



Governing Board Meeting Minutes - approved May 13, 2025

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

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.	Passed with no objections by voice vote		
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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

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

Public Comment: None

Executive Committee Action Report

Motioned: Mike Strait Seconded: Jock Gill	For	Against	Abstain
Motion: to approve the Executive Committee Action Report	Passed with no objections		

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

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			

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 Orlowski	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			

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			

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		