

Presenter Bios

Douglas A. Dawson

CCG Consulting

Doug received a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Maryland in 1978. In addition, he received a Masters degree in Mathematics from the University of California at Berkeley in 1985.

Doug has worked at numerous jobs in the telecom industry. He began his career in 1975 as a test technician building and testing telephone switches for Litton Industries in College Park, Maryland. He then worked for several years as a consultant for accounting, traffic engineering and regulatory issues for small independent telephone companies.

Next, in 1981 he worked at Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in St. Louis, Missouri working with rural telephone companies, calculating and negotiating various interconnection and settlement rates between companies for local calling and other network arrangements, and overseeing the review of an independent telephone company's traffic and toll cost studies.

Next he gained operating telephone company experience at CP National in Concord, California. CP National was a holding company that owned 13 telephone companies and many other utilities. Doug held several positions there including being in charge of regulatory, revenues, engineering and accounting.

In 1991 he again became a consultant. In 1997, he became one of three founders and owners of Competitive Communications Group, LLC. The company is now known as CCG Consulting, LLC. Doug is now the President of the company and the sole remaining owner and is directly responsible for and intimately involved in all of the consulting work performed by CCG. CCG's clients include municipalities, ILECS, CLECs, cable TV companies, Internet Service Providers, electric companies, and long distance companies.

CCG is the largest telecom consulting company in terms of client base with over 450 active clients. CCG has done telecom-related work for around 100 municipalities including being the primary consultant for some fiber-to-the-home projects such as Bristol, Virginia, Lafayette, Louisiana, and Monticello, Minnesota.

Ralph L. McGinley

Oppenheimer & Co. Inc.

Mr. McGinley serves as Managing Director of the Fixed Income Investment Banking Department of Oppenheimer & Co. Inc. in Minneapolis. To this position, he brings 30 years of investment banking experience. Prior to joining Oppenheimer, he headed up Fixed Income for MJSK/John G. Kinnard and Dougherty Dawkins. Before joining the industry in 1982, he served in the public sector for 12 years with; the Metro Inter-County Council in St. Paul, the Toledo, Ohio Council of Governments and was County Administrator in Anoka County, Minnesota. Building on this strong base of local government expertise, he has focused his investment banking activities on city, county and state infrastructure projects. In addition to his work in the governmental infrastructure area, he has recently been very involved in project finance banking of a number of alternative energy developments throughout the country. He sits on the Investment Committee at Oppenheimer that oversees the credit approval process on fixed income underwritings.

Mr. McGinley holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of Toledo and a Bachelors Degree in Economics from Wittenberg University. He is fully licensed under FINRA Series 7, 53, 63 and 79.

Bob Vose

Kennedy-Graven Law Firm

Bob Vose is a shareholder with Kennedy & Graven, Chartered. He practices in the areas of Municipal Law, Government Relations and Administrative Law, and Telecommunications and Utility Law, with an emphasis in Municipal and Telecommunications and Utility Law. Bob is the city attorney for the cities of Pine Island, Independence, Belle Plaine and Oak Grove.

Bob received his B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Wisconsin in 1990 and, in 1994, he received his law degree from the University of Minnesota Law School. While in law school, Bob worked as a summer associate at Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith and Frederick in Duluth, Minnesota. Bob worked for five years as an associate for a local law firm, focusing his practice in municipal telecommunications law. He has represented many municipalities in Minnesota and around the country in the rapidly evolving area of municipal telecommunications regulation and right-of-way management. Bob joined Kennedy & Graven in 1999.

Bob has this to say about his practice:

I enjoy working with local governments to ensure that telecommunications services and facilities meet the needs of the community and local institutions, and also to provide an important community development tool.

Areas of Practice: Municipal Law, Telecommunications Law, General Litigation, Commercial Litigation

Bar Admissions: Minnesota, 1994

Education: University of Minnesota Law School, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1994, Juris Doctor

University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 1990, Bachelor of Arts

Gary W. Evans

Hiawatha Broadband Communications

Gary W. Evans, president and CEO of Hiawatha Broadband Communications, joined the company in April of 1998. One of two people who performed the feasibility study in 1992 that led to the creation of Luminet (HBC's predecessor), Evans is a long-time resident of the Winona community.

He served as Winona State University's vice president of university relations from 1987 until 1998 and previously spent 30 years in the newspaper business, including 25 years at the Winona Daily News. During his Winona newspaper career, Evans served as a reporter, section editor, editor, executive editor, marketing director, and publisher.

A community activist, Evans has received Winona's highest awards, the Winona Community Achievement Award in 1987 and the Adith Miller Community Tribute in 1990. He was also honored in 2001 as Minnesota Hospital Trustee of the Year, and on November 12, 2004, was honored by the Upper Mississippi Valley Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals as its outstanding volunteer fundraiser. In 2008, he received Winona State University's Distinguished Service Award.

He serves as chairman of the board of Winona Health, the community's health care system, as chairman of the board of the Great River Shakespeare Festival, is a member of the Blandin Foundation's Broadband Strategy Board, is a former member of the Greater Rochester Area University Center Board of Trustees, is a past president of the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce, and has held numerous community civic and church positions. In addition to his work at HBC, Evans is also currently working on loan to Burlington, Vermont, Telecom, a municipally-owned fiber-to-the-home system that is encountered financial difficulty. Evans and members of the HBC team a year ago did, at the request of the community's blue ribbon telecom committee, a business analysis of B.T.

Evans is also a member of Governor Dayton's Broadband Task Force.

Linda Kramer

RS Fiber Marketing Committee

Linda Kramer was born and raised in North Dakota. She earned degrees in English and education at the University of North Dakota and a Master's in library science at Indiana University, and worked as a library media specialist at schools in Iowa and Minnesota, including Sibley East.

She married Peter Kramer and moved to rural Gibbon in 1998, where he farms and is an independent crop consultant. Linda is now a stay-at-home mother of four children and writes Travels with Children, a popular family-travel blog. She has served on various church committees, on the Thrivent chapter board, was formerly the Clerk of Moltke Township, and currently serves as president of the Sibley County Library Board and as that body's representative on the Traverse des Sioux regional library board.

Linda has been interested in technology since she got her first modem in 1993 and is excited by the potential of fiber to her home, which is 1200 feet too far from Gibbon to be eligible through her current provider for the faster Internet speeds demanded by her family's technology use for farm, home, education, and entertainment.