



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes - Approved February 26, 2026

Thursday, February 19, 2026 on Zoom and at 306 Meadow St., Brighton

5:30 pm

Attendees:

Executive Committee Members: Nick Anzalone, Brian Machesney, Chuck Burt, Ray Lanier, Jeremy Matt, Mary Metcalf, Sally Vallat, Siobhan Perricone, Tom Fisher, Paul Fixx, Mike Strait; Chris Fortuna, Christa Shute

Governing Board Members: Rudy Chase, Henry Amistadi, Mark Fulton, Everett McGinley, John Morris, David Healy

Additional Staff: Kitty Ufford-Chase, Julia Vallera, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Erik Townsend

5:30pm. The meeting started with a quorum.

Agenda Review

Approval of Draft Minutes for February 5, 2026

Motioned: Jeremy Matt Seconded: Mike Strait	Passed with no objections Passed with objections Failed
Motion: to approve the February 5, 2026 Minutes	Passed with no objections.

Brian Machesney entered at 5:32 pm.

Public Comment: Positive comment regarding seeing photos of Nick, Christa and Senator Peter Welch earlier this week, from a press conference in Saint Johnsbury with Peter Welch on broadband, as a celebratory moment for NEKCV.

John Morris entered at 5:38 pm.

Protocol for Information Requests

Public Discussion Summary: Discussion surrounding needing updated protocol for requests from board members to staff, stemming from recent requests made to various NEKCV staff members directly. Suggested to possibly use the upcoming March 2026 Governing Board meeting as an opportunity to communicate a process for efficiently obtaining information going

forward so that board members. Additional discussion surrounding communication via public posting and information provided to board members, including communication via NEKCV press releases.

Operational Update

Public Discussion Summary: Operational Update provided by Chris Fortuna and Christa Shute. Chris covered customer accounts and revenue for the month of January. Christa provided updates on construction, including specific construction updates on OLTs, CVFiber work and surrounding additional miles under construction.

Erik Townsend entered at 6:26 pm.

Grant Update

Public Discussion Summary: Christa communicated that we are waiting on a VCBB-approved contract for the Affordable Drop Program that they have promised to have to NEKCV before Town Meeting Day. The staff continues to work on items related to BEAD to ensure NEKCV readiness and continued work with USDA to maximize grant and possible expansion regarding additional grant funds related to environmental permitting.

Motioned: Jeremy Matt Seconded: Chuck Burt	Passed with no objections Passed with objections Failed
Motion: to go into Executive Session under the provisions of 1 VSA §313 with staff, consultants and Board Members in order to discuss grant updates, finding that premature disclosure could substantially disadvantage the CUD if it were to be made public at this time.	Passed with no objections.

Executive session was entered at 6:35 pm and ended at 7:13 pm. No action was taken in executive session except the motion to exit executive session that was moved by Nick and seconded by Jeremy. Board members expressed congratulations to Christa and staff on hard work getting BEAD application across the line. Given the Affordable Long Drop program for ARPA areas, and the fact that areas in BEAD and USDA ReConnect include paying for underground conduit from the main line to the home, the decision was made to create a grant program throughout the district to cover most underground conduit drops rather than have people cover the cost of the underground conduit themselves as is the districts current policy.

Motioned: Jeremy Matt Seconded: Mike Strait	Passed with no objections Passed with objections Failed
Motion: Create grant program for customers to apply to the CUD for grant that would subsidize up to 100% of their underground costs, regardless of the funding source, under the parameters set by staff.	Passed unanimously.

Adjourn

Motioned: Jeremy Matt Seconded: Sally Vallat	Passed with no objections Passed with objections Failed
Motion: To adjourn at 7:17 pm.	Passed with no objections

Drafted by Elizabeth Fitzpatrick