

Southern Vermont Communications Union District

Draft Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2023

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	A	Jim Salsgiver	A	Bob Meszaros	A
Landgrove	Jim Swartzentruber	A	Susan Lenox	A		
Londonderry	John Hankin	A	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	A	Jed Rubin	A	Arlene Bentley	A
Sandgate	Sheila Kearns	A	Betsy Rathbun-Gunn	A	Logan Weurslin	V
Shaftsbury	Tim Scoggins	V	Michael Corey	A		
Sunderland	Andrew McKeever	V				
Winhall	Fred Schwacke	A				
Woodford						

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

1. Call to order  
The chair called the meeting to order at 6:04PM.
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 13, 2023  
*Postponed*

6. Public comments

None

7. Announcements

Treasurer Transition – Callie and Al have followed up with the potential new treasurer who had expressed interest back in September. If she is no longer interested, an alternate arrangement will need to be made as the CUD is statutorily required to have a treasurer. It may be possible for BCRC (either Callie or Jonathan) to take over treasurer duties on a temporary basis if necessary.

Callie has mailed out the Phase 3 letter that was reviewed at the last board meeting. Three responses have been received, all from residents of Black Hole Hollow Rd in Arlington. One resident has Starlink Satellite service, one has Hughes Net, and the other reported no internet service at all. All of these addresses will likely need to be included in Phase 3 of the plan for service.

8. Review and Approval of FY23 Draft Annual Report for Distribution

The board will hold a special meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup> to review the draft annual report and approve it for distribution to member municipalities. A public hearing will then be warned for November, and the annual report must be approved by December.

9. Act 71 Grant & Construction Updates

The CUD executive committee and BCRC now meet with CCI every two weeks. Sales of Fidium are going well, and construction is wrapping up. Once Phase 2 is fully complete in a couple of weeks, there will be another marketing push including press releases. Tim Scoggins asked if customer installs will continue over the winter – the executive committee will follow up with CCI about this at the next meeting. The next quarterly grant report is due on Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> and on track to be submitted.

Eric noted that Otter Creek and Lamoille CUDs have both received Act 71 grants and are also partnering with CCI so there may be an opportunity for the three CUDs to share resources and administrative capacity in the future.

10. Other Business

The board discussed BEAD funding and the requirements it would place on the CUD regarding universal service. Based on the circumstances of the Phase 3 addresses, working with telecom providers in Massachusetts and New York to provide line extensions may be the most effective solution.

*Motion to adjourn by Tim Scoggins, seconded by Terence Dorsey. Passed unanimously.*