

Demonstrated Experience

Wellman Cooperative Telephone Association (Wellman) has a proven history of fiber broadband project success and implementation. Wellman currently serves approximately 1,200 subscribers in the community of Wellman as well as rural portions of Washington, Johnson, Iowa, and Keokuk counties. All of Wellman's ILEC territory is served via a fiber-to-the-premise network infrastructure. Wellman strives to provide its members and communities with the best technology available.

Additionally, Wellman is working to closeout their NOFA #007 project as they have successfully completed that build well ahead of schedule.

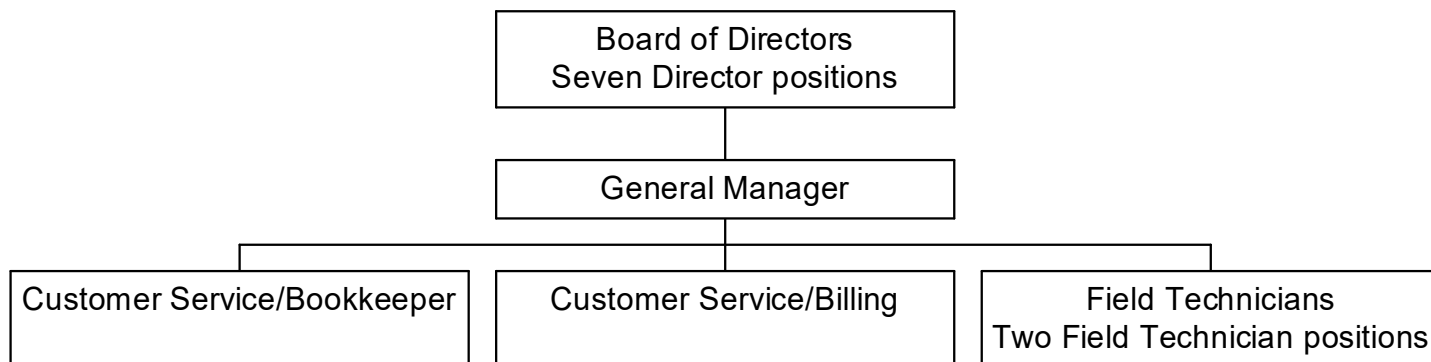
The bios of key Wellman team members are included to provide further evidence of Wellman's ability to successfully implement the proposed Wellman FTTP Build.

Wellman is a financially viable organization with the capability to meet all financial requirements outlined in this project. Wellman has a history of continued business success and meeting financial obligations within the communities they serve.



305 8th Avenue • PO Box 170 • Wellman, IA 52356 • 319.646.6075 • www.wellmantelephone.com

Wellman Telephone Organizational Chart





Company History

Early 1900's – Beginnings of the Company

Wellman Mutual Telephone Company was formed, a switchboard was purchased, at a cost of \$260, and drops were run to subscribers' homes. The rural areas gradually were served through "switcher lines", which were owned by the rural subscribers. These switcher lines were governed by their own board of directors and were responsible for collecting funds and paying Wellman Mutual for the switching of their calls.

1958 – Conversion to Dial

Wellman Mutual Telephone Company and the independent switcher lines formed the Wellman Cooperative Telephone Association and began the task of converting to dial service and upgrading the rural cable plant.

1973-74 – Single Party, Buried Cable

The aerial plant was replaced with buried cable and party lines were eliminated.

1981 – Digital Switching

The Stromberg-Carlson XY switch was replaced by a digital central office, providing for growth, improved quality of service, and advanced services including custom calling features.

1980's

Filled buried cable was introduced to gradually replace the existing air core cable which is damaged by moisture over time. A sales organization, WKIJ, was formed to provide equipment sales and maintenance to Wellman and the surrounding communities. Mobile telephone and wide area paging services were offered. An all-digital toll connection was established to US West. The company joined in establishing Iowa Network Services, which made possible the offering of long-distance equal access to the Wellman subscribers.

1994- Fiber Optics

Wellman and 3 neighboring companies joined to install a fiber optic toll route between the companies and to Aureon.

1995 – Second generation digital switch

In order to provide advanced services such as SS7 signaling and caller ID services, the digital switch installed in 1981 was replaced with a state-of-the-art digital switching system. This year also saw the launch of our Internet services through INS.

