

Southern Vermont Communications Union District
(SoVT CUD) Meeting Minutes (Draft)
6:00 PM, Wednesday, 3 February 2021

6:00PM Meeting

1. Call to Order at 6:02p
2. Roll Call
 - a. EB Ghazali, Bennington; Eric Hatch, Bennington (voting); Jim Salsgiver, Dorset (voting); Jeff Such, Londonderry (voting); Terrence Dorsey, Manchester (voting); Caitlin Randall, Pownal (voting); Jed Ruben, Rupert (voting); Sheila Kearns, Sandgate (voting); Tim Scoggins, Shaftsbury (voting); Michael Corey, Shaftesbury; Mark Hyde, Sunderland (voting); Andrew McKeever, Sunderland; Jonathan Cooper, BCRC, Alex Kelley, RISI; Carole Monroe, ValleyNet
3. Conflict of Interest
 - a. None reported.
4. Minutes
 - a. Minutes for 1/6/21 Motion to approve, Jim Salsivgiver, seconded by Eric Hatch. Approved unanimously (9-0-0).
5. Announcements
 - a. The Members who volunteer to review contracted Pole Study Data will meet with Tilson to finalize data delivery. There are still issues with the deliverable, specifically links to inaccessible third-party software instead of raw data. Tim Scoggins to ensure all volunteers receive invitation.
6. Public Comments
 - a. No public comments.
7. 2-County Feasibility Study – RISI
 - a. Alex Kelley of RISI and Carole Monroe of ValleyNet presented key findings from the forthcoming Feasibility Study:
 - Rather than linearly, SoVT CUD is advised to further develop business plan, examine potential partners and begin to form public-private partnership simultaneously in order to accelerate efforts.
 - Initial study concluded SoVT CUD is not viable. This revised study identified two avenues to viability now that results of RDOF are known:
 - Coordinate with DVFiber
 - Savings in operational expenses
 - Greater bulk purchasing of backhaul, phone service, etc
 - Shared equipment (egress to the internet)
 - Better fundraising options
 - Ability to more strategically build to maximize early customer acquisition
 - Potentially more interested ISP partners
 - Partner with Consolidated Communications (CCI)
 - Much less expensive construction costs
 - Tremendous existing assets (poles, hubs, trucks, staff)
 - CCI does not need to worry about financials, growth, staffing, etc

- Potentially can move fastest, and continue without coordination with other CUDs
- 3 Recommendations:
 - Pursue both paths for the time being to best understand implications for SoVT
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 - Continue to be on the lookout for new funding opportunities
- b. Tim Scoggins to distribute presentation to Membership. Tim Scoggins to distribute Feasibility Study once available. Tim Scoggins agrees to initiate conversations with Consolidated (CCI).
- 8. Election of New Clerk/Secretary
 - a. Bill Meyer will be stepping down as Secretary (Clerk). Tim Scoggins places Jeff Such's name in nomination with the Term ending May 12. Mark Hyde nominates Jeff Such for Secretary. Eric Hatch seconds. No additional nominations. Motion to Elect Jeff Such as Secretary passes 8-0 with Jeff Such abstaining.
- 9. MOU with Otter Creek CUD
 - a. The Otter Creek CUD of Rutland County proposed that the two CUDs sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in order to share knowledge, maximize limited resources and coordinate efforts. SoVT Officers support the effort. The MOU will be re-purposed from a similar draft with DVFiber. Sheila Kearns moved to authorize the Chair to sign the MOU with Otter Creek CUD and Jim Salsgiver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0-0).
- 10. Other Business
 - a. CUD Accelerator: Mark Hyde, Jonathan Cooper, James Salsgiver and Sheila Kearns will be the District's four allotted attendees to the CUD Accelerator session on Monday, February 8.
- 11. Mark Hyde made a motion to adjourn and Jim Salsgiver seconded it. At 7:23 pm the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.