



Governing Board Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

March 13, 2025

In-Person Location: None - see note re ACT 78 below.

Attendees: See attached list.

5:38pm - Meeting was called to order with quorum.

Modification to the agenda

| Motioned: Mike Strait Seconded: Jock Gill | For | Against | Abstain |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Motion: To approve moving up the BEAD funding item on the agenda to first order of business. | Passed with no objections | | |

BEAD Funding Update

Discussion Summary: Christa said that the BEAD application portal is open and that full applications are due on April 16. She said that the following motion demonstrates the Governing Board’s support for the project to get fiber optic service to every unserved address in the District, which is over 8,000 addresses - half of the unserved addresses in the entire state. The motion also provides authorization for Christa and Chris to take the necessary actions to submit a full application. Christa noted that the current direction of the BEAD funding opportunity review by the federal Commerce Department seems to be to amend and not end it. There was some discussion about whether the motion should remove the specifics about the regions so the motion would reflect a more unified “single organization” image, but the consensus seemed to be this was not a deal-killer. The question was then called by Morgan Wade.

| Motioned: John Reid Seconded: Siobhan Perricone | For | Against | Abstain |
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| <p>Motion: The governing board of NEKCV, representing the 51 towns of NEK Broadband and the 20 towns of CVFiber, strongly supports our communication union district's application for funding from the Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment grant opportunity being hosted by the Vermont Community Broadband Board. We specifically authorize our Executive Director, Christa Shute and our CFO/Treasurer Christopher Fortuna to take all actions necessary for the submission of an application and to make all certifications necessary on behalf of the organization.</p> | <p>Passed with no objections by voice vote</p> | | |
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Morgan Wade left at 5:50pm; Peggy Stevens left at 5:52pm; Gaston Bathalon left at 5:48pm. Bill Gilbert and Noah Armstrong entered at 5:44pm; Terri Caron entered at 6:01pm; Donna Dzugas entered at 6:04pm.

December 12, 2024 GB Meeting Minutes

| <p>Motioned: Eileen Boland Seconded: John Reid</p> | <p>For</p> | <p>Against</p> | <p>Abstain</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <p>Motion: To approve the Dec. 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes.</p> | <p>Passed with no objections</p> | | <p>Paul Fixx</p> |

Public Comment: None

Executive Committee Action Report

| <p>Motioned: Mike Strait Seconded: Jock Gill</p> | <p>For</p> | <p>Against</p> | <p>Abstain</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <p>Motion: to approve the Executive Committee Action Report</p> | <p>Passed with no objections</p> | | |

Discussion Summary: Christa highlighted for everyone two of the decisions that the Executive Committee made since the last Governing Board meeting. The first was the decision to change our engineering and construction manager from NRTC to CNE. The second decision was to allow us to enter into a loan commitment with Community National Bank for our letter of credit for RDOF in the amount of \$1,432,770.84 that will be backed by cash collateral. That cash collateral will come with the closing of the arrangement with CCI. The FCC has approved the transfer of the CCI RDOF areas to us. We are just waiting for the Public Utilities Commission to approve our Eligible Telecommunications Carrier application so that we can engage in the closing process and start bringing service to all of those RDOF areas.

Addendum to the BEAD Funding Update

Discussion Summary: Christa added that there are activities going on at the federal level primarily around exploring a tech-neutral approach to support lowest cost options and reviewing regulations that were put in place by the previous administration. She invited anyone to stay after the end of the meeting to talk in more detail.

Tonya then announced that we are requesting that Governing Board members draw up letters of support (using the sample letter provided as needed) for our BEAD funding application and work with their Select Boards to get them on town letterhead. This is in response to the application that is requiring “evidence of a written commitment to the project from all towns in the Final Project Area.” We hope to have those letters back by Friday, March 28. Letters must be received before April 14 in order to be helpful and included in the application.

Town Meeting Day Roundtable - Report Out from Towns

Discussion Summary: Tonya thanked the two Map Ambassadors, Brian Machesney and John Reid for processing 33 maps and address lists for Governing Board members to use with their outreach efforts during Town Meeting Day. Kitty said that 53 out of 71 towns had some kind of outreach happening, from information on a table, to verbal presentations, to speaking one-on-one with folks, to the staffing of information tables. Brief report outs were then given by David Healy (Calais), Dana Caspersen (Kirby), Neil Glassman (Barnet), Mary Metcalf (Greensboro), Martin Klein (Groton), Donna Dzugas-Smith (Westmore), Mike Barrett (Waterford), Sonya Curtis (Irasburg), and Siobhan Perricone (Orange).

