

December 14, 2022 OCCUD FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present: John Hill (Benson), Bill Moore (Brandon), Tim Munks (Castleton), Chris Custer (Hubbardton), Larry Courcelle (Mendon), Tony Ferraro – Chair (Pittsford), Mark Teetor, (Poultney), Laura Black (Shrewsbury), Mike Small (Sudbury), Eleanor Jones (Wells),

Board Members Not Present: Andrew Quint (Chittenden), Tracy Richards (Fair Haven), Cassandra Hayes (Goshen), Bill Sweet (Rutland Town), Jessica Van Oort (Pawlet), Mary Ann Goulette (West Rutland)

Member Towns without a rep: Rutland City, West Haven

Others Present: Amanda O'Connor-Project Manager, Jocelyn Savela-Treasurer

1. Meeting called to order at 5:27 pm when a quorum was finally reached. Recording started. Transcription started.
2. Motion made by Bill Moore to make agenda items #2, 3, 4, and 5 be approved by consent agenda meaning there will be no discussion, just a vote yes or no to approve those items as one item with a single vote.
 - Motion seconded by John H.
 - Motion passes. The items approved were: #2 Agenda, #3 Previous meeting minutes, #4 Warrant, #5 2023 Budget.
3. Executive Committee Updates.
 - Tony F. described the grant approval process. Tony and Amanda have been meeting with the VCBB. The process will probably be a two-month long process from pre-application submittal to final approval.
 - John H. asks if there is any truth to the story that some towns are considering leaving the OCCUD to join another CUD. Tony responds that there is nothing the OCCUD can do to stop towns that want to leave the OCCUD, but that OCCUD did take a look at this possibility and found that the costs for broadband services will be more expensive in other CUDs.
4. VCBB Updates.
 - Tony F. described that the VCBB is meeting every 2 weeks; there is a new hire at the VCBB.
5. VCUDA Updates. Larry C. provided updates.
 - VCUDA met on the 6th and the 13th of November. There was discussion about moving funding to a later grant. VCUDA members noted that the Statement of Purpose made by the VCBB was authored by VCUDA. There was discussion of gap-funding for when ARPA funds are used up; Bead funding (from Fed Gov't) is coming in 2024; VCUDA may talk to the VT Legislature for gap-funding solutions; bond markets mentioned as another option for some. There was discussion of stories that some providers would like to see the CUDs fail. There was discussion of the Middle Mile Fiber Network. There was discussion about lobbying in Montpelier if VCUDA had available money for it.

Otter Creek Communications District (OCCUD)

6. Other Business.
 - Amanda O'Connor is leaving the project manager's position at the end of December. She has offered to assist us on a voluntary basis for a bit.
 - An RFP is posted for the project manager position and responses are due on Dec 15. Tony F. asks all members to spread the word to potential candidates.
 - Tony F. was invited by Senator Sanders staff to report on OCCUD's status. They offered letters of support.
7. Next full board meeting – **January 18, 2023 at 5:00 PM**
8. Adjourned at 6:02 pm.

Minutes by Laura Black