Governing Board Meeting Minutes - (DRAFT)

October 24, 2026 9:00 AM
Location: Vermont State University, Lyndon Campus - Moore Community Room
1001 College Rd Lyndonville, VT 05851
and
Zoom Meeting - Instructions for login provided in Agenda and on Calendar Invitation

Attendees: See listed at bottom

9:39am - the meeting started with a quorum

The meeting began with a welcome from Nick Anzalone who thanked everyone for being there and advised that quorum was close, so to please plan to stay present until after lunch when the budget had been reviewed and voted on. He then read a roll call and board members present in person indicated their presence by raising their hand and those on Zoom affirmed their presence verbally.

Consent Agenda - including Aug 13, 2026 GB Meeting Minutes

Motioned: Nick Anzalone **Seconded: Dan Ouellette**	**For / Against / Abstain**
Motion: to approve the Consent Agenda.	Passed with no objections or abstentions

Public Comment: None

Executive Committee Action Report

Motioned: Nick Anzalone **Seconded: Sally Vallat**	**For / Against / Abstain**
Motion: to approve the Executive Committee Action Report (Aug 14, 2026 - Oct 24, 2026).	Passed with no objections or abstentions

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Nick then introduced Christa Shute. She greeted everyone and informed everyone that a BEAD contract had officially been signed the night before. She thanked everyone for their commitment to the mission of NEKCV and their hard work in getting the organization to this milestone. With that said, she introduced her management team, consisting of Chris Fortuna, Matt Hubbard, Erik Townsend and Julia Vallera. Matt then called forward his team, including Warehouse and Logistics, Inspectors, Construction and Installers. Chris called forward his finance and accounting team and acknowledged those that could not be present. Erik introduced his pre-construction/permitting and GIS team members next, followed by Julia calling forward her team, including a new hire. Christa then introduced the organization's newest hire, HR Generalist Johnna Bishop-Pearl, as well as the remaining employees working in IT and administrative roles. Once all of the employees were standing, they were instructed to organize themselves in a timeline of oldest employee to newest hire.

To add to this "human timeline", Christa began to read through the milestones of the organization, asking the board members to come to the front of the room when she reached the year that they came on board. She read through from the start of NEK Broadband, to the merger with CV Fiber, to current day, until all of the Board members were at the front of the room. The employees then mounted the stage behind the board members to take a group photo.

Motioned: Nick Anzalone **Seconded:**	**For / Against / Abstain**
Motion: to go into Executive Session under the provisions of 1 VSA §313 with staff, consultants and Board Members, to discuss grant and operational updates, finding that premature disclosure could substantially disadvantage the CUD if it were to be made public at this time.	Passed with no objections or abstentions

Executive session was entered at am and ended at 11:53am. No action was taken in executive session and nothing discussed in the session was suitable to put on the record, except the motion to exit executive session, that was moved by Morgan Wade and seconded by Siobhan Perricone.

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Proposed Budget Discussion and Vote

Chris Fortuna provided a quick look back at the 2025 audited financials, going over the balance sheet, pointing out growth and milestones. He then advised that the organization received a "clean audit" with no recommendations. Chris then went over the budget, pointing out the changes between the 2026 budget and the forecasted 2026 budget, due to not receiving BEAD this year as anticipated. He explained that BEAD amounts that were taken from 2026 were applied to 2027 and where that leaves the budget for next year, in conjunction with other remaining grant amounts, indicating that it is essentially a "BEAD budget" next year. He walked through what the anticipated customer totals will be, anticipated employee hires and other line items that are accounted for in the proposed budget for 2027.

Motioned: Chuck Burt **Seconded: Dan Ouellette**	**For / Against / Abstain**
Motion: to approve the 2027 Proposed Budget.	Passed unanimously, with one abstention.

Neil Glassman cited a conflict of interest and abstained from voting on this motion.

Motioned: Nick Anzalone **Seconded: Sally Vallat**	**For / Against / Abstain**
Motion: to go into Executive Session under the provisions of 1 VSA §313 with staff, consultants and Board Members, to discuss what was learned during prior executive session, finding that premature disclosure could substantially disadvantage the CUD if it were to be made public at this time.	Passed with no objections or abstentions

Executive session was entered at 12:02 pm. Quorum was lost during executive session.

Drafted by Elizabth Fitzpatrick

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Attendance Summary

Voting Members: (quorum is 37): 40

Other board members present: David Healy, Lawrence Daugherty, John Stone, Sybil Schlesinger, David Stahler, Jr.

Staff: Christa Shute, Chris Fortuna, Erik Townsend, Matt Hubbard, Kitty Ufford-Chase, Julia Vallera, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Jared Clark, Alton Deslandes, Emily Kubicke, Josh Commo, Larry Hosford, Peter Bent, Tim Gould, Rodney Bushey, Greg Asnis, Owen Carr, JJ Flores, Cam Henderson, Pierce Thompson, John Ricard, Geoffrey Whitchurch, Jeff Dodge, Evangelyn Morse, Johnna Bishop-Pearl

Consultants/Others present: Caro Thompson, Heather Algers, Jim Midgarden, CNE person 2

Attendance Details

Rob Dewees	Albany	Primary	V
Kristen Fountain'	Albany	Alternate	
Neil Glassman	Barnet	Primary	V
Sean Warner	Barre City	Primary	
Donald Koch	Barre Town	Primary	V
David Furlong	Barton	Primary	
Shawn Covill	Bloomfield	Primary	
Ray Bowen'	Bloomfield	Alternate	
Michael Strait	Brighton	Primary	
James Ozone	Brighton	Alternate	V

