



Governing Board Meeting Minutes (Draft)

March 10, 2022 - 5:30 - 7pm

In-Person Location: None - see note re ACT 78 below.

Attendees: See attached list

Role Call & Agenda Review - 2 Min

Public Comment - 2 Min

No public comment was made.

Consent Agenda - 1 Min

- Approval of Meeting Minutes
- FYI: Committee Minutes, Financial Reports

Motioned: Dale Urie Seconded: Dana Casperson	For	Against	Abstain
Motion: to approve the Consent Agenda.	33	0	0

Updates

Executive Committee Action Review & Affirmation

Motioned: Barb Nolan Seconded: Kathleen Monroe	For	Against	Abstain
Motion: that the Governing Board affirms receipt and confirmation, with no proposed revision or alteration, of the Executive Committee Actions document.	33	0	0

- **Discussion Summary:** No discussion took place.

Updates from Executive Director

- **Discussion Summary:** We have successfully completed the USDA ReConnect application for \$21.5 million dollars 50% grant and 50% loan. The new amount includes a contingency number. As costs have increased and strategies changed, we have revamped the business model and we are revising the business plan to apply for a Construction Grant. We will also be pursuing a VEDA loan for additional funding. We have signed contracts for Retail Service Operations and Network Operations with WCVT, and will soon begin charging our customers. A timeline for the build can be established after RFPs for construction have been finalized. More information will be coming in a few months, and Christa will keep the organization up to date.

New Business

Audit Summary

- **Discussion Summary:** Kristen gave an overview of the Audit. NEK Broadband was given an unmodified opinion. The financial statements were deemed accurate in all material aspects and found in compliance with all of the federal grant requirements. There were no difficulties or disagreements reported. The Audit will be used to seek out further grant funding. Improvements were made in approval of expenditures, journal entries, and reconciliations in that there are now lasting records for review, filings, and formal approvals. The organization will be seeking a CPA outside of the auditor for future use.

Feedback Action Plan

- **Discussion Summary:** At the last governing board meeting, the breakout session included a time for feedback. The Executive Committee and Director came up with an action plan to address concerns. Christa presented that action plan to the board. Additional ideas are being collected on how the towns can share experiences and information with one another (i.e. Spring Picnic).

ARPA/Town Hall/Office Hours Review

- **Discussion Summary:** Christa asked for discussion and review of the Office Hours. The Office Hours combined with the Town Halls were well received. A suggestion was made for quarterly or bi-annually for the Town Halls. Christa will work further on the scheduling for the Town Halls every 4-6 months. Selectboard members are welcome at the Town Halls.

Organizational Meeting Reminder

- **Discussion Summary: Meeting Tuesday, May 10th, 2022 at 5:30pm.**

Affordability Discussion and Break Out Groups

- **Discussion Summary:** Next month we anticipate reviewing the renewed business plan and model, which reflect changes in the grant funding opportunities, the new build strategy, and the revised business plan. Christa led a discussion on pricing, rates, programs, and the reasonings behind the pricing structure. Current: 50/50 at \$79.95 250/250 at \$102.95, Future rates will also include a 100/100, 500/500, 1G/1G with competitive prices.
- The CUD is building a public infrastructure, not seeking to be a for-profit company. Our profits will be invested in our infrastructure, to supporting programs, or (once the infrastructure is built) toward the reduction of rates.
- Our current model needs \$150 million dollars in order to ensure universal service to every electric utility served home.
- Could we do lower rates? We do not want to put the mission at risk by lowering our pricing or by offering slower speeds at lower prices. Once the organization has secured municipal bond financing and become cashflow positive lower rates can be evaluated.
- Christa led a discussion on the Affordable Connectivity Program and Equal Access to Broadband. We are approved for the Affordable Connectivity Program via the FCC. A subgroup for affordability was suggested to further discuss the possibilities of having an affordability focused price point based on low income guidelines.
- David Tucker and Claire Polfus volunteered to be a part of the Affordability Subgroup, which will evaluate options to address affordability for the customers of NEK Broadband.

