

NEK Community Broadband

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2021 - 3pm - 4:30pm

Attendees: Jami Jones (clerk), Jock Gill (Governing Board Member until 4:03pm), Christine Hallquist (Admin), Kristen Fountain, William Piper, Evan Carlson, Nic Anzalone, Noah Armstrong, Jonathan Baker

Agenda Review - 2 Min

Updates - 20 Min

- Action Items Check In: Completed
- Administrative Update
 - Dates for June Tierney meeting. Wednesday at 11am with Christa Shute for a discussion on the transfer of assets.
 - Mapping: 2 weeks.
 - GMP: making progress to get support before we go to the legislature. Trying to come to an agreement on the make-ready costs.
 - Could have a similar issue with EC Fiber, is there a way to have VEC and GMP to prioritize the NEK CUD?
 - First come first serve request.
 - The NEK CUD needs to identify what the project is quickly for this year. Hopefully, by next week.
 - The NEK needs to know what is required to have the pole requests completed. VEC and GMP may have the information to utilize.
 - Christine will check with the utilities about the pole numbers to find out what other information NEK CUD needs to collect.
 - The pole data should be in the shape files from GMP, Tilson, and VEC. may need to layer those together through Brian Webster.

- GMP would like more validation from the CUD and would like to use an incentive up front to help everyone receive more service who needs it. The CUD could provide accountability for the ISPs.
- GMP needs to go to the Public Utilities Commission to continue the majority of the conversation.
- VCUDA- Kristen has been working with the VCUDA and the Legislature.
- Meeting Roundup
- Finance & Tech Committee Updates
 - Budget to Actual/ and finishing up grant tracking.
 - Christine has updated payments
 - Communications Committee is reducing its scope to focus on one document for Town Meeting Day for "Talking Points."
 - Evan appoints Ray Lanier to the Technology Committee.
- Christine's Update

New Business - 40-70Min

3:25 - Google Drive Structure

- Currently structured by committee, but is not functional for everyone who would like to find specifically what they need.
- Suggested that Agenda links in minutes or linking the documents to several folders.
- Document will be open for review and comment until monday.

3:30 - Starlink Special

- Has been brought up within the Governing Board Meetings on multiple occasions and may need to have a meeting.
- How much of an impact would Starlink make on the CUDs business case?
- What is the best outcome that we can come out with with Starlink and is it worth the resources that we have vs. the long-term goal of fiber to the home?
 - Starlink could be an asset to solve short-term problems. CUD could do fiber backhaul for them or other possible partnership opportunities. Could also increase public operations. Such as, people who have children and need internet for at-home schooling.

- Could make sense for isolated addresses, where wireless would be impossible to reach. Starlink could possibly service the people who could not be reached by fiber or wireless mesh. Metric for bottom-up priority for CUD (5 houses, connected)
 - Have to take into account that the Network Design could dictate a passthrough.
- Satellite has its downfalls in wifi and TV, and if people already have Starlink, it could cost the CUD people for “fiber to the home” goal.
- A deadline of needs in September (school year) because some houses do not have internet.
- The CUD may need a stronger argument for fiber and why it is necessary
- FCC planning to change the definition of broadband to 100/20. Which would again put VT behind.
- The CUD could have a special meeting distributed by the Tech Committee to discuss Starlink solutions.
- Evan will follow up with a meeting with Shawn about Starlink

3:40 - Business Plan RFP Status

- Had a conversation with Fibersmith. CUD is trying to get a network map and would like estimates for construction costs

3:50 - VCF CUD Accelerator

- Vermont Community Foundation is helping to establish a 9 week bootcamp for all CUDs to participate in. New CUDs help to develop a foundation. Who wants to participate?
 - We have 4 slots available for each week. The first week is open to everyone.
 - Those interested: Jonathan Baker, Nicolas Anzalone, William Piper (Finance)
 - Jami can email a link and summary topics to the board for the 4 seats who could be interested. The committees could have a priority to make it onto the list. Email the chairs to see if someone from the committee is interested.
 - Evan will send registration link and packet. Priority could go to the relevant committee (one seat), leaving 3 seats open for broader governing board.
 - Evan is recording the sessions, to be sent out in the next weeks registration email.

4:00 - Committee Discussion

4:15 - Mapping Project Status

- Christine has been working with Brian and will include the utility data in further discussions.

Other Business

- Discussion on how to meet in person, is this sort of meeting going to continue to work for the committee.
- In person meetings could happen once a quarter.

Action Items

- Christine will check with the utilities about the pole numbers to find out what other information NEK CUD needs to collect.
- Evan will follow up with a meeting with Shawn about Starlink
- Jami can email a link and summary topics, and previous recording link to the board for the 4 seats who are interested. The committees could have a priority to make it onto the list.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn. Motioned: Evan, Seconded: Kristen. Carried (6-0)

Respectfully Submitted,
Jami Jones, NEK Broadband, Clerk

