

Otter Creek
Communications Union
District
June 16, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Bill Moore (Brandon), Amanda O'Connor (RRPC), Larry Courcelle (Mendon), John Hill (Benson), Andrew Quint (Chittenden), Tom Collard (Pauwet), Chris Custer (Hubbardton), Cassandra Hayes (Goshen), Jackie Savela (Brandon)

Guests:

Meeting opened at 5:03 p.m.

Roll Call

- There are enough members present to make a quorum.

Agenda approval

- John Hill made a motion to accept the agenda and Andrew Quint seconded the motion. No discussion was needed, the motion passed.

New Member Approval

- Wells voted to join our CUD, Sharon Corey is the representative.
 - Andrew Quint made a motion to accept Wells into the CUD. The motion was seconded by Chris Custer. No discussion was needed and the motion passed.

Executive Committee Update

- Otelco was discussed, can the CUD partner with them if they are going to continue their involvement in expanding broadband in our areas. They seem to be open to a possible partnership.

Legislative Update

- H315 - we received an official award letter that will allow us to pay for a high level engineering study, and RFP has been sent out and we have received a quote from Finley. We have asked them to resubmit to it follows the RFP guidelines. The deadline is June 30, 2021.
 - H315 funding will also pay for legal fees, development of a public/private partnership, technical assistance with negotiations and contracts (an RFP will go out soon), and funding for additional grant administration support from the RRPC
- H360 passed, \$150, 000,000 allocated to broadband build-out, small VT based operators that do not operate in more than 5 counties, and possible tax incentives for utilities who partner with CUD's.
 - The RRPC will be acting as the manager or ARPA funds, Eric Hall will be the go to person.
- Purchasing and conflict of interest policies need to be in compliance with the federal funding guidelines to receive ARPA funds. A template is available.

- There is talk at the state level about the need for broadband now, what short term solutions can be made available.
 - CCI has plans to build out fiber in some of the larger towns in our CUD: portions of Fairhaven, Poultney, Castleton, West Rutland, (Rutland Town-possibly), Rutland City, Brandon, and Pittsford.

Grant Update

- Broadband innovation Grant:
 - We received an extension on the completion of our business plan until January 2, 2022

VCUDA Update

- We are in need of a rep for VCUDA
- Bill Moore made a motion to nominate Larry Courcelle as our CUD's VCUDA rep. Chris Custer seconded the motion, there was no discussion and the motion passed.

New Member Recruitment

- Emergency order has been lifted and this means that inviting new towns into our CUD will be more difficult. Interested towns would have to hold a special meeting town meeting or hold the vote at their regular town meeting.

Other Business

- A physical location is needed for towns people who want to attend CUD meetings. The Brandon town hall will be available as well as via Zoom.
- Tom made a motion to have hybrid meetings available to individuals can attend in person or via zoom. Andrew Quint seconded the motion, no discussion was needed and the motion passed.
- The next meeting will be July 21, 2021 and be held at the Brandon Town Hall and via zoom.
- Tom Collard made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Larry Courcells seconded the motion, no discussion, the motion passed.

June 16, 2021 – OCCUD Board Meeting

<https://youtu.be/C8ymd5j0b84>