Other Business

Adjourn

Motioned: Barb Nolan Seconded: Michael Strait	For	Against	Abstain
Motion: to adjourn	33	0	0

Town	Delegate	P	V	Alternate	P	V	Alternate	P	V
Albany	Rob Dewees	v	v						
Barnet	Kathleen Monroe	v	v	Jerri Kohl					
Barton									
Bloomfield	Nate Nugent								
Brighton	Michael Strait	v	v	Jonah Petre					
Brownington	Calvin Page			William Davis					
Brunswick	David Caron			Theresa Caron	v	v			
Burke	Jennifer Barone			Todd Vendituoli					
Canaan	Ann Morgan Wade			Alfred Buckley			Frank Sawicki, Jr		
Charleston	John Kellogg	v	v	Peter Moskovites					
Concord	Dale Urie	v	v	Bill Humphrey					
Coventry	David Barlow	v	v	Phil Marquette					
Craftsbury	Rudy Chase	v	v	Katherine Sims					
Danville	Jonathan Baker	v	v	Sean Frason					
Derby	Karen Chitambar	v	v	Bob Kelley			Grant Spates		
East Haven				Kerri Fillion					
Glover	Noah Armstrong	v	v	Shaun Campbell					
Granby	Sonia Peters	v	v	Sheryl Brown			Terri Williams		
Greensboro	Carol Fairbank			Mary Metcalf	v	v			
Groton	Mike Gaiss	v	v	Michael Nahmias					
Guildhall	Susan McVetty			George Blakeslee					
Hardwick	Paul Fixx			Doug McClure					
Holland	Andrew Bouchard			Ed Brady	v	v			
Irasburg									
Jay	Lynnette Deaette			Le-Ann Tetrault			Tara Morse		
Kirby	Dana Caspersen	v	v	Malcom Doak	x	x			
Lemington	William Gilbert	v	v	Beth Ellingwood			David White		
Lowell	Marjorie Kramer	v	v	Faye Starr					
Lyndon	Shawn Tester	v	v	Marty Feltus					
Lunenburg	Harry Williams			James Peyton					
Maidstone	James Mewkill	v	v						
Morgan	Eric Pope	v	v						
Newark	Ben Tilford			Mark Whitworth	v	v			
Newport City	Woodman Page			Chris Vachon			Paul Monette		
Newport Town	Wendy Matthews			Cameron Thompson			David Ghelli	v	v
Norton	Christina Duffy			Kenn Stransky					
Peacham	Jock Gill	v	v						
Ryegate	Shawn Burroughs	v	v	Nelson Elder					
Sheffield	Claire Polfus	v	v	Annie Mclean					
St. Johnsbury	Nicolas Anzalone	v	v	Scott Campbell					
Stannard	Steve Pickard			Johanna Polsenberg					
Sutton	Evan Carlson	v	v	David Tucker	x	x	Robert Simms	x	x
Troy	Robert Langlands			Gary Taylor			Mark Sanville		
UTGs	Barb Nolan	v	v	Gina Vigneault					
Victory									
Walden	Caro Thompson								
Waterford	Bill Piper	v	v	Fred Saar					
Westfield	Carrie Glessner	v	v	Laura Emery					
Westmore	Erik Townsend	v	v	Linda Michniewicz			Ray Lanier	x	x
Wheelock	David Stahler Jr.	v	v	Stephen Amos	x	x			
Wolcott	Michael Davidson			Bruce Wheeler					

Date: 12-9-2021

	P	V		
Delegates P/V	28	28	Member Towns	48
Alternates P/V	10	5	Towns Represente	33
Votes total	33		Quorum	Yes
Votes to pass	17			

Members of the Public

Kal Saffron
 Carey Cozier
 Richard Desrochers
 Nedah Warstler

Staff in Attendance:

Christa Shute (ED)
 Jami Jones (Clerk)
 Kristen Foutnain (Treasurer)