

1 **Northwest Vermont Communications Union District**
2 **Executive Committee Regular Meeting**
3 **March 11, 2026 at 10:00am**
4 **Hybrid Meeting**
5

6 **Attendance**

7 Mary Kay Raymond (ED), Chasidy Benjamin (Admin, Clerk), Cathy Ainsworth (Vice Chair, Fairfield),
8 Cheryl Dunn (Alburgh Village, Member at Large), Matthew Stebbins (Sheldon, Member at Large),
9 Mark Stephens (Alburgh, Member at Large), Denise Sullivan (Treasurer), Ellie de Villiers
10 (Consultant), Scott Mitchell (Fairfax Representative)

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12 **Call to Order, Roll Call, Adjustments to Agenda**

13 Vice Chair C. Ainsworth called the meeting to order at 10:02am, a roll call was conducted, and a
14 quorum was present to conduct business.

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16 **Public Comment**

17 No members of the public present, therefore no public comment.
18

19 **Approval of Minutes 02/25/26**

20 *C. Ainsworth motioned to approve 02/25/26 minutes. C. Dunn seconded. Motion carried.*
21

22 **Seasonal Event Help**

23 M. K. Raymond noted that additional assistance may occasionally be needed at events. She
24 proposed recruiting one or two teenagers she knows and compensating them at minimum wage for
25 support on an as-needed basis. She also asked about the best method of compensation, including
26 whether a stipend would be appropriate.

27
28 C. Ainsworth asked whether a job description exists for the proposed event support role. M.K.
29 Raymond confirmed that this would simply be an as needed role, and she wanted to run it by the
30 Executive Committee to make sure they were comfortable with this approach before taking any
31 other steps.

32
33 C. Ainsworth noted that based on her HR and volunteer management experience, it may be more
34 appropriate to classify the position as an incentivized volunteer for seasonal assistance rather than
35 offering a stipend. She recommended creating a brief document outlining the expectations and
36 objectives of the role. D. Sullivan added that if total compensation remains under \$2,000, a 1099
37 would not be required.

38
39 M.K. Raymond stated that as we attend events, it would be helpful for board members to volunteer
40 when they are able as well. C. Ainsworth suggested that volunteers have lanyards to identify that
41 they are representing NAFX.
42

43 **Operational Update (Executive Session)**

44 *C. Ainsworth motioned to enter Executive Session under the provisions of 1 VSA §313 with*
45 *consultants, staff, board members and executive committee members to discuss operational*
46 *updates finding that premature disclosure could substantially disadvantage the CUD if it were to be*
47 *made public at this time. M. Stebbins seconded. Motion carried.*

48 *M. Stebbins motioned to exit Executive Session. C. Dunn seconded. Motion carried.*

49

50 C. Ainsworth reported that the group had a discussion regarding Operational Update details but
51 noted that no action was taken in Executive Session other than to end Executive Session.

52

53 **Other Business**

54 C. Benjamin stated that Franklin has decided not to appoint a board member because they now
55 have internet service available in their area. They are uncertain about whether they should remain
56 in the CUD and have asked for our perspective. C. Benjamin asked the Executive Committee how
57 they would like to respond.

58

59 M.K. Raymond confirmed that we have supported Franklin and worked with their providers to help
60 them achieve service. She noted that it is unclear what benefit they would gain from leaving the
61 CUD and how we would be able to formally support them going forward if they were no longer a
62 member.

63

64 C. Ainsworth stated that communities can sometimes become confused about their role when
65 they hear which areas will be served. She suggested creating a document that clearly explains what
66 it means to be part of a CUD and the ongoing community support towns receive even when they are
67 not involved in active infrastructure development.

68

69 S. Mitchell added that if a town chooses not to remain part of a CUD, that decision must be brought
70 before the town voters.

71

72 The Executive Committee agreed to send a formal letter outlining the support we provide and the
73 importance of towns supporting the CUD as a whole. Chasidy will work with Matt to draft the letter,
74 and Matt will follow up individually with selectboard members in Franklin.

75

76 **Adjourn**

77 *M. Stebbins motioned to adjourn. C. Dunn seconded. Motion carried.*

78

79 Meeting adjourned at 11:07am.