



CV FIBER PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

GoToMeeting (virtual meeting only)

February 18, 2021

Members Present:

Michael Birnbaum (Plainfield), David Healy (Calais), Jeremy Matt (Plainfield), Ray Pelletier (Northfield), Jerry Diamantides (Treasurer), Siobhan Perricone (Orange), Kenneth Jones (Montpelier), Jeremy Hansen (Berlin)

Others Present:

Henry Amistadi (Duxbury), Tom Fisher (East Montpelier), Chuck Burt (Moretown)

Called to order: 5:31PM by David Healy via GoToMeeting

Additions to the Agenda:

- Tom Fisher suggested a discussion of what other players in the market may do in the next few years. David Healy noted that this will likely be discussed during other agenda items.

Public comment:

- None

Approval of the January 28, 2021 meeting minutes:

- MOTION (Jeremy Matt second Michael Birnbaum) to approve the January 28, 2021 minutes as drafted. No discussion. Passed unanimously.

Updates:

- David Healy presented information on potential grant funding opportunities that might be applicable to CVFiber.
- Ray Pelletier noted that the VT league of Cities & Towns said that they would not oppose the tax exemption for fiber construction by municipalities.
- Ray Pelletier asked when we might start to see some of the money from the funding opportunities David discussed. David Healy said that he expects that we'll get the \$400,000 from the Department of Public Service and the \$4 million VEDA loan by May 1 (NOTE: this was contradicted by Jerry Diamantides' assessment of the VEDA timeline discussed later in this section).
- Ray Pelletier provided an update on the Pole Inventory RFP.

- David Healy provided a summary of the DVFiber RFP for all services. Jeremy Matt & Jeremy Hansen said that they would support doing a similar RFP. Ken Jones noted that we would have to take WEC into consideration. There followed further discussion of whether we want to put out one large RFP. After this discussion, the consensus seemed to be that we are already on a path and given the number of entities that have an interest in our territory it probably does not make sense to do a blanket RFP for our entire territory.
- Jerry Diamantides provided an update on the VEDA loan process. He had a good discussion with Eun-Young Denny; she has been extremely helpful with the application process. She walked Jerry Diamantides through the application process. Jerry Diamantides is going to continue to work with Eun-Young Denny to make sure that the application will pass her as the first gatekeeper, but it will still be at least 3 months after submittal before we can close with VEDA. Jerry also noted that the VEDA loan is not a line of credit, they will pay our contractors directly. We will also need to be extremely specific about what we are going to do with the loan.
- David Healy said that we will get a CVRPC contract next week. Jeremy Matt discussed the time it takes him to produce minutes for each meeting. There followed discussion of how long and detailed our minutes should be. In general people like the length of the minutes and they are useful to people for now, but we may want to trim them down in the future.

Routes Selection:

- MOTION (Jeremy Hansen second Jeremy Matt) to find that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(A) and to enter executive session, allowing board members and officers not on the committee to remain on the call. Pass unanimously. No discussion.
 - Enter executive session at 6:24
 - Exit executive session at 7:08

Construction Schedule:

- Ray Pelletier discussed a possible construction schedule and costs as a framework for how CVFiber might proceed. Michael Birnbaum pointed out the costs are based on a ECFiber model and that since we are not going to be following ECFiber's model the costs are not completely applicable.

AmeriCorps Opportunity-Revisit Letter of Interest:

- David Healy said that he has not had a chance to talk to CVRPC and removed this item from the agenda.

PDC Call for Volunteers:

- MOTION (Ray Pelletier second David Healy): Whereas the Board approved the Planning and Development Committee Charter that provides for the Board appointment of community volunteers to serve on the Planning and Development Committee, and Whereas the Planning and Development Committee would benefit from the active involvement of three community volunteers with experience in the areas of Planning & Development Committee responsibility as cited in the Planning & Development Committee Charter,

The Planning & Development Committee requests the Board approve a Planning & Development Committee Call for Volunteers, its review of volunteer expressions of interest, and its recommendations for community volunteer appointments by the Board. Pass unanimously. Discussion:

- Siobhan Perricone asked if we would turn down people who do not have relevant experience. Ray Pelletier said that yes, we would. Siobhan Perricone said she disagreed with that and thought that if people are willing to help and willing to learn that we should accept their help.

Roundtable:

- David Healy noted that CCI has asked to speak to the Planning & Development Committee and will send around potential dates.
- Henry Amistadi asked what he should do with the work he has done on the survey data. Chuck Burt suggested putting it in the non-public folder on the google drive.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:32PM

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Matt, Clerk