

COMMUNITY LEARNING SPACE PROJECT
Rural Switchboard Pilot
Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 7, 2002

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Waterloo Regional Library, 2017 Nafziger Rd Philipsburg

Present:

Shirley Fenton	University of Waterloo, Computer Systems Group
Jennifer Uttley	University of Waterloo, Computer Systems Group
Doug Mulholland	University of Waterloo, Computer Systems Group
Trudy Beaulne	Social Planning Council of Kitchener-Waterloo
Kyle Young	Waterloo Regional Library
Peter Simmons	Woolwich Township
David Johnston	Rural Mail Box Solutions Inc.
Kurt Liebe	Guelph Community Matix, MyTown Media Canada Inc.

Regrets

Joe Dales	Farms.com
Paul Graham	Agri Food Innovations
George Stock	Oxford County Library

1. Welcome and Introductions

Shirley welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Each presented some background information and why they were interested in this project.

2. Overview of the Community Learning Space Project and Conceptual Framework

Shirley provided an overview of the CLS project and the pilot projects, including the Employment Support project, Waterloo Regional Arts Council, Canada's Technology Triangle, Social Planning Council of Kitchener-Waterloo Quality of Life data. The Rural Switchboard project was a good opportunity.

Don Cowan and Colin Mayfield are the project leaders.

Develop tools and applications for use in the pilots as we go through the process so that agencies can eventually start their own learning space. The Learning Academy will provide on-line information to guide others in the development of their own learning space and will provide best practices. The Learning Academy will be interactive in sustainability.

The Rural Switchboard is a project with broad goals – networking and content development goes beyond the portal.

3. Demonstration of the Community Learning Space Project Pilots

Doug provided a presentation and demonstration of the Community Learning Space. He demonstrated that suite of tools that are available.

4. Discussion of Rural Switchboard Data Needs, Development, Objectives and Applications

Q of L pilot will likely include broader social and other components – typically QoL refers to economic factors only.

Farmers are not presented as producers, only presented as consumers.

Are we are trying to stay focused on agriculture? There are fewer farmers. Rest of rural population includes many non-agricultural business – in supports.

Rural and Urban dweller - commuters. Young people – latchkey kids.
Rural activists. This is a broader view. What other data should be included in future?
Include business (agriculture, others) and residents.

Goal for Rural Switchboard?

Who are we trying to reach? What is the target audience?

Start with agricultural business and farms.

General aim will be: to improve rural quality of life

Business is a piece of this but need other expertise and information

What is the data to be included in this project?

- farm related businesses
- Joe has more information
- Township business and tourism

Business to get message out or for someone to confirm information and get information.
Will this be done directly?

Pilot has picked right topic – new farmers and new agriculture.

Training resources and opportunities and material. Computer, Management skills, introduction employment retention.

Information that is available.

Partner involvement in development.

Select data and ideas for presenting data.

Get together to look at data?

Web-based set up.

5. Next Steps and Timelines

Project timeline – 6 months

Melissa will set up an interview with Kyle to obtain a case history.

Change objectives

Get data and start to work on applications

Web logs – when? Whose logs will be tracked? Who is the lead organization for this project?

After interview with Kyle, we will arrange a teleconference to discuss the overall rural switchboard vision.