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William Davis	Brownington	Primary	V
Armand Brunelle'	Brownington	Alternate	
David Caron	Brunswick	Primary	
Theresa Caron	Brunswick	Alternate	
Patricia Vanderhoop	Burke	Alternate	
Brian Pilcher	Burke	Primary	
R.D. Eno	Cabot	Primary	V
Seth O'Brien	Cabot	Alternate	
Jared Thomas	Calais	Primary	V
David Healy	Calais	Alternate	P
Ann Morgan Wade	Canaan	Primary	V
Zachary Brown	Canaan	Alternate	
Peggy Stevens	Charleston	Primary	
Elaine Stansky'	Concord	Primary	
Normandie Lee'	Concord	Alternate	V
Charles Conn	Coventry	Primary	V
Phil Marquette	Coventry	Alternate	
Rudy Chase	Craftsbury	Primary	V
Brian Machesney	Craftsbury	Alternate	
Dan Ouellette'	Danville	Primary	V
Lawrence Daugherty'	Danville	Alternate	P

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Lindsay Brainard	Derby	Alternate	
David Barlow	Derby	Primary	V
Henry Amistadi	Duxbury	Primary	V
Pat Zachary	Duxbury	Alternate	
Tom Fisher	East Monpelier	Primary	V
Noah Armstrong	Glover	Primary	V
Hadley Piper	Glover	Alternate	
Mark Fulton	Granby	Primary	
Sonia Peters	Granby	Alternate	
Mary Metcalf	Greensboro	Primary	V
John Stone	Greensboro	Alternate	P
Mike Gaiss	Groton	Primary	
Martin Klein	Groton	Alternate	
Richard Schiller	Guildhall	Primary	V
Paul Fixx	Hardwick	Primary	
Linda Markin'	Hardwick	Alternate	V
Ed Brady	Holland	Primary	V
Paul Posenjak	Holland	Alternate	
Lynnette Deaette	Jay	Primary	V
Le-Ann Tetrault	Jay	Alternate	
Tara Morse	Jay	Alternate	

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Dana Caspersen	Kirby	Primary	
Malcolm Doak	Kirby	Alternate	
William Gilbert	Lemington	Primary	
Beth Ellingwood	Lemington	Alternate	
Marjorie Kramer	Lowell	Primary	
Faye Starr	Lowell	Alternate	
Harry Williams	Lunenburg	Primary	
Gary Briggs	Lunenburg	Alternate	
Marty Feltus	Lyndon	Alternate	V
Andy Mosedale'	Lyndon	Primary	
Richard Chabot	Maidstone	Primary	
John Morris	Marshfield	Primary	V
Stan Hook	Marshfield	Alternate	
David Lawrence	Middlesex	Primary	
Everett McGinley	Montgomery	Primary	V
Eric Pope	Morgan	Primary	
Larry Labor	Morgan	Alternate	V
Chuck Burt	Moretown	Primary	V
Sybil Schlesinger	Moretown	Alternate	P
Mark Whitworth	Newark	Alternate	
Woodman Page	Newport City	Primary	V

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David Ghelli	Newport Town	Primary	V
Wendy Matthews	Newport Town	Alternate	
Thomas Davis	Northfield	Primary	
Sally Vallat	Norton	Primary	V
Siobhan Perricone	Orange	Primary	V
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	
Nicolas Anzalone	St Johnsbury	Primary	V
Colleen Morris	St Johnsbury	Alternate	
Steve Pikard	Stannard	Primary	
Evan Carlson	Sutton	Primary	
Robert Simms	Sutton	Alternate	
Gaston Bathalon	Troy	Primary	V
Robert Langlands'	Troy	Alternate	
Bobbi Magoon'	UTGs	Primary	
Anthony Soldo	UTGs	Alternate	

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Mark Fulton	Victory	Primary	
Seth O'Brien	Walden	Primary	
Peter Carbee	Washington	Primary	
Christopher Shenk	Waterbury	Primary	V
Bill Piper	Waterford	Alternate	
Mike Barrett	Waterford	Primary	
Carrie Glessner	Westfield	Primary	V
Laura Emery	Westfield	Alternate	
Ray Lanier	Westmore	Alternate	V
Donna Dzugas	Westmore	Primary	
Linda Michniewicz	Westmore	Alternate	
Eileen Boland	Wheelock	Primary	V
David Stahler Jr.	Wheelock	Alternate	P
Ted Barnett	Williamstown	Primary	
Bruce Wheeler	Wolcott	Primary	
John Reid	Woodbury	Primary	V
Michael Gray	Woodbury	Alternate	
Cyriac Joseph'	Worcester	Primary	V
Christa Shute	NEKCV		

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Kitty Ufford-Chase	NEKCV		
Erik Townsend	NEKCV		
Matt Hubbard	NEKCV		
Julia Vallera	NEKCV		
Chris Fortuna	NEKCV		
Jared Clark	NEKCV		
Elizabeth Fitzpatrick	NEKCV		
Alton Deslandes	NEKCV		
Emily Kubicke	NEKCV		
Josh Commo	NEKCV		
Larry Hosford	NEKCV		
Peter Bent	NEKCV		
Tim Gould	NEKCV		
Rodney Bushey	NEKCV		
Greg Asnis	NEKCV		
Owen Carr	NEKCV		
JJ Flores	NEKCV		
Cam Henderson	NEKCV		
Pierce Thompson	NEKCV		
John Ricard	NEKCV		
Geoffrey Whitchurch	NEKCV		

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Jeff Dodge	NEKCV		
Evangelyn Morse	NEKCV		
Johnna Bishop-Pearl	NEKCV		
Caro Thompson	Consultant		
Heather Algers	Consultant		
Jim Midgarden	Consultant (CNE)		
CNE guy 2	Consultant (CNE)		

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