2000 – Launch of SEI Wireless LLC

Wellman Cooperative Telephone Association formed a partnership with Sharon Telephone to start offering cellular services through SEI Wireless LLC. WCTA operates three tower site locations with lease agreements from several different carriers.

2004 – Upgrade to a softswitch

A softswitch was added to our central office to ensure access to new telephone features.

2010 – IPTV service is launched, and our fiber build out was started

IPTV service is launched to provide video services to the residents of Wellman. We also began a project to expand fiber-based services to our customers' homes and businesses. When our fiber project is complete, our customers will have access to enhanced high-speed Internet and other advanced telecommunication services.

2014

Central office upgrade to a META switch. Our entire service area has been cut over to a 100% fiber network.

2015

We have replaced our paging tower with a new 150' tower to be used for cellular phone usage and other services.

2016

Began providing telephone switching services for a couple of nearby telephone companies.

Today

Wellman Cooperative Telephone Association serves approximately 1,200 subscribers in the Wellman area, including portions of Washington, Johnson, Iowa, and Keokuk counties, offering features comparable to those of any metropolitan area along with the personal service one would expect from a small-town company.



305 8th Avenue • PO Box 170 • Wellman, IA 52356 • 319.646.6075 • www.wellmantelephone.com

DION SCHMINKE

Wellman Cooperative Telephone Association
General Manager, COO

2808 W Dr • Parnell, IA 52325
 dsschmink@gmail.com
 319.981.5682

OBJECTIVE

To continue my career path and be given an opportunity to play more of a vital role in a organization and to lead and motivate others to achieve higher level goals.

SKILLS & ABILITIES

- Telecommunication Knowledge
- IT - Networking
- Proficient in Office Products
- Relationship building
- Maintain confidentiality
- Communication skills
- Detail oriented
- Leadership
- Goal oriented
- Conflict resolution
- Decision making
- Able to multi-task
- Self-Driven
- Team player
- Trustworthy
- Able to work under pressure

WORK EXPERIENCE

Wellman Telephone General Manager, COO

May 2020 – Current

General Manger duties include making sure company objectives are attained on time and within budget. Working cooperatively with all employees, board of directors and other industry colleagues to provide leadership and coordination to prepare company budgets, regulatory filings, complete product research, development, ROI assessments and deployments. Create, review, and implement company procedures and policies with high focus on efficiency. Coordination and ability to create and provide professional training to employees. Ability to effectively communicate with audiences with a wide variety of personalities and knowledge levels. Primary objective is to always be exploring ways to create additional revenue and growth opportunities for the company.

South Slope

Mar 2016 – April 2020

Project Coordinator

Project Coordinator duties include making sure project objectives are attained on time and within budget. Working cooperatively with all employees and departments to coordinate and complete product research, development, ROI assessments and deployments. Create, review and implement company procedures and policies with high focus on efficiency. Coordination and ability to create and provide professional training to employees. Ability to effectively communicate with audiences with a wide variety of personalities and knowledge levels.

South Slope

Sept 2008 – Mar 2016

Switching Operations Supervisor

Supervise and work cooperatively with a team of System Administrators and other members of the Management Team. Provide annual budgets and proposals for network improvements. Provide oversight, guidance, and direction to employees during network turn ups and trouble shooting. Responsible for network surveillance, troubleshooting, coordination and restoration of service affecting or potentially affecting network events/issues related to voice services. Still provision and maintain network elements related to providing telecommunication services.

South Slope

Sept 2000 – Sept 2008

Switching Department Technician / Network Application Technician Group

Troubleshoot, maintain and provision a Nortel DMS-100, carrier grade voicemail system, equipment to provide Internet and VoIP Television service. Part of the Help Desk team that provisioned, installed and did the troubleshooting of South Slope Internet and VoIP Television service. Responsible for maintaining and troubleshooting issues with the AC/DC Power Plants, Generators and HVAC Systems at our central offices.

South Slope

Aug 1996 – Sept 2000

Outside Plant / Installation Repair Technician

Performed cable construction, cable splicing, cable locating, service installs and trouble shooting. Part of a team that completed a large scale cable splicing job for the University of Iowa. Part of a major fiber splicing project where I went around to each of the fiber splice points to prep out cable and terminate it into the splice case ahead of the fiber splicing team. At the time, fiber preparation and splicing was brand new to our company.