Organizational Goals, Priorities, & Metrics

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| Motioned: Chuck Burt Seconded: Charles Conn | Passed with no objections Passed with objections Failed |
| Motion: to go into Executive Session under the provisions of 1 VSA §313 with Board Members and staff in order to discuss Organizational Goals, Priorities & Metrics, finding that premature disclosure could substantially disadvantage the CUD if it were to be made public at this time. | Passed with no objections |

Executive session was entered at 6:26pm and ended at 7:01pm. No action was taken.

Tom Fisher entered at 6:40pm.

Mike Barrett left at 6:19pm; Jose Aguayo (VCBB) left at 6:25pm; Marj Kramer left at 6:27pm; Mike Gaiss left at 6:28pm; Rudy Chase left at 6:33pm; Dana Caspersen left at 6:39pm and Martin Klein left at 6:43pm
Quorum was lost during Executive Session.

Chair Adjourned the Meeting at 7:03 pm.

Drafted by Kitty Ufford-Chase

Attendance Summary

Voting Members: (quorum is 36): 42

Other board members present: Ray Lanier, Laura Emery, Martin Klein

Staff: Christa Shute, Chris Fortuna, Tonya Ozone, Matt Hubbard, Danielle Sukkaew, & Kitty Ufford-Chase

Guests: Jose Aguayo (VCBB) and Caro Thompson

Attendance Details

| Name | Member Town | Type | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------|---------------------|-----------|
| | | | | Voting | 42 |
| Rob Dewees | Albany | Primary | v | Present | 2 |
| Neil Glassman | Barnet | Primary | v | Staff | 6 |
| Jeremy Hansen | Berlin | Alternate | | | |
| Nate Nugent | Bloomfield | Primary | | Guest | 2 |
| Michael Strait | Brighton | Primary | v | | |
| James Ozone | Brighton | Alternate | | quorum is 36 | |
| Noah Bond | Brighton | Alternate | | | |
| Amber Hastings | Brownington | Alternate | | | |
| William Davis | Brownington | Primary | v | | |
| David Caron | Brunswick | Primary | | | |
| Theresa Caron | Brunswick | Alternate | v | | |
| Patricia Vanderhoop | Burke | Primary | | | |
| R.D. Eno | Cabot | Primary | | | |
| Seth O'Brien | Cabot | Alternate | | | |
| Jared Thomas | Calais | Primary | | | |
| David Healy | Calais | Alternate | v | | |
| Ann Morgan Wade | Canaan | Primary | v | | |
| Frank Sawicki, Jr | Canaan | Alternate | | | |

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| John Kellogg | Charleston | Alternate | | | |
| Peggy Stevens | Charleston | Primary | v | | |
| Bill Humphrey | Concord | Primary | | | |
| Charles Conn | Coventry | Primary | v | | |
| Phil Marquette | Coventry | Alternate | | | |
| Rudy Chase | Craftsbury | Primary | v | | |
| Brian Machesney | Craftsbury | Alternate | | | |
| Jonathan Baker | Danville | Primary | | | |
| Bob Kelley | Derby | Alternate | | | |
| Grant Spates | Derby | Alternate | | | |
| Lindsay Brainard | Derby | Alternate | | | |
| David Barlow | Derby | Primary | v | | |
| Henry Amistadi | Duxbury | Primary | v | | |
| David Wendt | Duxbury | Alternate | | | |
| Tom Fisher | East Monpelier | Primary | v | | |
| Nik Khosla | East Monpelier | Alternate | | | |
| Noah Armstrong | Glover | Primary | v | | |
| Hadley Piper | Glover | Alternate | | | |
| Sheryl Brown | Granby | Alternate | | | |
| Sonia Peters | Granby | Primary | | | |
| Mary Metcalf | Greensboro | Primary | v | | |
| John Stone | Greensboro | Alternate | | | |
| Mike Gaiss | Groton | Primary | v | | |
| Martin Klein | Groton | Alternate | v | | |
| John Orłowski | Guildhall | Alternate | | | |
| Richard Schiller | Guildhall | Primary | v | | |
| Paul Fixx | Hardwick | Primary | v | | |
| Ed Brady | Holland | Primary | v | | |
| Andrew Bouchard | Holland | Alternate | | | |
| Sonya Curtis | Irasburg | Primary | v | | |
| Lynnette Deaette | Jay | Primary | | | |
| Le-Ann Tetrault | Jay | Alternate | | | |
| Tara Morse | Jay | Alternate | | | |
| Dana Caspersen | Kirby | Primary | v | | |
| Malcolm Doak | Kirby | Alternate | | | |
| William Gilbert | Lemington | Primary | v | | |
| Beth Ellingwood | Lemington | Alternate | | | |

