



CV FIBER PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

GoToMeeting (virtual meeting only)

March 18, 2021

Members Present:

David Healy (Calais), Jeremy Matt (Plainfield), Ray Pelletier (Northfield), Jerry Diamantides (Treasurer), Siobhan Perricone (Orange), Kenneth Jones (Montpelier), Tom Fisher (East Montpelier)

Members Absent:

Greg Kelly (Barre City), Michael Birnbaum (Plainfield), Jeremy Hansen (Berlin)

Others Present:

Henry Amistadi (Duxbury), Allen Gilbert (Worcester)

Called to order: 5:33PM by David Healy via GoToMeeting

Additions to the Agenda:

- None

Public comment:

- None

Approval of the Motion 4, 2021 meeting minutes:

- MOTION (Jeremy Matt second Siobhan Perricone) to approve the March 4, 2021 minutes as drafted. No discussion. Passed unanimously.

Updates:

- David Healy provided a series of updates:
 - Governor Scott is talking about allocating money for broadband, of which we may receive \$10 million.
 - The Federal Government may be allocating money for infrastructure to both local and county governments. The estimated amount is around \$15 million. This money could be used for broadband expansion but is not specifically allocated to broadband expansion. We will need to lobby our member towns to see if we can get them to allocate some or all of these funds to CVFiber. Ken Jones asked if Regional Planning Commissions may be responsible for distributing the county portion of these funds. Ken Jones noted that towns cannot levy a tax to

provide funds to CUDs and asked if they could allocate funds. David Healy said that towns can allocate money if it is not tax money.

- David Healy noted that H360 and the matching senate bills are making progress. There is likely \$6-\$10 million allocated to CUDs to do high level design and pole inventory.
- We are hoping to get a \$400,000 for construction from last year's budget. This money is held up because there are still delays in the Department of Public Service getting funds from Northern Borders Regional Commission, and Department of Public Service needs to tie these funds together for matching funds.
- David Healy reported that Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission sent us a DRAFT contract. He also reported that there are discussions about who is responsible for interfacing with Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission and how we are going to use them.

Pole Inventory Contractor Recommendations:

- MOTION (Jeremy Matt second Tom Fisher) To find that premature disclosure of our contractor-related discussions would put us at competitive disadvantage. Passed unanimously. No discussion.
- MOTION (Jeremy Matt second David Healy) to go into executive session with any CVFiber board members allowed to remain for the executive session. Passed unanimously. No discussion:
 - Enter: 5:46
 - Exit: 5:58
- MOTION (Ray Pelletier second Siobhan Perricone) The Planning & Development Committee recommends the Board enter into negotiations with Planning & Development Committee's Poles Subcommittee's three recommended contractors and execute contracts with those contractors with whom successful negotiations have been concluded. Passed unanimously. No discussion.

PM Contractor update/Recommendations:

- David Healy reported that we only got one PM proposal, so David Healy is proposing that we extend the submission date. This will be an item at the next Board meeting. The reason we only got one proposal was that we did not advertise – it seems like we need to advertise this.

WEC CVFiber DRAFT MOU:

- David Healy reported that WEC's lawyer sent a DRAFT MOU. David Healy said that it seemed mostly ok, but that there were concerns and we hired K Christa Shute to review to make sure we are protected. She re-drafted it and we sent it back to WEC about a week ago. We are expecting to see a response from WEC in the next couple of days. The goal is to get this in place before the March 30, 2021 WEC board meeting.

Construction Schedule Overview:

- Ray Pelletier shared a document he prepared with a potential schedule of construction. Ray Pelletier also discussed some of the caveats and limitations of the potential schedule. One major limitation is that we do not know what is going to come out of our MOU with WEC. Ray Pelletier said that the makeready work might be able to be compressed as we are not going to be building in areas that have cable service. Jeremy Matt asked if WEC might be able to hang the fiber on the poles. Ray Pelletier said that it sounds like WEC does not have the resources to do that and would be looking to contract that

out. HA asked if we would have to do the entire pole inventory or if the State would be doing a pole inventory. David Healy said that it is unclear if the State will undertake this project. Ray Pelletier noted that the pole inventory work we are doing is setting up the construction for when WEC gets funding and can start building. We are hoping that WEC will get funding in Q3 or Q4 of 2021.

- David Healy noted that he has drafted skeleton versions of design/engineering and operator RFPs and would like to keep working on those.
- JD asked if we should be hiring someone to help us write the technical portions of the RFPs. David Healy noted that VCUDA has been given some money to support CUDs, that translates to about 60hrs of time from Carol Monroe and/or Rizzi. David Healy said that this time could be used up quickly so we should use it carefully, but that this might be something we could tap into that for.

Call for Volunteers-Community Need(s):

- Ray Pelletier shared some thoughts regarding the types of volunteer skills we are looking for and asked if anyone can think of other items that are needed by the Planning & Development Committee.
- Ray Pelletier said that the idea is to have Jeremy Hansen send this to the people who said on the community survey that they would volunteer.
- MOTION (Ray Pelletier second Jeremy Matt) The Planning and Development Committee is seeking volunteers who have project management, GIS, strategic planning, utility engineering, broadband networking, or other expertise to assist in focused tasks to support areas set out in its charter at <https://cvfiber.net/planning-development/>. Specific current need is someone with experience building a public facing dashboard that will show our progress building out our network. Skill set needed: ArcGIS Online Dashboard and Story Map building experience. Passed unanimously. Discussion:
 - Ray Pelletier said that he would send this to Chuck Burt to add to the webpage.
 - Tom Fisher asked if we should be advertising this beyond FPF and the webpage.

Schedule GIS Mapping Session:

- David Healy said that he is willing to do an hour-ish session to go over what can be done with the GIS tools we have purchased. David Healy will propose a time of Wednesday Evening.
- Jeremy Matt noted that we might run afoul of public meeting laws if too many people show up so we should talk to Allen Gilbert and get his opinion on whether this would need to be warned as a meeting.
- HA and Jeremy Matt told David Healy that they would be interested in meeting to get a walkthrough of some of the more technical details of the GIS mapping software.

Roundtable:

- None

Meeting Adjourned at 6:37PM

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Matt, Clerk