

OCCUD Meeting 7/20/2022

5 PM via Zoom

Present: Amanda O'Connor, Jessica Van Oort, Tracy Richards, Laura Black, Mark Teetor, Chris C, Tony Ferraro, Larry Courcelle, Brenda Fox-Howard, Kelly Markowski

Informal session due to no quorum

Updates: Last meeting we approved hiring Amanda O'Connor's company for project management services. We also approved applying for the H360 preconstruction grant. Amanda worked on that, and we applied last month and were approved last Monday for \$441,000. This money covers project management, legal fees, accounting, negotiations with potential partners, etc.

Last month we started talking to the references for the respondents to our RFP for partners. So far none of them have said anything negative. Earlier this week we had a meeting to finalize what questions for clarification we need from the two bidders. We're going to send them a letter with these questions next week.

Amanda is working on a draft of a letter to a selectboard with some explanations and an ask for ARPA funds to go toward the CUD. Southern Vermont CUD has not asked for money from any selectboards. A question we need to answer is, if towns that contribute ARPA funds are treated differently from towns that don't, in terms of priority. Selectboards may want accountability that the funds they give will be used in their town. There is also an issue with the suggested amount of ARPA funds from each town being based on the mileage that needs to be built out for each town. Perhaps everyone should just contribute a certain percentage of their ARPA funds?

Some discussion of the purpose of the CUD, whether each town is more of an individual banding together with other towns or whether we are a single unit. The main thing is that we get modern quality internet to everyone in our district.

Google Fiber reached out to us and Tony had a conversation with them late last week. They wanted the public information on number of people and miles underserved, etc. Tony will follow up with them on July 28th. Since they did not respond to our RFP they are not at the top of our list. If they came to us with a compelling case we might need to reconsider, but that doesn't seem likely. They are currently working with Lamoille and Northwest CUDs.

Could we do a poll for when people are able to meet, and possibly change the date and/or time so we can get a quorum more often.

Wrapped up at 5:40