

Southern Vermont Communications Union District

Draft Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2023

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	A	Jim Salsgiver	V	Bob Meszaros	P
Landgrove	Jim Swartzentruber	A	Susan Lenox	A		
Londonderry	John Hankin	V				
Manchester	Terrence Dorsey	V	Kathleen James	A		
Peru	Ben Foltz	A	Peter Bradford	A		
Pownal	Caitlin Randall	A	Karlan Eberhardt	V		
Rupert	Bill Meyer	V	Jed Rubin	P	Arlene Bentley	P
Sandgate	Sheila Kearns	V	Betsy Rathbun-Gunn	A	Logan Weurslin	P
Shaftsbury	Tim Scoggins	A	Michael Corey	V		
Sunderland	Andrew McKeever	V				
Winhall	Fred Schwacke	A				
Woodford						

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

1. Call to order
The chair called the meeting to order at 6:02PM.
2. Roll call
Callie Fishburn called roll. A quorum of the board was 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 December 14, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes by Jim Salsgiver, seconded by Sheila Kearns. Passed unanimously.

6. Public comments

None

7. Announcements

None

8. Update on Act 71 Construction Grant

There is now a fully executed grant agreement. The CUD is working with CCI to prepare for the first set of documents due to VCBB. Sheila Kearns recommended that as the CUD/CCI submit regular reports and information to VCBB, there should also be a public version that can be shared on the website.

9. Review of 2023 Contract with BCRC

Eric Hatch introduced the updated contract with BCRC for 2023, and Jonathan Cooper provided an overview. The scope of work includes an expanded role for BCRC to fulfill many of the functions of an executive director and be a single point of contact with VCBB, CCI and other entities.

The board discussed the \$160,000 they will receive from Act 71 over the next two years and how to remain functional after the grant funding ends. BCRC may be able to help with the CUD strategic planning for its continuation after 2024.

Motion to approve the contract as presented by Jim Salsgiver, seconded by Terry Dorsey. Passed unanimously.

10. Other Business

Communications:

Sheila Kearns recommended that once there is a more detailed build schedule from CCI, it should be shared with towns, especially the towns that are in two CUDs.

Callie Fishburn has asked CCI for buildout data by House district which could be shared with state representatives who are beginning to get broadband questions from their constituents. A letter will be drafted for local/state officials with information about the phased buildout. The local letter will be drafted and sent shortly to meet town report deadlines.

VCUDA:

Terry Dorsey suggested that the CUD continue to work with VCUDA on advocating for the sustainable funding for CUDs. The legislative environment may change, and SoVT

specifically as an all-volunteer board may not be in the best position to advocate for itself. VCUDA's due structure is not expected to change this year. Sheila Kearns suggested that the board put together a specific ask for VCUDA.

Motion to adjourn by Jim Salsgiver, seconded by Bill Meyer. Passed unanimously.