



**CV FIBER
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

GoToMeeting (virtual meeting only)
June 15, 2021

Planning & Development Committee Members Present:

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

Planning & Development Committee Members Absent:

Greg Kelly (Barre City), Jeremy Matt (Plainfield), Jeremy Hansen (Berlin)

Others Present:

Phil Cecchini (Barre Town), Henry Amistadi (Duxbury)

Called to order: 5:34PM by David Healy via GoToMeeting

Additions to the Agenda:

- Ray Pelletier asked to add a discussion of the 2022 Budget.

Public comment:

- None

Approval of 5/18/21 Planning and Development Committee minutes:

- MOTION (Ray Pelletier second Siobhan Perricone) to approve the May 18, 2021 minutes as drafted. No discussion. Passed unanimously.

Phase 1 Pole Inventory Bids/Update:

- Ray Pelletier provided update. No discussion.

High Level Design Proposals:

- David Healy provided update on current status.
- Henry Amistadi asked if he could join the review group. David explained that this would make quorum and be an issue.
- Jerry Diamantides asked if David Healy received his questions to be put to the RFP respondents. David said he had and that those were appreciated.

- Michael Birnbaum asked how the WEC team and the CVFiber team were finding common ground and suggested WEC puts forwards two selected proposals and CVFiber put forward two selections and see where there is common ground.

Town ARPA Funding Strategy Discussion:

- Various members spoke up about how much they have reached out to their town select boards. Responses varied from almost getting into negotiations to having mentioned it by email months ago.
- Kenneth Jones asked if select boards decide how the money is spent or if it is ultimately put to the voters. David Healy said the League of Cities and Towns appears to think that it is up to the select boards.
- Ray Pelletier commented on how there is a draft MOU template on file, but it needs polishing and finalizing.
- Henry Amistadi commented that discussion on when and how to use the MOU should be tied into the executive committee discussion about ‘going public’, i.e. how much to share publicly and when.

Draft Operator/Manager RFP Discussion:

- David Healy commented that Carol Monroe and Alex Kelley from RISI did a great job of going through and making comments and changes. He noted that Ray Pelletier added some changes as well. David Healy will be integrating it into a final version.
- Jerry Diamantides commented that someone should document how this RFP has developed over time. David Healy commented that he is doing this and that it has been requested by the PSD. Some discussion ensued on how best to keep and provide these process records to the PSD.
- Michael Birnbaum asked if consideration has been given to the fact that Carol Monroe is closely aligned with ValleyNet and EC Fiber, and that that may be a conflict of interest, pointing out that he has been excluded from that process because of a perception of a conflict of interest. David Healy agreed that it would be good to follow up on that. Phil Cecchini pointed out that Carol Monroe is still the chair of the ValleyNet Board.

Grants Update:

- Update from David Healy
- Jerry Diamantides commented that the only grant that has been enacted is the \$240,000 CARES-CUD Infrastructure Grant, which needs to provide service to the specified customers by 12/31/21, and so we are cutting it close to get that done on time. The other grants have been awarded, but CVFiber and the state are still doing some legwork to get the funds out the door.

PM Report:

- Jerry Diamantides reported that he will be glad to be able to provide regular updates to the PDC moving forward. Once fully transitioned to the PM role, he is looking to start work with the pole contractors: initiate start up meetings, provide lines of communication, and set schedules and routines. However, when this will get going is still a bit up in the air because of the money situation. Jerry also still needs to get with David Healy about access to required data and any other required documents.

CVFiber Community Network Schedule:

- Ray Pelletier and others spoke to how there may be mini group get together to discuss district long-range plans. There was some discussion of how this small group, piecemeal kind of information sharing is a

very inefficient, error-prone way of doing business and there was some discussion of whether CVFiber could seek outside guidance from someone authoritative to see if there is a better way to disseminate info among members without breaking open meeting laws. There was a brief discussion about when to release sensitive information publicly.

2022 Budget Discussion:

- Ray Pelletier requested that the chair start putting together some numbers for where the PDC sees likely costs coming in for 2022. Some discussion ensued about the best process for building up a 2022 budget and where the funding will come from and when.

Phase 2 Pole Inventory Recommendation:

- MOTION by Ray Pelletier, second Kenneth Jones: Move that pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(A) that we find that premature public knowledge of our discussions relating to contracts for the Pole Inventory work would put CVFiber at competitive disadvantage.
No discussion. Passed unanimously.
- MOTION by Ray Pelletier, second by Kenneth Jones: Move to go into executive session to discuss Phase 2 Pole Inventory, with Henry Amistadi and Phil Cecchini invited to attend whose information is requested and pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(b).
No discussion. Passed unanimously.
- 6:27pm - Entered Executive Session
- 7:04pm - Exited Executive Session
- MOTION by Ray Pelletier, second Siobhan Perricone: The Planning and Development Committee requests the Governing Board to authorize the issuance of a Request for Bids for Pole Inventory Services for Phase 2 consisting of 470 miles, plus or minus, and Phase 3 consisting of 250 miles, plus or minus and grants authority for the Executive Committee to determine the timing of the Request for Bids, the timing and amounts of grant applications and further authorizes the executive committee to enter into a contract or contracts that are in the best interest of CVFiber.
No discussion. Passed unanimously.

Roundtable:

- Kenneth Jones noted that this is the committee's last meeting that will be completely remote and that we need to find space for a public presence for the next meeting. Some discussion followed. David Healy will try to find a place that will work.
- Michael Birnbaum noted that the PSD is presenting the draft Ten Year Telecommunications Plan to the public this week and next. There will be three public meetings: Springfield, Montpelier, and Craftsbury. The Craftsbury one will be at the Town Hall, where Kingdom Fiber has one of its hubs, so will be using their internet.
- David Healy mentioned that the new state regulatory board needs members. PDC members should put forth any ideas to the governor if they have any.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:10PM