

# **iMAN is 85 percent complete**

**By Mike Marturello mikem@kpcnews.net | Posted: Tuesday, September 18, 2012 12:00 am**

ANGOLA — The Steuben County fiber optics project funded primarily by Major Moves money from the county could be completed on schedule, said Bill Geiger, fiber optics network manager, told Steuben County Commissioners on Monday.

The project has \$2 million in funding from the county and thousands of dollars from grant sources. The Indiana Metropolitan Area Network is a non-profit arm of the Steuben County Community Foundation. Portions of the fees received by iMAN goes to community funds managed by the foundation for grant making across the county.

“We’re happy with what you’ve done. You have made great progress,” said Ron Smith, president of the County Commissioners.

“Currently we’re 85 percent complete,” Geiger said.

The only item holding up the project is some rights of way approvals with electric utility companies. The iMAN project needs to complete its buildout to Hamilton and the Steuben-DeKalb county line for eventual connection in Waterloo.

“If everything goes well, we should be done by the end of the year,” Geiger said.

Geiger said it is hoped iMAN will soon connect with a large fiber network in Waterloo that will provide Steuben County businesses, schools and organizations the opportunity for greater connectivity with the outside world. Currently iMAN connects through cable television provider Mediacom to get to the outside world.

iMAN currently has 22 customers that have a total of 51 connections. There are 26 point-to-point business connections and 25 service provider connections.

The iMAN organization is a non-profit organized by the Steuben Community Foundation. It was designed to bring high-speed communications to the county because it is generally accepted that private business would not because doing so would not be cost effective in a rural community.