TRAINING / CERTIFICATIONS**CompTIA – Network Plus Certification – 2013****Metaswitch Networks, including:**

- HPBX Deployment and Troubleshooting – 2011
- N-Series Application Suite – 2011
- EAS Administration Troubleshooting – 2011
- Metaswitch System Overview – 2010

Dale Carnegie – Leadership Training for Managers – 2009**Nortel Networks, including:**

- Carrier VoIP Network Fault Management – 2008
- Spectrum Peripheral Module Configuration and Maint. – 2004
- Core Billing Manager /Application Operations and Maint. – 2002
- DMS Supernode System Maintenance – 2001
- Expanded Subscriber Carrier Module Operations and Maint. – 2001
- DMS Supernode Systems Advanced Hardware Maint. – 2001
- DMS Supernode Systems Maint. – 2000

LEADERSHIP / ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- South Slope's ASPIRE-ing Person Award Winner – Sept 2015
- Leader of Widely Important Goals Team (WIG) - 2015

ADDITIONAL STAFF INFORMATION

Joe Patterson

Field Technician/Outside Plant Specialist

1999 – Current This employee has been providing excellent customer service to our members since 2003. Employee has been through many changes in the industry, including the transitions from dial-up internet to ADSL, then to FTTH home technology, including the addition of IPTV Services. This staff member is a vital part of our technical staff and is responsible for locating cable, installing, and troubleshooting services in the field and in the customer's home or business. Along with these duties this staff member is responsible for OSP layout and the coordination of new underground cable installation, along with fiber splicing and cut fiber restoration.

Lisa Miller Allen

Customer Service/Billing Representative

2003 – Current This employee has been providing excellent customer service to our members since 2003. Employee has been through many changes in the industry, including the transitions from dial-up internet to ADSL, then to FTTH home technology, including the addition of IPTV services. This staff member is vital to our customer education and trouble shooting. Along with these duties this staff member is responsible for the billing process that gets our bills distributed to our members, accounts receivable, along with some regulatory duties.

Nick McCulley

Field Technician/CO Provisioning Specialist

2011 – Current This employee was hired in 2011 fresh out of college, with a certificate in Network Technology – Telecom/Data Communications. Employee been providing excellent customer service to our members since 2011. Bringing a younger staff member on board has brought a new perspective to our company and a great deal of knowledge when it comes to various IP related devices and services. This staff member is a vital part of our technical staff and is responsible for locating cable, installing, and troubleshooting services in the field and in the customer's home or business. Along with these duties this staff member is responsible for the installation and removal of equipment in our central office along with provisions services and configuring devices to be in stall in our customer's home or business.

Teresa Brenneman

Customer Service/Accounting Representative

2018 – Current This employee was hired in 2018 fresh out of college, with a degree in accounting. Employee has been providing excellent customer service to our members since 2018. Bringing a younger staff member on board has brought a new perspective to our company and a great deal of knowledge when it comes to wireless phones and applications. Along with these duties this staff member is responsible for the accounting duties that include accounts receivable, accounts payable, account coding, balancing of general ledger, payroll, along with some regulatory duties.

WILLIAMSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Chad Garber, Superintendent
319-668-1059

Lynell O'Connor - Jr/Sr High Principal
319-668-1050

Brent Zirkel - Elementary Principal
319-668-2301

810 West Walnut, Box 120
Williamsburg, IA 52361
319-668-1050
Fax: 319-668-9311
www.williamsburg.k12.ia.us

March 28, 2023

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 E Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: (515) 281-5503

RE: Invitation to Qualify #001 – Broadband Intervention Zones

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

As the superintendent of the Williamsburg Community School District, I know the importance of expanding access to state-of-the-art broadband services. I would like to express my full support of the Invitation to Qualify #001 – Broadband Intervention Zones application being submitted by Iowa County in partnership with the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) and Wellman Cooperative Telephone Association (WCTA).

The Williamsburg Community School District utilizes broadband service every day, and that resource greatly enhances learning opportunities for our students in the classroom. Education will continue to evolve and the recent Pandemic sped that evolution to some extent. Prior to and during the Pandemic, it was very evident that digital learning played a crucial role in the learning experience of our students and the ability of our staff to provide quality 21st Century instruction. With that in mind, it is critical for all students and staff in our school district to have access to reliable, high speed Internet. Without advanced broadband, the learning opportunities for a number of our students will be greatly limited.

