

Southern Vermont Communications Union District

Draft Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2022

Town Name	Representative Name	Voting = V Present = P Absent = A	Alternate Name	Voting = V Present = P Absent = A	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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	A
Landgrove	Jim Swartzentruber	A	Susan Lenox	A		
Londonderry	John Hankin	V	James Wilbur	P		
Manchester	Terrence Dorsey	V	Kathleen James	A		
Peru	Ben Foltz	A	Peter Bradford	A		
Pownal	Caitlin Randall	A	Karlan Eberhardt	A		
Rupert	Bill Meyer	V	Jed Rubin	A	Arlene Bentley	P
Sandgate	Sheila Kearns	V	Betsy Rathbun-Gunn	A	Logan Weurslin	P
Shaftsbury	Tim Scoggins	V	Michael Corey	P		
Sunderland	Andrew McKeever	A				
Winhall	Fred Schwacke	A				
Woodford						

Also present: Callie Fishburn and Jonathan Cooper (BCRC), Al Bashevkin (treasurer)

1. Call to order  
The chair called the meeting to order.
2. Roll call  
Callie Fishburn called roll. A quorum of the board was not present.
3. Conflict of interest  
None
4. Additions to or deletions from the agenda [1 V.S.A. § 312]  
None
5. Review and approval of draft minutes from September 14, 2022 and October 12, 2022.  
Postponed

6. Public comments

None

7. Announcements

Eric Hatch informed the board that the state auditor has initiated an investigative review of all the CUDs and has requested all SoVT CUD's contracts since its inception. Eric and BCRC are working to organize and upload all the necessary documents. This appears to be a standard review and Jonathan Cooper provided clarification about the scope and intent and investigative review.

Per the state auditor's website: "An investigative report is a tool used to inform citizens, policymakers, and State agencies about issues that merit attention. It is not an audit and is not conducted under generally accepted government auditing standards. Unlike an audit, which contains formal recommendations, investigative reports include information and possible risk-mitigation strategies relevant to the topic that is the object of the inquiry. "

8. Review of Draft Annual Report

Postponed

9. Review of Updated Contract with BCRC

No action was taken due to lack of quorum, however, BCRC staff provided some brief information and context to the updated contract that is pending approval. The contract is nearly identical to the previous contract but is backdated to cover a lapse in contract periods.

10. Update on Act 71 Construction Grant and Next Steps

Eric Hatch and BCRC staff are working on reinstating the CUD's SAM.gov registration which will allow the CUD to proceed with the Act 71 grant.

The CUD and CCI issued a press release announcing the receipt of Act 71 funds and Eric Hatch and Erik Garr from CCI will be interviewed by VTDigger.

11. Other Business

Treasurer, Al Bashevkin, has given some additional board members and BCRC staff access to the CUD's Quickbooks.

The board discussed issues with reaching a quorum to conduct meeting business. It was suggested that board members be asked to RSVP to meetings and possibly followed-up with via phone call in addition to email. The Woodford representative position is still vacant, and Bill Meyer from Rupert has volunteered to talk with some people he knows in Woodford about becoming the new representative.

Terry Dorsey reported that the VCBB has hired some additional finance and communications staff that CUDs are encouraged to reach out to and utilize as appropriate. He also stressed the importance of attending VCBB meetings to stay informed of statewide broadband developments, especially in light of the upcoming legislative session.

The board discussed the continuing value of membership in VCUDA and agreed to have a more in-depth discussion at a later date.