

Otter Creek
Communications Union
District
May 19, 2021
Meeting Minutes

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

Guests: Alex Kelley

Meeting opened at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

- There are enough members present to make a quorum.

Agenda approval

- Andrew Quint made a motion to approve the agenda, and Larry Courcelle seconded the motion.
 - The agenda was modified to hold off accepting Wells into the OCCUD because they would no longer have a quorum needed to continue this meeting.
 - The motion as amended passed.

New Member Approval

- Put off until the next meeting.

Executive Committee Update

- The Executive Committee held their annual/organizational meeting. The chair and vice-chair were selected. We were also notified that the H315 preconstruction funds were made available and we had till Monday to apply. The Executive Committee approved the submission of an application seeking H315 preconstruction funds.

Legislative Update

- H315- H315 passed which made the capacity and preconstruction grants available.
 - We plan to utilize a portion of the funds for information distribution such as social media and the posting of information. Funding needs to be prioritized due to the vast number of applications submitted for H315 grants. So we prioritized our funding needs: (1) \$59,000 for a broadband study, (2) strategic consulting advice for the OCCUD business plan, and (3) \$11,000 extra support for legal fees, \$36,000 for additional technical support, negotiation/ contracts, \$20,000 IT support, \$20,000 for administration assistance and reporting.
 - We have received a proposal from Finley Engineering, which has a good reputation and has worked in Vermont to do the study.
- H360- ongoing discussions in the legislature

Grant Updates

- RPC finalized all of the transactions and confirmation necessary to send grant funds to the OCCUD's new bank account.

VCUDA Update

- Our VCUDA representative was not able to attend this meeting so there was no update available.

New Member Recruitment

- Wells is ready to be approved at our next meeting. Wallingford and Shrewsbury are considering joining our CUD.

Other Business

- Several OCCUD members have voiced concerns with Otelco and their handling or lack of handling of customer concerns and needs. Is this something that needs to be brought to the attention of the state and why is their mismanagement being allowed to continue. Are they willing to work with CUD's so we can work together to maintain what we currently have? Several OCCUD members will be contacting Otelco to see how we can work together.

Next meeting date: June 16, 2021

Tom Collard made a motion to adjourn the meeting and John Hill seconded the motion.

May 19, 2021 – OCCUD Board Meeting

<https://youtu.be/RP5yww0-FN4>