

Southern Vermont Communications Union District

Draft Meeting Minutes

February 8, 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	A	Bob Meszaros	V
Landgrove	Jim Swartzentruber	A	Susan Lenox	V		
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	A	Jed Rubin	V	Arlene Bentley	A
Sandgate	Sheila Kearns	V	Betsy Rathbun-Gunn	A	Logan Weurslin	A
Shaftsbury	Tim Scoggins	V	Michael Corey	P		
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 6:05PM.
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 January 11, 2023

Motion to approve the minutes by Terry Dorsey, seconded by Sheila Kearns. Passed unanimously.

6. Public comments

None

7. Announcements

The CUD just received a concurrent house resolution commending the work of Vermont's 10 CUD's in bringing high-speed internet to state.

Eric Hatch and Sheila Kearns attended a board meeting of the new Chittenden County CUD and provided an overview of SoVT CUD's partnership model with CCI. CCCUD is working with RISI to develop a business plan and will likely adopt a similar model to SoVT CUD. Eric has also been talking with the chair of Lamoille Fiber about the partnership with CCI.

8. Update on Act 71 Construction Grant

The CUD executive officers and BCRC continue to meet regularly with CCI and have already sent in some of the required grant documentation to VCBB. The schedule of quarterly grant reports begins in April, and much of the reporting information will be provided by CCI. There is a detailed grant project plan that can be shared with board members (does not include specific service dates).

9. FY22 Financial Update

Callie Fishburn and Al Bashevkin gave an overview of the CUD's 2022 income and expenses. The CUD's main source of income in 2022 was a \$139,500 pre-construction capacity grant from the Department of Public Service. *Note: \$139,500 pre-construction grant is separate from the Act 71 Construction Grant received by the CUD later in the year. This was used to cover general operating expenses (website maintenance, Google Workspace, insurance etc.) and consultation/technical assistance services (legal and engineering consultants, assistance from BCRC). The CUD ended 2022 with a little over \$68,000 in the bank. Two invoices from CTC technology and BCRC that will be paid this year will use up most of the remaining grant funds, but the CUD will also shortly receive it's first distribution of Act 71 operations money.

10. Other Business

Andrew McKeever reported that Sunderland was not showing up on the Fidium website as being scheduled for coverage. This is likely an issue with the website – Sunderland will be covered by the end of this year. CCI has a master list of addresses by phase and Callie is working on dividing those up by town to share with legislative representatives and CUD representatives.

Information about subscriptions plans for both Fidium home fiber and small business fiber was shared with the board.

Tim Scoggins suggested that the high rate of fiber coverage that is expected in Bennington County by the end of the year is a great economic development case study. Several major cities often have poor internet service because of cable monopolies, and fiber deployment in Vermont is comparatively cutting edge.

Motion to adjourn by Tim Scoggins, seconded by Karlan Eberhardt. Passed unanimously.