

Southern Vermont Communications Union District

Draft Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2022

| Town Name | Representative Name | Voting = V Present = P Absent = A | Alternate Name | Voting = V Present = P Absent = A | 2 nd Alternate Name | Voting = V Present = P Absent = A |
|-------------|---------------------|---|--------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Arlington | Cynthia Browning | A | Jamie Paustian | A | | |
| Bennington | Eric Hatch | V | Ron Dubreuil | A | Beth Hardesty | A |
| Dorset | Mike Chase | V | Jim Salsgiver | A | Bob Meszaros | P |
| Landgrove | Jim Swartzentruber | A | Susan Lenox | A | | |
| Londonderry | John Hankin | A | | | | |
| Manchester | Terrence Dorsey | V | Kathleen James | A | | |
| Peru | Ben Foltz | A | Peter Bradford | A | | |
| Pownal | Caitlin Randall | A | Karlan Eberhardt | A | | |
| Rupert | Bill Meyer | A | Jed Rubin | V | Arlene Bentley | A |
| Sandgate | Sheila Kearns | A | Betsy Rathbun-Gunn | A | Logan Weurslin | V |
| Shaftsbury | Tim Scoggins | V | Michael Corey | A | James Salerno | A |
| Sunderland | Andrew McKeever | A | | | | |
| Winhall | Fred Schwacke | V | | | | |
| Woodford | | | | | | |

Also present: Al Bashevkin (treasurer)

1. Call to order

The chair called the meeting to order.

2. Roll call

Eric Hatch took role. A quorum of the board was not present

3. Conflict of interest

None – Fred Schwacke mentioned that Winhall and some other towns are exploring forming a new CUD. Erich Hatch said this would be discussed under other business and does not constitute a conflict of interest.

4. Additions to or deletions from the agenda [1 V.S.A. § 312]

None

5. Review and approval of draft minutes: [March 23, 2022](#)
Postponed due to lack of quorum

6. Public comments
None

7. Announcements
Tim Scoggins reported that CCI trucks were spotted in Shaftsbury laying fiber.

Eric Hatch reported that the executive committee has a standing meeting with CCI every week and they're moving forward on a universal service plan and buildout plans. One of the items being worked on with CCI is data analysis, and the CUD has been tasked with ground truthing certain identified addresses to confirm whether they are served or not. This may involve board members doing outreach to the addresses in their town. CCI is beginning to lay fiber under its RDOF commitment and will be covering an additional 200 addresses that would have been included in the CUD's territory. In total they will be providing fiber to about 1400 homes. The CUD and CCI plan to announce all of this publicly soon. The CUD will also need to decide what's going to happen with its towns that are in more than one CUD. Eric will be giving an interview to VT Digger about the CUD's public/private partnership and testifying before the House Energy & Technology Committee.

8. Treasurer's Report
Al Bashevkin gave an overview of the CUD's YTD financials and March spending. The CUD received the first half of its H.315 funds which enabled it to make several outstanding payments.

9. Update on discussions with CCI
Covered under announcements

10. Other business

Winhall is considering forming a new tri-mountain CUD that could include a handful of towns. If a new CUD is formed, it will not be eligible for Act 71 funding. Fred Schwacke gave an overview of why Winhall is considering the formation of a new CUD: Winhall is towards the end of the CUD's buildout schedule, and the Town is uncomfortable with the idea of giving public money to a private corporation and wants to have more control in the deployment of broadband in their area. There will be a public forum to discuss the formation of a tri-mountain CUD in Winhall on April 28th. Eric Hatch said the CUD's goal is still to get 90% of its district (including Winhall and Londonderry) built out in the next 12-18 months.