



RUS Grant 2017

Ginny Dennison and Abe Knowlton

From the US Department of Agriculture Rural Development website:

“The Distance Learning and Telemedicine program helps rural communities use the unique capabilities of telecommunications to connect to each other and to the world, overcoming the effects of remoteness and low population density. For example, this program can link teachers and medical service providers in one area to students and patients in another. For more information on other programs administered by RUS Telecommunications please visit :

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/telecom-programs>”

In 2009, we were part of a collaborative that received a RUS grant that supplied our Tandberg telecommunication systems to our schools. Since then, we have stayed in touch with Jeff Mann, account manager at ePlus Technology, the coordinator for this grant. Last year we were part of a new grant he was putting together, but were not funded, due to an error in paperwork from one of the other districts in the group. Jeff reached out to Markus on June 2, 2017, stating that he wanted to re-submit the grant application and asking if we wanted to continue to be a part of it. Where Markus was transitioning to the GT job, he handed this over to Abe and Ginny. This initial work was due June 9.

We completed the surveys and spreadsheet that was required for updating our information, then waited to hear from Jeff. We were hoping to come to the June RSUB meeting, but nothing was in place at that point. Tonight we are asking permission to continue on with this process and accept any funds we are awarded, as we have heard from ePlus Technology that the grant is moving forward.