

Oct. 19 OCCUD board meeting

Present: Chris Custer, Larry Courcelle, Tim Munks, Laura Black, Mark Teetor, Jessica Van Oort, Amanda O'Connor, Jocelyn Savela, Mike Small, Eleanor Jones, John Hill, Andrew Quint, Ted Molnar, Tony Ferraro

1. Call to order at 5:08
2. Approval of agenda: Laura moves, Larry seconds, motion passes.
3. Approval of previous meeting minutes: Tony moves, Tim seconds, motion passes.
4. Executive Committee Updates. Status of partner-provider talks: We have been making progress in our talks with our partner providers. We are using the Southern Vermont CUD contract as a model. The subcommittee has been working through the details. There will be an info sheet going out with what we can share with the general public.
5. VCBB Updates: There was a meeting yesterday. They are putting together some info tools for communications with the public, but these are still in early stages. No grant-funded construction has happened yet which means the public has questions about how things are going. Also, we have been exploring if we are eligible for some USDA grants and have had some meetings with them.
6. VCUDA updates: They met Oct. 18. The VCBB has two new team members on board and two more hirings are coming. A subgroup has met to talk about legislative policy, including language to address CUDs that want to merge. CUD reports need to get out to the towns. VCUDA will adopt its 2023 budget at its next meeting in November. They also are looking at hiring a lobbyist for VCUDA.

Discussion about our VCUDA dues and whether we are getting our money's worth out of it. It's around 10k per year and since we are not trying to stand up our own ISP we don't use the procurement agreements and discounts on materials that VCUDA offers. We might seek an associate membership that just lets us attend the meetings.

Laura moves that we give authority to the chair, Tony Ferraro, to negotiate with VCUDA on an associate membership with reduced dues. No second.

Tony will reach out to Southern Vermont CUD to see what they are doing and then speak to VCUDA and tell them our position on dues and membership, which is that we either need a deeply discounted rate or to not be a member. He will bring their reply back to us at our next meeting.
7. Other Business: Larry reports that the Rutland City mayor will talk to the Board of Alderman about whether they will send a rep or remain in the CUD.
8. Confirm next meeting: Nov 14th at 5 PM.
9. Adjournment. Mark moves we adjourn, Tim seconds, motion passes. Adjourned at 5:51.

Minutes by Jessica Van Oort