). The nomination recognized Waverly IA as Technology Community of the Year.

Approximately 75% of Waverly Utilities households and businesses have fiber internet service from Waverly Utilities compared to other providers. Waverly Utilities baseline internet service for residential customers is 250/250Mbps. Waverly Utilities is proud of their prompt, responsive local service. Waverly Utilities crews are on call 24/7/365 to connect customers and keep them in service. Customer support is provided seven days a week by our local Help Desk and on-call staff. In the rare event of a service outage, local crews are dispatched day or night.

Financing of the Communications Utility was provided by private investors and the Electric Utility. The citizens of Waverly did not finance the construction or start-up cost of the Communications Utility. Waverly Utilities is meeting its bond obligations and expects to be debt free in 2029. Additionally, Waverly Communications was Net Income Positive within 3 years. Any new construction or technology investment is paid for by the Communications Utility without borrowing.

Waverly Communications Utility rates are lower than competing providers for similar service plans. Waverly Utilities' local Board of Trustees sets rates as low as possible.

Waverly Utilities - Managerial and Technical experience – Key employees

**Darrel L. Wenzel, CEO**

Feb 2014 - Present: CEO of Waverly Utilities

2012 – 2014: CEO/General Manager of Harlan Municipal Utilities. Responsibilities included the management of Electric, Water, Natural Gas and Telecommunications (Voice, Video, and Internet) Utilities in Harlan, Iowa.

2003 – 2012: General Manager for Independence Light and Power and Independence Telecommunications Utility in Independence, Iowa. Responsibilities included management of the electric utility and the telecommunications utility.

2000 – 2003: Telecommunications Manager for Independence Telecommunications Utility (subsidiary of Independence Light and Power), in Independence Iowa. Managed the construction and launch of voice, video, and Internet services in Independence.

1998 – 2000: Project Manager for the Telecommunications Department, Stanley Consultants. Responsibilities included creating feasibility studies, system design and project management of hybrid fiber coaxial systems on behalf municipalities in the Midwest.

1981 – 1998: Held several technical and management positions with Tele-Communications Incorporated (TCI). General Manager from 1992 through 1998 in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls area with responsibility for managing 174 employees and 54 cable television franchises in communities across Northern Iowa.

Education: B.S. Business Administration and Human Resources, Upper Iowa University, Fayette, Iowa

### **Curt Atkins, Interim General Manager**

August 2023 – Interim General Manager of Waverly Utilities

Curt has been with Waverly Utilities for 19 years. Curt started his career with Waverly Utilities in February 2004 as the Energy Advisor. Curt has held numerous positions at the utility including Energy Service Manager, Director of Customer Service for the Electric and Communications Utility and Director of Operations.

Curt's focus is on the strategic direction of the utility, maintaining appropriate level of community and industry involvement, and managing the resources needed to effectively implement the Utility's plan to meet established short and long-term objectives.

### **Jeff Magsamen, Director, Telecom**

2015 – Present: Telecom Director, Waverly Utilities. Responsible for the Implementation and on-going support of the Municipal Broadband system which delivers high speed Internet, TV, Phone services to a customer base of over 4,500 homes and businesses across a fiber optic network.

2011 – 2015: Infrastructure and Vendor Relations Director at CBE Companies in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Led an IT department of 20 staff members. The department managed desktop, server, storage, and network systems for 1,500 users in 7 U.S. locations and 1 office in the Philippines. The department supported an outbound call center with on premise and cloud dialers attempting over 1.5M calls daily. Designed highly redundant Multi-Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) and Internet Network connecting all offices. Negotiated service contracts with telecommunication and technology providers. Control Number 435051

1990 – 2011: Network Specialist and Senior Manager at CUNA Mutual Group in Waverly, Iowa and Madison, Wisconsin. Managed Lucent Systems 75(TDM) and 8720(VOIP) PBX systems. These systems supported over 2,000 extensions and 1,000 trunk lines. Negotiated multi-million-dollar contracts with

telecommunication providers for voice, data, and wireless services. Implemented Avaya Unified Voice Messaging System for 5,000 users on Avaya and Nortel systems. Designed and managed internal Local Area Networks and Metropolitan Area Networks which supported over 6,000 users. Negotiated pricing and designed a private fiber ring connecting offices in Waverly, Iowa.

1983-1987 US Army Specialist(05k) Non- Morse Signal Operator responsible for collecting data signals from around the world.

Education: B.S. Telecommunications Management, DeVry University, Kansas City, MO

### **Marty Diesburg – Senior Network Engineer**

Marty came to Waverly Utilities in April 2016. He is responsible for the fiber deployment, technical engineering, and support of the communications system. Prior to this position, Marty was the Telecom Manager for Independence Light and Power dba IndyTel from 2001 until April 2016. He assisted with the design and implementation of the telecom system for Independence and managed the Internet, CATV and voice segments of the utility.

From 1996 until 2001 Marty was employed with McLeodUSA as the Network Engineer.

Education: Kirkwood Community College and licenses and certification for network CompTIA Linux. E7 GPON Specialist and Active Ethernet certifications.

### **Matthew Dittmer – Network Engineer**

Matt came to Waverly Utilities from the University of Minnesota in 2016 where he was a Support Specialist. Matt maintains a Cisco Certified Network Associated designation along with other security designations. Matt is responsible for Waverly Utilities IP Network which includes Core Routers, Passive Optical Network(PON & XGS-PON) Switching, Carrier Grade NAT and numerous supporting systems. IP Routing is used to deliver Internet, Phone and Video Service.