

OCCUD Executive Committee Meeting

April 12, 2023, 5 PM

Present: Tony Ferraro, Larry Courcelle, Jessica Van Oort, Tim Munks, Caleb Boone, Chris Custer

1. Call meeting to order at 5:05
2. Approval of agenda. Motion by Tony, seconded by Tim. Motion passes.
3. Approval of previous meeting minutes. Motion by Tim, seconded by Chris. Motion passes.
4. General Updates: We're making progress reworking the cost estimate to align the money we have available with the size of our project. We want to prioritize the most unserved areas.
5. Partner Discussions: We've been meeting weekly with our partner.
6. Project Manager update: Vantage point is putting together a survey to send out to the 400 or so addresses that have speeds of 25/3, so they can run a speed test and we can get proof of what they're receiving.
7. VCUDA updates: They met April 11. Construction grants are new to everyone, and they're working it out as they go. Seven of the CUDs had about the same template for their grants. Southern Vermont CUD was different, and they had to do some back and forth. There may be a different set of rules for us when we submit our construction grant. There was discussion on the middle mile grant, and on a conflict of interest policy. Also discussion on Green Mountain Power and right of ways, regarding towns without zoning.
8. VCBB updates: They had said they wanted everyone to investigate and possibly apply for the Northern Borders Regional Commission grants. We may be able to get from 1-3 million from those grants, which would go a good way toward closing our funding gap. The letter of intent is due April 21. We should be able to get that submitted on time. The application would be due in June and awards in the fall.
9. Other Business: Tony got a job outside Vermont and will need to pass on the chair position to someone else soon. Our annual organization meeting will be in May and that would be a good time to have the new person step up. The negotiation is basically done and we're moving to implementation, so it's not a bad time to pass the baton.
11. Set Next Meeting: May 10, 5 PM.
12. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn by Chris, seconded by Larry. Motion passes. Adjourned at 5:40.

Minutes submitted by Jessica Van Oort, secretary.