

Southern Vermont Communications Union District (SoVT CUD)
Meeting Minutes
6:00 PM, Wednesday, 6 January 2021

6:00PM Meeting

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
 - a. Eric Hatch, Bennington; Jim Salsgiver, Dorset; Susan Lenox, Landgrove; Jeff Such, Londonderry; Terrence Dorsey, Manchester; Caitlin Randall, Pownal; Bill, Meyer (voting), Jed Ruben, Rupert; Tim Scoggins, Shaftsbury; Mark Hyde (voting), Andrew McKeever, Sunderland
 - b. Callie Fishburn, BCRC
3. Conflict of Interest
 - a. None reported.
4. Minutes
 - a. Minutes for 12/2/20 approved unanimously.
5. Announcements
 - a. No announcements.
6. Public Comments
 - a. No public comments.
7. Reports from Officers and Committees
 - a. Tim Scoggins reported that he would not seek reelection as chair in May but would remain as a board rep from Shaftsbury
 - b. Pole data is complete. Data formatting is under review with help from DVFiber's David Healy. \$90,000 of \$100,000 has been paid to Tilson.
8. Feasibility Study Update from Alex Kelley of RISI via email:

Stan finished a new model last week which I (Alex) reviewed, and he will modify with new information from VEDA shortly.

Assumptions in the new model:

- The CUD will not overbuild CCI's RDOF locations intentionally, but may need to overbuild a portion of CCI's fiber (we assume 20%) to get to other locations
- Locations won by SpaceX are still in play for the CUD and at current pricing and speeds, SpaceX will not be competitive with the CUD's fiber offering
- We will remove cabled towns from the model that CCI has stated they will overbuild as we find out about them, but not assume they will overbuild any town we don't hear about specifically. For example, they have said they are overbuilding Brattleboro, so that gets removed. They have not said anything about Bennington (that we have heard), so we will leave that in unless anyone hears something

The resulting model shows a path with – surprise – not too much room for error (IRR of ~5% at this point), however, new information from VEDA will improve things considerably, especially being able to amortize payments strategically.

Stan is going to update the model to reflect what we now believe VEDA will agree to. The comment about multiple loans per CUD being allowable was a new interpretation; it is safe to project 1 loan per CUD still, with the understanding that:

- 1) The legislature and everyone knows the VEDA program will need to expand and the \$10M left will go up
- 2) That being said, we aren't sure if they will be able to expand enough to provide more than \$4M or so per CUD at this point.

The point about VEDA willing to be pari passu was also interesting. If indeed that is true and Sam could speak for VEDA, that could come in to play with new subsidy coming from the feds, or perhaps USDA funds. We will do more research on this.

9. Other Business

- a. No other business.

10. Adjournment at 6:45p

Prepared, submitted by Tim Scoggins