

NEK Community Broadband

Tech Committee Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2021; 6-7pm

Attendees: Christa Shute (ED), Jami Jones (clerk), Shawn Burroughs (Chair), Ray Lanier, Noah Armstrong

Absent: Jonathan Baker, Shaun Campbell

Agenda Review- 2min

Updates-

- Partnership Committee update- Ray
 - Ray gave an updated presentation on huts and shelter costs.
 - Goals are to increase quality control, cost savings in the long run.

New Business-

- OSP Standards Discussion/ presentation- Christa
 - Christa led a discussion over the current examples of OSP standards discussions that are taking place.
 - Hoping to finalize more of them tomorrow (i.e. fiber allocation, etc)
 - Discussion over expansion and how many materials to buy to cover the scope of the project.
 - Shawn- did the state purchase fiber for us?
 - Christa- many of the CUDs presented the idea to VCBB, it has not been decided. The lead time on materials is a concern.
 - Ray- concerned about "man-power"
 - Christa- met with VEC. CUD is going to be taking a drive through to look at what areas could be done without moving anything in the electric space. May need to take on some of that work internally. Drops and provisioning is a lot of work. CUD could hire locally, and use members to do the grassroots work. Could potentially save some money. Could possibly have the training done by NRTC and Waitsfield (WTCV). We will be reaching out to the Tech Centers
 - Noah- do we have a ballpark figure for how long training would take?
 - Christa- perhaps a 6-12 months outside of the electric space.
 - Noah- unsure of the capability of people outside of the state coming in.

- Christa- limited Technical schools, the programs have to be working closely with the employers. Or we could set up our own training programs with NRTC and Waitsfield.
- Shawn- if we employ our own, do we need our own equipment, trucks, etc.
 - Christa- that is something that would need to be explored in the future.
- Discussion on the RDOF auction.
- Christa- The CUD is looking forward to the next auction and will need to get its ducks in a row for the next RDOF auction. We can now apply for ourselves (ETC)
- Ray- it would be good for the NEK to have their own employees.
 - Christa- could put in the term sheet that Waitsfield manages them, but it is not decided
 - Noah- there is good opportunity for continuing work if we were able to train people.
- Noah- is there anything that we can do to get the ball rolling?
 - Christa- first, we have to finalize negotiation with design and construction operator, construction partner, and retail ISP partners. Need a locked in MOU and term sheet.
- Noah- could be some Covid funding for education and training for local jobs (such as in CCV). Noah is willing to reach out, and talk to Sarah Kuroh on funding sources.
 - Christa- would love to have a conversation with them.
 - Shawn- will look into Lyndon.

Other Business-

- Confirm physical meeting location- TBD
- Ray will ask about a public space in Westmore.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Jami Jones, NEK Community Broadband Clerk