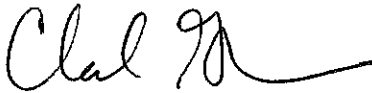
The lack of reliable broadband in underserved communities is a great challenge to our families and to our district's instructional staff, and has a direct impact on today's educational experience as well as the future success of our students. Due to the rural nature of the area, some students in our district do not have access to equitable broadband resources. With this grant, WCTA's expansion of fiber broadband will help some of our rural students overcome this obstacle and provide opportunities for research, peer collaboration, distance learning, video and advanced tools. As a 1:1 district, and as a jr./sr. high school that sends a device home with kids every day,

in order for our students to reap the benefit of these powerful tools, they need connectivity that is equally as robust and reliable. Our virtual academy, approved by the Iowa Department of Education, allows us to meet the needs of families who have found online learning to best suit their educational needs and personal values. Teachers across all grade levels and content areas utilize playlists to support students who are absent from class for short or extended periods of time, but in order to reap the full benefits of that tool, reliable internet connection is necessary. In short, the importance of broadband internet will only continue to grow for families and our communities as we look to provide outstanding experiences for our students in a variety of ways.

Not to be forgotten is the potential economic impact that broadband connection has on schools as well. As we look to attract families to our communities, and more and more of the workforce transitions to "working from home", and more and more small business is operated through the internet, if our rural areas are left behind in the area of connectivity, it has the potential to require families to leave or for other families to choose to relocate elsewhere simply because they're unable to work productively without a reliable connection to the internet. Broadband is an instructional necessity, and an economic necessity for our district and communities.

WCTA has a long and successful history of providing state-of-the-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities and has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service. I am confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service to Parnell, Iowa and surrounding rural areas.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Garber", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chad Garber

WADES GOLF AND MOW, INC
3005 225TH ST.
WILLIAMSBURG, IA. 52361

March 29, 2023

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 E Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: (515) 281-5503

RE: Invitation to Qualify #001 – Broadband Intervention Zones

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I am writing this letter to express my full support of the Invitation to Qualify #001 – Broadband Intervention Zones application being submitted by Iowa County in partnership with the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) and Wellman Cooperative Telephone Association (WCTA).

As a business owner in this Broadband Intervention Zone we would like to express the need for upgraded broadband services in our area. We fully support this process as we rely and depend on broadband service daily to operate our business.

WCTA has a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to the City of Wellman and surrounding area. WCTA has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service, we are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service to our rural area.

Sincerely,
RANDY WADE
WADES GOLF AND MOW, INC
3005 225TH ST
WILLIAMSBURG, IA. 52361

Immanuel Lutheran Church
2978 225th Street
Williamsburg, Iowa 52361

March 24, 2023

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 E Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: (515) 281-5503

RE: Invitation to Qualify #001 – Broadband Intervention Zones

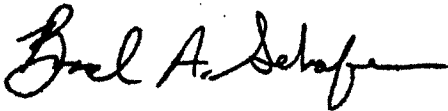
Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I am writing this letter to express my full support of the Invitation to Qualify #001 – Broadband Intervention Zones application being submitted by Iowa County in partnership with the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) and Wellman Cooperative Telephone Association (WCTA).

As a religious organization in this Broadband Intervention Zones we would like to express the need for upgraded broadband services in our area. As many Churches are offering to livestream service we have not been able to do this due to a lack of internet speeds in our area. With this being said we fully support this process as we would like to expand and modernize our offering to our congregation.

WCTA has a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to the City of Wellman and surrounding area. WCTA has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service, we are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service to our rural area.

Sincerely,



Brad Schaefer, Elder



Ackerman Plumbing Services Inc.
2964 225th St.
Williamsburg, IA 52361
319.530.0788

March 27, 2023

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 E Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
515-281-5503

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I am writing this letter to express my full support of the Invitation to Qualify #001 – Broadband Intervention Zones application being submitted by Iowa County in partnership with the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) and Wellman Cooperative Telephone Association (WCTA).

As a homeowner and owner of Ackerman Plumbing in this Broadband Intervention Zone we would like to express the need for upgraded broadband services in our area. We fully support this process as they are vital to our way of life as we rely and depend on broadband services daily for our children's school work and to operate our business.

WCTA has a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to the City of Wellman and surrounding area. WCTA has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service, we are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service to our rural area.

Sincerely,

Corey Ackerman
President