



Aug 9, 2023 – 5:00 PM

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Video call link: <http://meet.google.com/dsx-okxj-foe>

OTTER CREEK CUD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS			
Town	Name	Term Ends	Present/Absent
Shrewsbury	Laura Black, Chair	2024	Present
Mendon	Larry Courcelle, Vice Chair	2024	Present
Benson	John Hill	2026	Absent
Sudbury	Mike Small	2025	Absent
Brandon	Peter Werner	2024	Present
Hubbardton	Chris Custer	2024	Present
Wells	Eleanor Jones, Secretary/Clerk	2024	Present
	Jackie Savela, Treasurer	2024	Present

Other attendees: Caleb Boone – Vantage Point

1. Call to order - Start recording the meeting: Start transcription 5:03PM.
2. Approval of agenda: Motion by Peter, seconded by Larry. Motion passed.
3. Approval of previous meeting minutes : Motion by Eleanor, seconded by Peter. Motion passed.
4. Pre- Construction and Construction Application updates (Chair) – Executive Session if required*: The Pre-Construction and Construction Applications have been submitted to VCBB. The board meets Monday. VCBB staff are recommending that the Construction grant be approved and are identifying information that should be included in CUD 10 minute presentations. Lamoille and Otter Creek are both using provider CCI and the Lamoille presentation will be the first at the Monday meeting.
5. General updates (Chair, others) – Executive Session if required*: CTC (consultant to VCBB) is doing a technical review of the Grant application. One half of broadband mailings have been returned with address issues. Follow up to mailing issues is continuing.
6. VCUDA update (VCUDA Rep) : Issues with BEAD Letter of Credit (LLC) are extensive and onerous. Most CUDs will have problems with the requirement. Larry shared his understanding and information on the LLC letter. For example, a grant of \$2 million will require a Letter of Credit for \$500,000, plus bank fees. That \$500,000 could not be touched until broadband build is complete. In addition to \$500,000 (collateral), the CUD will need to match the \$2 million in BEAD grant with 25% CUD money. That 25% CUD money is another \$500,000. Capital hurdle for CUDs will be about 60% of grant. VCUDA is urging the feds to the drop Letter of Credit requirement. Laura will urge Occud to support VCUDA and will bring the issue to Occud Full Board.

VCUDA is almost done with conflict of interest policy. VCUDA is working with GMP regarding telephone poles and make ready. VCBB is still working on 5 year action plan. Southern Vermont CUD had a ribbon cutting this week. Lisa mentioned that Occud partner CCI (Consolidated Communications in Vermont) is providing Occud a build out of 86%. VCBB meeting is Monday at 12:05 pm.

7. VCBB update (Chair): VCBB Special meeting did work to clarify some issues through discussion between VCBB and Consolidated's lawyer.
8. Grants reports (Vantage Point): Monthly reporting is due next week. Caleb and Laura also put an announcement on Occud website regarding the fact that the Construction grant application is in and Occud is partnering with CCI.
Financials (Treasurer) – Warrant: The Trust balance (for the legal consultant) is all used. Latest Vantage Point invoice will go in for next month. Motion to accept and approve Warrant for \$3631.00 by Chris, seconded by Peter. Motion passed.
9. Other Business: Laura mentioned working on an RFP for Exec. Dir and Engineer positions. Chris thought RFP should wait till grant approval. Peter asked about which entity would handle billing for broadband. Partner should do that according to Laura. Laura also mentioned that a mechanism needs to be in place to insure Occud exists in the future, providing broadband service and accountability to CUD customers/constituents. Laura is responding to constituents who contact us through the website.
10. Next meeting: Sept 13 @5:00 pm
11. Adjournment: Motion by Peter, seconded by Larry. Motion passed. Adjournment at 5:56 pm

* Executive Session - due to finding that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage, per 1 V.S.A. § 313 (1) (A).

OCCUD Executive Committee Meeting, Wednesday, Aug 9 · 5:00 – 6:00pm

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <http://meet.google.com/dsx-okxj-foe>

Phone: +1-407-906-7354

PIN: 453656294