**Notes from Conversation with Bill Fulton and [forgive me that I did not write down the spelling of the colleague’s name) 10/9/2020:**

* Bill’s basic question to us: Is the Civic Network platform the solution people need? Is it truly meeting the needs of the community?
* Wants us to dig into examples of the most effective organizations across the country and what tools or platform or are they using?
  + How are people working together?
  + Do they have a platform? Is it open architecture? Free?
  + Do they use Google, Slack, or some sort of already existing off the shelf platform? Is a platform even needed?
* He asked us to consider what our networks are using to collaborate – and especially our connections in the tech field to understand what’s on the market and what’s up and coming
* There are differences of opinion even amongst his team about whether they need a platform
* He understands that the next phase of creating a business plan may have to be put off in interest of time and the other deliverables he’s requesting
* Ultimately – what product would we recommend?
* Current platform – not limited to a user based subscription model and doesn’t have issues with whether workplaces will support it (sounds like he’d probably like that to be true of the platform we recommend)
* They haven’t normed the current platform because it isn’t in the public eye
* It’s important that the platform be united or able to have groups mobilize together
* He says information on organization is lacking in the platform – 900 is the total number of users
* The platform has evolved over the years based on the growing needs of the user. They’ve done about 10 upgrades using the “buy the next round” concept that if a group wants an upgrade that would be beneficial to all, that they pay for it
* He defined “Networks” as groups of people in communities and then more broadly, networks of community groups
* He wants us to keep track of our experience using Civic Network and if we need assistance, there’s a pretty robust help section
* He has offered to do a survey of the users to hear about their experience. Sounds like we’d need to come up with some basic questions and analyze the results
* The platform was started in 2016 but they’ve pretty much “punted” on what else it could be or do until now. And it’s finally the time to “fish or cut bait.”