

Southern Vermont Communications Union District

Draft Meeting Minutes

November 20, 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				
Landgrove	Susan Lenox	V				
Londonderry	John Hankin	V				
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	A	Logan Weurslin	V		
Shaftsbury	Tim Scoggins	V	Michael Corey	A		
Sunderland	Andrew McKeever	V	Todd Lawrence	P		
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 6:02 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 the October 23, 2024 meeting
Motion to approve the minutes by Bill Meyer, seconded by Arlene Bentley. Passed unanimously.

6. Public comments

None

7. Announcements

Dorset Town Manager, Rob Gaiotti has been appointed as the alternate representative for Dorset.

8. Chair Report

An invoice for the first 25% of the CUD's Act 71 Preconstruction Grant award was submitted to the VCBB.

The Public Utility Commission approved the sale of CCI which will take the company private. This is not expected to impact SoVT CUD.

9. 2024 Annual Report Hearing

The chair opened the hearing at 6:11pm.

The board reviewed the draft 2024 Annual Report and budget and discussed a proposed narrative change to the second paragraph of the "2024 Activities and Plans for 2025" section.

Original language:

Throughout 2024, SoVT CUD members met regularly with representatives from Otter Creek and Lamoille CUDs to discuss shared sustainability goals. In July of 2024 the three CUDs executed a Memorandum of Understanding and jointly developed a ten-year sustainability plan which was presented to the VCBB. The sustainability plan outlines a transition to a tri-CUD model of joint compliance administration and oversight of CCI. Through the development of the sustainability plan, the three CUDs reached an agreement with CCI to fund administration and compliance from 2027-2034.

Revised language:

In July of 2024, SoVT, Otter Creek, and Lamoille CUDs executed a Memorandum of Understanding and jointly developed a ten-year sustainability plan which was presented to the VCBB. The sustainability plan outlines a transition to a tri-CUD model of joint compliance administration and oversight of CCI. The plan was approved by the VCBB and agreed to by CCI, which also agreed to fund the administration and compliance costs of the CUDs from 2027-2034!

The board also reviewed an updated profit & loss statement provided by the bookkeeper and considered its inclusion in the annual report, but ultimately decided that the statement of revenue, expenses, and change in net fund position in the report presents a clearer picture of the CUD's FY24 financial activity. There is still a question of

how to account for CUD-owned assets, but that may be determined during the single audit process.

There being no additional discussion from the board, and no comments from members of the public, the chair closed the hearing at 6:40pm

Motion to approve the 2024 Annual Report with the revised narrative language by Bill Meyer, seconded by Jim Salsgiver. Passed unanimously.

10. Committee Updates

Finance/Audit: Jim is going to speak with the accountant for the Town of Dorset about performing an audit for the CUD.

Sustainability: The Tri-CUD sustainability group met to review the press release that Tim shared. The other CUDs would prefer to wait to make an announcement until after their network buildout is complete.

Governance: No update this month.

11. Other Business

None

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.