

NEK Community Broadband

Executive Committee Bi-Weekly Meeting

May 20, 2021 - 4pm - 5:30pm

Attendees: Jami Jones (clerk), Woodman Page (GB), Mike Strait, Kristen Fountain, Evan Carlson, William Piper (until 5pm), Jonathan Baker, Kevin Fitzgibbons (NRTC), Morgan Wade, Christine Hallquist (admin), Katherine Sims (4:06pm)

Agenda Review

Motion to add the communications committee ARPA notice to the end of the meeting

Motioned: Mike, Seconded: Kristen, Carried: (6-0)

Updates

- Action Items Check In
- Administrative Update
 - 3 CUD partnership signed.
 - Grant application put in by 3 CUD
- Meeting Roundup
 - We have been given 5 spools of fiber from VEC and will be stored in Waterford.
 - Working with VEC to prioritize efficiency and get the work done sooner ()
- Committee Updates
- Christine's Update

New Business

4 - NRTC Check In

Motion to go into executive session() to review proposed financial modelings and routing for NEK Broadband under 1 VSA 313 with Executive Committee, Christine Hallquist, Jami Jones, Woodman Page, Kevin Fitzgibbons (NRTC). Motioned: Mike Strait, Seconded: Kristen Fountain, Carried: (7-0)

Katherine Simms, Woodman Page, and Kevin Fitzgibbons left during executive session

Motion to exit Executive Session. Motioned: Kristen Seconded: William Carried:(6-0)

No action was taken during executive session

4:15 - Business Plan Info Session Scheduling

- The sessions will help to address suggestions and recommendations about the phasing and possible models, ask questions, and would like high involvement and attendance.
- Christine will set up a google form as a sign up sheet so that there is no quorum at the info sessions.
- What should be communicated:
 - Let the reps know that it will set the course for the next couple of years, but also feel the pain of those last in line.
 - Clearer options. Kevin will be working on, the model will be finished by the 26th for the Executive Committee to go over the options before bringing it to the governing board. Special meeting proposed. Will wait until we have more info from Kevin.
 - After the info sessions, the Executive Committee could give a recommendation to the Governing Board.
 - "Important for everyone to have access to equal quality of service" The question of backhaul and equipment cost + upkeep for managing a wireless network could keep the NEK from being able to provide the quality of service that we would like to achieve and maintain while trying to build the fiber network.
 - Possibility of subsidy for fixed wireless? The second set of funds from ARPA may be able to address. Or may be something we can take to NRTC to see if we could afford to do a small amount of both.

Bill exited the meeting at 5pm

4:55 - Concord/Waterford Project

- Bill has asked for additional funding for an additional section into Waterford. Dale Urie is working with Concord.
- If we gain more dollars it would be beneficial for the mission to hit every possible address within this route
- Opening up the drops to service providers could mean that the ISP would be incharge of that quality. With the ARPA funds, we have the ability to build the drops.
 - Meeting with GWI. RFP for construction, lots of response.
- Open discussion about CUDs going to towns to access and donations to build broadband in communities. It may not be something the NEK can or want to pursue.

5:15 - Pre-Construction Planning Grant Proposal

- Request has been given to Rob Fish for review.
- The other proposal has been moved to later in the year.(August)
- Explanation was given on an estimated budget.
- Anticipating being ready in the budget for our phase one plans.

5:20 - Municipal Electric Pole Data Project

- If it is something that we decide to do, we will go to the Selectboards in the towns do a cost sharing for the pole data that their electric utilities will own. Will know more in a couple of weeks

5:27- Town Communication Notice for ARPA funds

- A number of the communities have gotten a notice from Charter to put money with them toward broadband.
- The notice is to give the communities and opening to ask questions as a resource to the towns.
- Send the notice to the governing board and then the board will decide how to distribute to their town.
 - Danville- is the town spoken for by Tilson?
 - Tilson may not be covering south danville.
 - Are they building more? Or are they building what was put forth in the RDOF auction.
 - There is pricing, signup and availability tool.
 - The community can determine how they want to move forward. NEK will be looking at those plans in the future when we know more.
 - A regular presence in the towns would be helpful as our plans come about
- **Motion to support the communications committee letter and proposed methodology for distribution. Motioned: Kristen, Seconded: Jonathan, Carried:(5-0)**

Motion to adjourn. Motioned: Kristen, Seconded: Mike Strait, Carried: (5-0)

Other Business

Action Items

Respectfully Submitted,

Jami Jones

NEK Broadband, Clerk

