

Southern Vermont Communications Union District

Draft Meeting Minutes

September 13, 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	James Wilbur	A		
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	P	Betsy Rathbun-Gunn	A	Logan Weurslin	V
Shaftsbury	Tim Scoggins	V	Michael Corey	P		
Sunderland	Andrew McKeever	V				
Winhall	Fred Schwacke	A				
Woodford						

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

1. Call to order
The chair called the meeting to order at 6:01PM.
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 August 9, 2023
Motion to approve the minutes as circulated by Terence Dorsey, seconded by Tim Scoggins. Passed unanimously.

6. Public comments
None

7. Announcements

Treasurer transition – see item #10 below.

8. Act 71 Grant & Construction Updates

Pownal and Rupert are the last wire centers being completed and are expected to open up for sales later this month. This will complete Phase 2 of the build and allow the CUD to focus on developing a plan for Phase 3 addresses. Bill and Arlene asked promotional plans in Rupert – Sheila responded that the best way to be notified about availability of service is to pre-order on the Fidium website. Susan Lenox reported that nearly the entire town of Landgrove is connected with Fidium using this method.

9. Review of Phase 3 Letter to Landowners

Callie Fishburn drafted a letter to Phase 3 landowners which was reviewed by the board. Edits suggested by board members will be incorporated, and the letter will be mailed out in the next few weeks.

10. Treasurer Transition

Al Bashevkin will be stepping down from his role as CUD treasurer in October. A possible new treasurer has been identified; Jessica Grimm-Lyon who has a bookkeeping background is interested in the position and would be able to start in October. The board thanked Al for his work as treasurer.

11. Other Business

The board discussed the most recent VCBB meeting where Act 71 applications from Otter Creek CUD and Lamoille Fiber were discussed. VCBB approved both applications with a number of provisos, including a sustainability plan. Otter Creek and Lamoille have similar situations to SoVT CUD and the board discussed potential resource sharing amongst the three CUDs.

Tim Scoggins has put together a press release announcing 95% fiber coverage in the region. This could be the first part of a larger marketing and outreach campaign about fiber coverage in the region which could be used to attract new residents and businesses. The press release can be shared with local media outlets in the tristate area, as well as existing news segments from GNAT and NBC Channel 5. This is also an opportunity to educate people about the larger statewide effort to expand broadband access.

Motion to adjourn by Bill Meyer, seconded by Tim Scoggins. Passed unanimously.