

Southern Vermont Communications Union District

Draft Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2024

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	Nick Zaiac	A
Bennington	Eric Hatch	V	Ron Dubreuil	A	Beth Hardesty	A
Dorset	Jim Salsgiver	V	Bob Meszaros	A		
Landgrove	Susan Lenox	V				
Londonderry	John Hankin	A				
Manchester	Terrence Dorsey	V				
Peru	Jon Mowry	V	Ben Foltz	A		
Pownal	Caitlin Randall	A	Karlan Eberhardt	A		
Rupert	Bill Meyer	V	Jed Rubin	P		
Sandgate	Sheila Kearns	V	Logan Weurslin	A		
Shaftsbury	Tim Scoggins	V	Michael Corey	A		
Sunderland	Andrew McKeever	V	Todd Lawrence	A		
Winhall	Lissa Stark	A				
Woodford	Arlene Bentley	V				

Also present: Callie Fishburn (BCRC)

1. Call to order
The chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.
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 Minutes from May 22, 2024
Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Tim Scoggins, seconded by Jim Salsgiver. Passed unanimously.

6. Public comments

None

7. Announcements

Terry circulated an event to the board that VCBB will be hosting on June 28th. The event will feature presentations about other technologies and broadband efforts around the state.

8. Chair Report

Leslie Cadwell is working on the Phase 3 RFP. Once it's completed, it will be shared with the board for approval before distribution. Terry is working on a sustainability budget and Sheila is working on a letter of intent to apply for Act 71 Preconstruction Grant funds.

Lisa Birmingham from Lamoille Fiber is preparing a joint statement on the CCI sale PUC case expressing support for CCI. Terry has reviewed the language, and it looks fine.

9. Sustainability Discussion with Executive Session

Terry Dorsey moved that the board enter executive session to discuss preliminary long-term sustainability plans and potential contract details with Otter Creek and Lamoille CUDs. Seconded by Tim Scoggins. The board entered executive session at 6:15pm.

The board exited executive session at 6:45pm. No actions were taken.

10. Committee Updates

Audit/Finance: Jim is looking for a firm to take on the treasurer and bookkeeper role which could potentially be shared by all three CUDs. He spoke to a couple of firms that weren't interested and welcomes suggestions from the board. The treasurer role would ideally be a long-term commitment to oversee the financial and annual audit. The bookkeeper would have a smaller role, ensuring that recurring bills and expenses are paid. Terry is going to talk with Otter Creek and Lamoille and Denise Sullivan, VCUDA's finance consultant, to see if they have some ideas.

Governance: With quorum and reappointment of representatives completed, Tim is now looking at the bylaws. The section on the bylaw amendment process is not written well; the current language states that the approval of 2/3 of members present is required to amend the bylaws which could be less than a quorum. Tim proposed revising it to "2/3 of members present" which would be 10 towns. This could be done at the next meeting with appropriate notice to member municipalities.

11. VCUDA Discussion

Postponed to a future meeting.

12. Other Business

Jim reported that CCI did an excellent job on a difficult installation at his sister's house.

Callie reported that S.55 was recently enacted which has some additional open meeting law requirements. The CUD already fulfills several of the new requirements including having hybrid meetings with an option to join by phone. Recordings of meetings will now need to be posted online for at least 30 days following the approval of minutes.

Motion to adjourn by Bill Meyer, seconded by Eric Hatch. Passed unanimously.