

NEK Community Broadband

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2021 - 5:30pm - 6pm

Physical Location: Island Pond Welcome Center, 11 Birch St, Brighton, VT 05846

Present: Evan Carlson, Kristen Fountain, Mike Strait, Nick Anzalone, Morgan Wade; Christa Shute (staff)

Absent: Jonathan Baker, William Piper

Evan called meeting to order at 5:38

Minutes were reviewed and amended; Kristen made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Mike seconded; Unanimous approval

We discussed how we should refer to the United Towns & Gores; will they be tallied by town (5) or count as (1) municipality.

We reviewed the structure of the master contact list, committee list and attendance. Jami is continuing to print the attendance spreadsheet with each set of minutes that get uploaded. Spreadsheet is located in the Governing Board folder.

We discussed the office. Christa was not able to see it. Kristen said she needed to submit to be reimbursed for the security deposit and first month's rent. Other members thanked her for doing that.

Meeting update: Evan and Christa met with the Bristol Broadband Board. They discussed how interconnectivity might work across state borders. They are interested in fiber swaps. Opportunity along the NH border; Bloomfield. The model they are using is that they are building middle mile and ISP is building out the last mile.

Christa suggested that VCUDA work to create process in how they communicate with each CUD. VCBB wants VCUDA to represent where there is consensus. We need to have a process on how consensus is made. The views should be put in writing and reviewed to approve. Will should be identifying the things he is hearing at VCBB so he can start gathering feedback on those things to bring it back.

Christa had a good meeting with NVDA about growth; a couple of ways that they can help us; use of warehouse for Concord and ability to help with workforce training conversations. She

also met with Vermont Tech; they want to be in touch with Sarah Buxton at Dept of Labor. VTC is only doing fiber splicing training because they don't have bucket trucks. Rob initiated a conversation with VCF about funds to order bucket trucks.

Christa met with Stan Williams about advice regarding bond funding; he reported that they have 30 hours to provide advice. It may only go until the end of the year.

New Business:

Accounting RFP: Only one response was received. Proposal 6-8 hours to set up chart of accounts. Hours for payroll 10-14 hours at \$170/hour. We discussed using the NCIC grant to pay for accounting amount. Morgan approves; Mike seconds

Agenda amended to include state fiber discussion;

State fiber discussion; Christa discussed the costs and invoicing to attachers. Kristen said we will need to get a line of credit to manage this flow through. Christa said we are unlikely to need that before December.

- State Fiber
 - Motion to accept State Fiber - Morgan motion, Mike 2nd
 - Unanimous
- PR - Caro is creating a list of talking points for Christa to work from when speaking to press
- Demand points
 - Christa proposed the idea of putting in clause that we only serve on grid/electric tied premise
 - Nick suggested it be brought to the full board for discussion
 - Mike - let's plan to discuss at the next meeting
 - **Motion to adjourn - Mike, Morgan 2nd**
 - Action item Christa - look at propagation for off grid

- Action Items Check In - Approve [Previous Minutes](#)

Other Business

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Jami Jones, NEK Broadband, Clerk