



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

Maple Corner Community Center
84 W County Rd, Calais, VT
Virtual: Teams
October 19, 2021

Planning & Development Committee Members Present:

Ray Pelletier (Northfield), Siobhan Perricone (Orange), Jeremy Matt (Plainfield), David Healy (Calais), Jeremy Hansen (Berlin), Tom Fisher (East Montpelier), Christopher Shenk (Waterbury), Linda Gravell (Waterbury)

Planning & Development Committee Members Absent:

Greg Kelly (Barre City)

Others Present:

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

Called to order: 5:30PM by David Healy

Additions to the Agenda:

- None

Public comment:

- None

Approval of September 21, 2021 Communications Committee minutes:

- MOTION (Jeremy Matt second Siobhan Perricone) to approve the September 21, 2021 minutes as drafted. Passed unanimously. No discussion.

Project Manager Update:

- Jerry Diamantides provided an update on the pole inventory work. The work is finished in Calais. We have some questions about the data that we'll need to go over with them (we've only seen incomplete datasets and we'll be hopefully getting the complete dataset).

- Jerry Diamantides noted that we also have other contracts that are moving forward. These are the contract for the high level design and the contract from ECFiber and ValleyNet for the Northfield/Roxbury project.
- Jerry Diamantides noted that we got approval to spend money on Moretown, but that he thinks this project won't happen by the end of the year. It's not a clawback because we never got any money. However, we need to talk to Rob Fish and let him know that we won't be able to complete the project.
- Jerry Diamantides noted that he and Jeremy Hansen were questioned by the VCBB Board regarding our grant application. The discussion was successful because we were granted \$2.8 million for pre-construction. Jerry Diamantides noted that it was critically important that we had asked for everything we needed (a total of \$4.4 million). We were capped out at \$2.8 million but this highlighted to the board that they haven't allocated enough money. It doesn't sound like any other CUDs have done this. The VCBB Board will likely go back to the drawing board and adjust the allocated funds for preconstruction. At that point, we'll need to apply for the remainder of the funds.
- Jerry Diamantides noted that we're getting a bookkeeper and accounting firm on board as well as an audit firm. We'll also have other administrative costs such as legal fees related to the contracts we'll be executing.
- David Healy reported that the VCBB Board wanted to get details regarding the relationship between WEC and CVFiber. The VCBB board pushed back on WEC about the benefits to WEC regarding the benefit of this network construction to WEC. The VCBB board said that they thought WEC should take on some of the construction costs in return for those benefits rather than passing all the costs onto the CUDs in the form of lease fees.
- Siobhan Perricone asked if the utilities need fiber to be run to all premises for smart monitoring. David Healy said that was part of it, but they will also use the network to manage their grid.
- Jerry Diamantides provided some thoughts regarding the construction funding process and reported that the VCBB board thinks that we're not "spending the big money yet".
- Ray Pelletier noted that the request for preconstruction grant was to ask for money for the next 18-months. We'll essentially reduced the timeframe the money is for to get enough money for Area A design.
- Jeremy Hansen noted that he thinks there are requirements that the CARES money for the Northfield/Roxbury project be allocated/invoiced by a certain date (perhaps November 15th). Jerry Diamantides said that he'll contact Rob Fish to figure out the details.

High Level Design Update:

- David Healy reported that he met with Vantage Point last week and they're working on dividing the service areas up into smaller portions. They also needed more data on hub locations, which David Healy sent them today. One good thing came out of the meeting was that WEC got another reminder that the network is being built for everyone, not just WEC.
- Jeremy Hansen noted that unfortunately the person at Vantage Point who is doing the work wasn't on the call. The representative who was on the call was knowledgeable but didn't have a lot to add.

WEC RUS Loan update:

- David Healy reported on the status of the WEC RUS loan: WEC is looking for a way to get a guarantee that the lease payments will be sufficient to cover the debt service on the RUS loan. We need an updated business plan to smooth over those concerns. He said that they're moving slow in his opinion. We're planning on how to go forward with construction if the RUS loan falls through, but hopefully it won't.

Detailed Design RFP:

- David Healy said that there was nothing to report on this item.
- Tom Fisher asked if we're still doing an RFP or if we're going to just hire a developer/operator and tell them to go do it. David Healy said that's the crux of the issue: RUS is going to require that WEC put out an RFP. However, we're planning on hiring a developer/operator who can do the detailed design. It's going to be a revolving conversation with WEC to figure out how to resolve it.

RPF Update: Developer/Operator:

- David Healy said that this item is for discussion of specific potential contractors for Developer/Operator.
- MOTION (Jeremy Hansen second Siobhan Perricone) move to find that premature general public knowledge of CVFiber's discussion regarding awarding the Developer/Operator contract would clearly place CVFiber at a substantial disadvantage per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(A). Passed unanimously. No discussion.
- MOTION (Jeremy Hansen second Jeremy Matt) to enter executive session with everyone on the call currently present and to include Jerry Diamantides, Phil Cecchini, and Henry Amistadi. Passed unanimously. Discussion:
 - Jerry Diamantides, Phil Cecchini, and Henry Amistadi have knowledge relevant to the Developer/Operator discussion and were invited to join the executive session.
 - Enter: 5:56PM
 - Exit: 6:40PM
- No action came out of executive session.

Roundtable:

- Jeremy Hansen reported on the presentation that Jeremy Hansen, Linda Gravell, and Christopher Shenk gave to the Waterbury Select Board. They were interested in using some of their ARPA Funds to assist CVFiber.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:49PM

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Matt, Clerk

Summary of Tasks Assigned:

- Jerry Diamantides will contact Rob Fish regarding when the Department of Public Service needs to see invoices for the Northfield/Roxbury CARES project.