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**Northwest Communications Union District  
Governing Board Special Meeting  
August 18, 2022 at 6:00pm-Meeting Minutes  
Virtual Meeting**

**Attendance**

See Attached.

**Call to Order and Adjustments of the Agenda**

Chair Z. Burdick called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. followed by roll call. A quorum was present to conduct business. No adjustments to the agenda.

**Public Comment**

Steve Whitaker announced his presence. He stated he would like the NWFx Governing Board to consider using a different virtual meeting platform such as Microsoft Teams. He also encouraged the board to think about integrating the use of another source other than fiber in the interim of our build until everyone can get fiber access.

**ISP Partnership (action needed)**

Z. Burdick stated that the Governing Board members received a letter earlier this week from NWFx staff to review prior to this meeting and asked Sean to recap. S. Kio reviewed the letter that let the board know the situation with Lamoille Fiber, and that they do not have a path forward financially with Google. We were contacted by Google Fiber earlier this week that our negotiations have come to an end, they could not move forward with just NWFx because our network does not meet their minimum address requirement. S. Kio stated that he met with the NWFx Executive Committee in addition to NWFx staff and had discussions on moving forward. While this is disappointing news there are benefits and we could emerge in a more favorable position. We have confirmation from our consultants at NRTC that we do not have to start from day zero, we will make modifications to our financial side and with some refocusing we can get back on track relatively quickly.

The board discussed that we in fact still have a solid business plan and explored options of continuing to own the fiber ourselves and entering a relationship with an ISP. We want to continue to ensure that the underserved get access to the internet. Discussions continued of our overall direction and potential ISP partnerships. Not every local ISP is comfortable with joining yet because our network is nonexclusive, and they want proof of concept. Options were discussed of getting other ISPs to join and other avenues for NWFx to take.

There were discussions amongst the board involving terminating our MOU with Lamoille Fiber so that we are not tied to them operationally and financially.

*S. McGowan motioned to terminate the MOU between Lamoille Fiber and NWFx. H. Jewett seconded. Motion carried.*

**Other Business**

S. Kio stated that he will provide the board members with a letter that we will use to notify the communities and select boards.

**Adjourn**

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*K. Millman motioned to adjourn. E. Breiland seconded. Motion carried.*

Meeting adjourned 7:12pm.

DRAFT

**Northwest Communications Union District  
Governing Board Special Meeting Attendance  
August 18, 2022**

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- Alburgh Town – Ken Millman, Stu McGowan
- Alburgh Village – J.R. Cox
- Bakersfield – Heather Jewett, Brenda Churchill
- Berkshire –Emily Grims
- Enosburg Falls Village – Absent
- Enosburgh Town – Jesse Weatherwax
- Fairfax –Scott Mitchell
- Fairfield – Absent
- Franklin –Susan Goetz
- Georgia – Zachary Burdick, Chair, Jeffrey Hathaway
- Grand Isle –Peter Southwick
- Highgate – Absent
- Isle La Motte – Absent
- Milton – Erik Breiland
- Montgomery – Absent
- North Hero – John Medamana, Leisa Fearing
- Richford – Michael Olio
- Sheldon – Jacob Kane
- South Hero – George Rice
- St. Albans Town – Steven Deal
- Swanton Town – Elisabeth Nance
- Swanton Village – Elisabeth Nance
- Staff – Sean Kio, Mary Kay Raymond, Chasidy Benjamin, Brad Lewis
- NRPC– Shaun Coleman
- Public – Steve Whitaker