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| Marjorie Kramer | Lowell | Primary | v | | |
| Faye Starr | Lowell | Alternate | | | |
| Harry Williams | Lunenburg | Primary | | | |
| Gary Briggs | Lunenburg | Alternate | | | |
| Marty Feltus | Lyndon | Primary | v | | |
| Jack Donnelly | Maidstone | Primary | | | |
| John Morris | Marshfield | Primary | v | | |
| David Mannix | Marshfield | Alternate | | | |
| David Lawrence | Middlesex | Primary | | | |
| Bruce Stevenson | Middlesex | Alternate | | | |
| Eric Pope | Morgan | Primary | | | |
| Larry Labor | Morgan | Alternate | | | |
| Chuck Burt | Moretown | Primary | v | | |
| Sybil Schlesinger | Moretown | Alternate | | | |
| Karen Horn | Moretown | Alternate | | | |
| Ben Tilford | Newark | Primary | | | |
| Mark Whitworth | Newark | Alternate | v | | |
| Chris Vachon | Newport City | Alternate | | | |
| Woodman Page | Newport City | Primary | | | |
| David Ghelli | Newport Town | Alternate | | | |
| Wendy Matthews | Newport Town | Primary | v | | |
| Thomas Davis | Northfield | Primary | | | |
| Sally Vallat | Norton | Primary | | | |
| Siobhan Perricone | Orange | Primary | v | | |
| Jim Burt | Orange | Alternate | | | |
| Jock Gill | Peacham | Primary | v | | |
| Karen Lewis | Peacham | Alternate | | | |
| Jeremy Matt | Plainfield | Primary | v | | |
| Jon Hosford | Plainfield | Alternate | | | |
| Tim Sullivan | Roxbury | Primary | | | |
| Shawn Burroughs | Ryegate | Primary | | | |
| Tyler Pokines | Ryegate | Alternate | | | |
| Annie McLean | Sheffield | Alternate | | | |
| Nicolas Anzalone | St Johnsbury | Primary | v | | |
| Colleen Morris | St Johnsbury | Alternate | | | |
| Steve Pikard | Stannard | Primary | | | |

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|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------|--|--|
| Johanna Polsenberg | Stannard | Alternate | | | |
| Evan Carlson | Sutton | Primary | | | |
| Robert Simms | Sutton | Alternate | | | |
| Gaston Bathalon | Troy | Primary | v | | |
| Robert Langlands | Troy | Alternate | | | |
| Anthony Soldo | UTGs | Alternate | | | |
| David Conley | UTGs | Primary | | | |
| Seth O'Brien | Walden | Primary | | | |
| Christopher Shenk | Waterbury | Primary | v | | |
| Bill Piper | Waterford | Alternate | | | |
| Mike Barrett | Waterford | Primary | v | | |
| Carrie Glessner | Westfield | Primary | v | | |
| Laura Emery | Westfield | Alternate | p | | |
| Ray Lanier | Westmore | Alternate | p | | |
| Donna Dzugas | Westmore | Primary | v | | |
| Linda Michniewicz | Westmore | Alternate | | | |
| Eileen Boland | Wheelock | Primary | v | | |
| David Stahler Jr. | Wheelock | Alternate | | | |
| Ted Barnett | Williamstown | Primary | v | | |
| Bruce Wheeler | Wolcott | Primary | | | |
| John Reid | Woodbury | Primary | v | | |
| Michael Gray | Woodbury | Alternate | | | |
| Allen Gilbert | Worcester | Primary | | | |
| John Russell | Worcester | Alternate | v | | |
| | | | | | |
| Christa Shute | NEKCV | | s | | |
| Danielle Sukkaew | NEKCV | | s | | |
| Kitty Ufford-Chase | NEKCV | | s | | |
| Tonya Ozone | NEKCV | | s | | |
| Matt Hubbard | NEKCV | | s | | |
| Chris Fortuna | NEKCV | | s | | |
| | | | | | |
| Jose Aguayo | guest | | g | | |
| Caro Thompson | guest | | g | | |