

GCET Board Meeting Minutes (Draft)

January 13, 2026

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order.

2. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Goodwin abstained from approval pending additional review time.

3. New Business

Vehicle & Equipment Update

- Three vehicles are fully operational.
 - The primary van will be fully outfitted by mid-next week.
 - Installation of inverter and heater systems will support splicing capability and operational redundancy.
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Weldon Project Update

Contract & Legal Review

- Agreement under review by counsel to incorporate updated Massachusetts-required inclusionary language.
- Project nearing construction start.

Infrastructure & Access Overview

- GCET does not own most rights-of-way and must secure access agreements for MDU installations.
- Installation in MDUs requires coordination with property owners and compliance with the Anti-Aid Amendment.

Weldon Routing Strategy

- Original pole route delayed by permitting/make-ready.

- New pole installed on private property to avoid delay.
- Alternative trenching option avoided due to cost and disruption.

Network Upgrade Significance

- Weldon represents a major technology upgrade and new service delivery standard.
- Supports up to 5 Gbps per customer (current standard: 200 Mbps).
- Reduces long-term pole attachment costs (projected six-figure annual savings).
- Uses open-source, interoperable systems to avoid vendor lock-in.
- Establishes scalable fiber-to-the-premises model for future expansion.

Contracting & Capacity

- Alternative Telecom performing interior wiring per GCET specifications.
 - GCET retains ownership, design control, and system management.
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North Build Update

- Backbone construction continues on schedule.
 - Configuration, routing, and field work ongoing.
 - Specialized contractors used for large cable pulls due to equipment requirements.
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4. Capital Strategy

- Continued reliance on grant funding for expansion.
 - Investment focused on long-term sustainability, scalability, and municipal control.
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5. Executive Session

Motion approved to enter Executive Session (Reason #10: trade secrets/competitively sensitive information).

Board entered Executive Session with intent to return only to adjourn.