

1 **Northwest Vermont Communications Union District**
2 **Governing Board Draft Meeting Minutes**
3 **April 6, 2021 6:00 p.m.**
4 **Zoom Virtual Meeting**
5

6 **Attendance:** Sean Kio (Enosburgh Town Rep.), Ken Millman (Alburgh Rep.), Dave Stanley (Fairfax Rep.), Stu McGowan
7 (Richford Alt.), Mary Kay Raymond (Fairfax Alt.), Tara Wright (Georgia Alt.), Emily Klofft (NRPC), Everett McGinley
8 (Montgomery Rep.), Charen Fegard (Richford Rep.) Shaun Coleman (NRPC), Jake Cane (Sheldon Rep.) and Dominic
9 DeRosia (Berkshire Rep.).

10
11 **Call to Order and Adjustments to the Agenda**

12 Chair S. Kio called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. A quorum was present.
13

14 **Approval of Minutes**

15 Page 2 line 42 should be D. Stanley not D. Raymond.

16 *E. McGinley motioned to approve the minutes from the March 23 meeting with the correction. M.K. Raymond seconded.*
17 *Motion carried.*
18

19 **Treasurer’s Report**

20 E. Klofft provided the Treasurer’s Report. The balance of the bank account is \$58,173.05. One disbursement was made
21 for Google Workspace for \$12.60. One new quarterly invoice was submitted by NRPC for \$3,635.15. The total amount of
22 all invoices is \$19,127.89. VCF funding has a balance of \$24,844.92. Still waiting for approval of the PSD Planning Grant
23 extension.
24

25 *M.K. Raymond motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report. K. Millman seconded. Motion carried.*
26

27 **Sub-Committees**

28 S. Kio reported that help is needed for the three subcommittees: After discussion, volunteer sign-ups were made as
29 follow:

- 30 1. Communications: Dave, Ken, Jake.
- 31 2. P / O: M.K, Dominic, Everette.
- 32 3. Finance: Ken, Stu, Everette.

33 The Chair agreed to be an at large member of all sucommittees. Organizational meetings will be held in the near future.
34

35 **American Rescue Plan Act Municipal Funds**

36 S. Kio reported that he met with S. Coleman regarding municipal stipends. A stipend from the soon to be released ARPA
37 funds could be used for infrastructure in support of the CUD activities. Broadband is called out as one of the eligible
38 expenses. The NWCUD could ask the municipalities for a small amount (\$3k) of funding to help support a program
39 manager and/or other expenses.
40

41 There was general discussion on how H360 with a proposed \$150M in broadband funding will likely take form. VLCT is
42 advocating that municipalities explore all funding options for the range of funding requests that are being generated due
43 to pending ARPA funds. S. Kio noted he will be testifying before Senate Finance tomorrow along with other CUDs
44 regarding funding needs and activities.
45

46 There was consensus to request funding from the member municipal boards. The amount depends upon what other
47 funds we may get through H.360 bill if passed. There is a lot of discussion in the legislature about not giving money to
48 the CUDs but rather doing something more “market-oriented”. There are some local projects such was water/waste
49 water that are currently underway where the money will likely get targeted. Talking points should developed so the

1 message to all communities is consistent. The message should be delivered after the feasibility is released. The
2 communications subcommittee was tasked with creating talking points.

4 **CUD Representative Resolutions**

5 S. Kio reported that members will have to gather signed Municipal CUD Representative Resolutions by the last Monday
6 of April. This is required by State Statute. There are no term limits. E.Klofft will send out resolutions to everyone and
7 they are to be returned by mail or email to her or SColeman.

9 **Legislative Update (H.360-Senate Finance)**

10 E. Klofft and S. Coleman reviewed legislative bills H.360 and S.118 noting the differences between the two. The
11 comparison was prepared by the Legislative Counsel. Several of the differences include:

- 12 • H.360 calls for creating a new VT Community Broadband Committee vs S. 118 reforming Vermont Telcom
13 Authority which would include mobile telecommunications within their scope; and
- 14 • H.360 includes construction grant and subordinated debt program for CUDs (grants and loans to CUDs) vs. S. 118
15 includes requirements for public/private entities including mobile telecom and creation of revolving loan program.

16
17 E. Klofft will send out the comparison. There was a brief discussion about the bills and the timing. S. Coleman noted
18 ARPA likely will be released to communities by mid to late May or early June.

20 **Member Updates**

21 K. Millman reported the town has a May 11th vote on the Matrix proposal.

22
23 M.K. Raymond reported she attended the CUD Accelerator Program regarding utilities and found it very useful.

24
25 S. McGowan offered to reach out to his new federal contacts to help the group.

26
27 E. Klofft noted Enosburg Falls no longer has representation. S. Kio will meet with them next week. There was some
28 discussion about meeting with St. Albans Town, Swanton Village and Swanton Town.

29
30 S. Kio noted he spoke with representatives from Swanton Village Electric and Enosburg Falls Electric and they are
31 interested in what the CUD is doing.

33 **Other Business**

34 None.

36 **Public Comment**

37 None.

39 **Adjourn**

40 *J. Kane motioned to adjourn. E. McGinley seconded. Motion carried.*

41
42 Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.