



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

Maple Corner Community Center
84 W County Rd, Calais, VT
Virtual: GoToMeeting
July 20, 2021

Planning & Development Committee Members Present:

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

Planning & Development Committee Members Absent:

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

Others Present:

Phil Cecchini (Barre Town), Henry Amistadi (Duxbury), Jerry Diamantides (Project Manager)

Called to order: 5:30PM by David Healy

Additions to the Agenda:

- None

Public comment:

- None

Approval of 6/28/21 Communications Committee minutes:

- MOTION (Tom Fisher second Siobhan Perricone) to approve the June 28, 2020 minutes as drafted. Passed unanimously. No discussion.
- MOTION (Jeremy Matt second Tom Fisher) to approve the June 15, 2020 minutes as drafted. Passed unanimously. No discussion.

Project Updates:

- Jerry Diamantides reported that it looks like the Department of Public Service may be getting ready to administer our grant for pole inventory. However, there have been some delays and a lot of items that have needed to be dealt with (our name change, changes to our grant tracking ID, etc.). Jerry

Diamantides reported that we have received the magnetic signs for trucks once we start the pole inventory. We have also added some missing required language to the contractor agreements. We are in a good place except for the lack of funding.

- David Healy reported on the high-level design and noted that we are expecting to receive contracts from Vantage Point (one to be sign by WEC and the three CUDs and one specific to CVFiber). Hopefully, the Executive Committee is also going to be approving an RFP for an operator. John Walters is working on a press release for this. We are going to send this to ~20 potential operators.
- David Healy also reported that there has not been any movement on the Northfield Roxbury project. He has been pushing ValleyNet but has not gotten a response yet. If we do not get a response in the next month or two, we will probably have to return the money for this project to the State.
- David Healy reported that he has talked to Rob Fish, and was told that there is very little chance of the Department of Public Service putting out another RFP for preconstruction. Rob is seeing if he can get the Board to agree that the entire assembly does not need to approve each application. David Healy also noted that no money has yet been awarded by the Department of Public Service.
- David Healy noted that Christine Hallquist has been appointed as the Executive Director of Vermont Community Broadband Board and that Christa Schute is the new acting director of NEK Broadband. VCUDA is waiting to appoint their representative to Vermont Community Broadband Board.
- Henry Amistadi asked about the NTIA infrastructure grant program and if we are going to bother going after it. David Healy said that unless someone has a ton of energy, no we are not. Jerry Diamantides noted that it also requires partnering with an existing provider.

Make Ready Contractor RFP:

- (CHAT) Ray Pelletier noted that:
 - Make-ready services are necessary before construction may begin
 - Make-ready services are permitted to be accomplished by non-pole owners, and
 - Having multiple make-ready contractors on retainer will provide for competitive bidding and accelerate the make-ready process
- MOTION (Ray Pelletier second Siobhan Perricone) *The Planning and Development Committee requests the Governing Board to authorize the issuance of a Request for Proposals for Make-Ready Services and authorize the Executive Committee to take such actions as necessary to refine, issue, and publicize the RFP as needed, as well as the timing and amounts of grant applications in support thereof.* Passed unanimously. Discussion:
 - Ken Jones asked about WEC involvement in this project with regards to makeready. David Healy said that WEC is waiting for the CUDs to take the lead. Jerry Diamantides said that WEC has indicated that they do not have many resources for makeready and that they seemed fine with letting the CUDs hire contractors to do the makeready. He also has not seen them bring on any staff to work on this. David Healy noted that WEC has hired a contract manager.
 - Ken Jones asked if WEC has included anything along the lines of responsibility in their application to RUS. Ken Jones noted that there is a potential for synergy with WEC and that we lose that if WEC does not want to be included. He also said that he would expect RUS to want WEC to be involved. Ken Jones also noted that if a contractor does the work, that contractor will make money on the work, but if WEC does the work they will be paid to do so. There followed

additional discussion of WEC potential actions and the potential relationship between CVFiber and WEC.

- Henry Amistadi asked if the RUS application includes makeready. David Healy said that we have not reviewed the RUS application.

- **Phase 2 Priorities:**

- MOTION (Ray Pelletier second Jeremy Matt) Move that pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(A) we find that premature public knowledge of our discussions relating to our Phase 2 construction priorities would put CVFiber at competitive disadvantage. Passed unanimously.
- MOTION (Ray Pelletier second Ken Jones) Move to enter executive session to discuss CVFiber's Phase 2 construction priorities per the previous motion with Jerry Diamantides included in the discussion as Project Manager (as amended). Passed unanimously. Discussion:
 - Tom Fisher suggested adding Jerry Diamantides as a friendly amendment (accepted)
 - Enter: 6:16
 - Exit: 6:43
- No action resulted from the executive session.

Roundtable:

- Henry Amistadi suggested that we should form a team to contact GMP and asked if he could be included on that team. Jerry Diamantides said that is on his to do list for tomorrow. Ken Jones said that he would also like to be included.
- Ken Jones brought up the appointments to Vermont Community Broadband Board and what they mean.
- Tom Fisher noted that he has some contacts at GMP.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:51PM

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Matt, Clerk