



June 12, 2024 – 5:00 PM

**Executive Committee Meeting Meeting**

Video call link: <http://meet.google.com/dsx-okxj-foe>

<b>OTTER CREEK CUD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>			
<b>Town</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>	<b>Present/Absent</b>
Shrewsbury	Laura Black, Chair	2025	P
Mendon	Larry Courcelle, Vice Chair	2025	P
Benson	Steve Murray	2026	P
Sudbury	Mike Small	2025	P
Brandon	Peter Werner	2025	P
Hubbardton	Chris Custer	2025	P
Wells	Eleanor Jones, Secretary/Clerk	2025	P
	Jackie Savela, Treasurer	2025	P

1. Call to order - Start recording the meeting @5:01 pm.
2. Approval of agenda - Motion to approve agenda by Chris. Second by Larry. Motion approved.
3. Approval of previous meeting minutes - 5/08/24 - Motion to approve agenda by Eleanor. Second by Mike. Motion approved.
4. Chair Report on OCCUD business: GNS-update. CCI-update. Insurance Policy. Sustainability Planning\*. Summer In-Person meeting plans. New Reps for Rutland Town, Fair Haven. Unserved address in Wells (assign plan for).  
 GNS - Laura asked Heidi to help with website putting area color with descriptions, otherwise no updates from GNS. Chris Custer says fiber support cable is coming to his town.  
 Steve says Benson is moving along in the build out. Laura says her town does not start until July. State is asking for broadband data, Laura forwarded request to Brian Lynn and Scott Brooks.  
 Insurance Policy - DNO Directors and Officers insurance - which is coverage for the board and is protection from being sued. Its will be provided by Cincinnati Insurance Company and is just under \$1200 per year (3 year lock in). The policy covers everybody. Laura would like to have the full board approve this. Laura says we don't need to get another quote because the cost is below \$3000. Laura asks Peter if we still need the business policy and Peter says yes; that one is for bodily injury and property damage liability. Laura asked for a motion to bring the DNO Insurance quote to full board for approval. Mike made the comment that we have a professional on the executive board in Peter and thank goodness because he understands insurance a lot better than we do and we should trust his guidance.  
 Laura asked for a motion to bring the DNO Insurance quote to full board.

\* Executive Session - due to finding that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body 1 or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage, per 1 V.S.A. § 313 (1) (A).

Motion to bring before governing board by Steve. Second by Mike. Motion passed.  
Sustainability Planning - Skip.

Summer In-Person meeting plans - Leslie may have some info.

Rutland Town Reps - Laura says we have two members for Rutland Town; now just missing West Rutland. Goshen member will be back soon and have a new rep. for Fair Haven.

Laura now has a monthly meeting with VCBB staff. VCBB staff are charged with going over CUD KPI (Key Performance Indicators). Its essentially the information contained in the monthly grant report. Information for the upcoming month is also gathered.

Consolidated will join that monthly meeting initially. Formatting of monthly reports will be understood. These meetings will be on the fourth Thursday at 4:00 pm. Staff is now required to report to the board the progress of each CUD.

5. Chair Report on Vermont State items: CCI Sale; VCBB Policy on Affordability -

Laura attended VCBB meeting in person and says the VCBB Policy on Affordability was pulled. Laura thinks that perhaps Ms Groschner doesn't have the votes. All the CUDs would like to work with with Holly and have already drafted an affordability policy that we think is acceptable. The current policy says that each CUD shall develop their own Affordability Plan and Digital Equity Plan. No one wants to do that at the CUD level and instead think its a good idea to develop at the state level. It should happen at the state level so its applicable to all Vermonters instead of limited to CUD addresses. The other task at the VCBB level is that Occud needs to apply for all pre-construction funds. All those funds must be obligated by the end of the year.

A budget needs to be put together. Laura will work with Caleb, he helped put together the last budget. It will pull together all the money that is left, which is over \$100,000 (preconstruction).

CCI Sale - Its important that Consolidated keep up with pole maintenance and keeps up with make ready process. Other CUDs have to get all approvals for the make ready process and that can slow down the build process for CUDs. The PSC needs to stay aware of the process and push new owners in that regard.

Motion to go into executive session by Mike. Second by Chris. Motion passed @5:25 pm.  
Executive session ended @5:45 pm.

One address needs to be provided for in Wells @ 5565 Rt 31. Fabian may be able to contact providers. Steve says that Spectrum is there as cable. Laura says she can reach out to Southern Vermont about some odd addresses. Laura says this is on our to do list. All towns need to tell Occud where their free internet will be located. This information should go to Scott Brooks.

Laura would like to know if there are addresses that really need help with the distance between fiber connection at the road and to the home (distance greater than 500 ft). Also, Laura wants to know if there are any manufactured home parks that could have issues with installs. Laura would like to know if off-grid residences would like fiber or

satellite. She would like to know where and how many off-grid residences there are in Occud.

6. Website committee report. - Chris says the website is live. Mike says the new site looks really nice. He does wonder about GNS dates and would like them in there. Laura will need some help from Heidi or her staff. Laura would like to change availability button to lifeline information.
7. Warrant and Financials (Treasurer) s - Warrant not available because of email issue. Jackie says the total is \$767.00. Motion pay warrant for \$767.00 dated June 12, 2024 by Mike. Second by Peter. Motion approved.
8. Pre-Const Grant (H360) and Const Grant report (Vantage Point). - Jackie will ask Caleb to email Vantage Point invoice which will allow the warrant to be generated in time to allow viewing before meeting. Jackie and Laura got an email from Lisa Birmingham and they will refund a little less than \$600 that resulted from over billing from them.
9. Review Agenda Items for upcoming Governing Board meetings: Chair Report (see above), Financial report, Grant reports - Caleb won't have much of a grant report for June.
10. VCUDA update (VCUDA Rep) - Larry says they talked about legislative policy and CCI docket. VCUDA and VCBB staff will use a holistic approach to legislature. VCUDA has funded digital equity to date. A new vice-chair and secretary were elected. VCBB staff will be coming out with a final figure for ARPA funds; there are \$3 million in unallocated funds.  
RRPC will have a hybrid meeting/training June 26 @5:30 pm regarding the Vermont Open Meeting law.
11. VCBB update (Chair) - The state has returned \$30 million it had borrowed from VCBB.
12. Other Business - Laura suggests that perhaps the Governing Board can move to less frequent meetings. Also, we need to buy the D&O insurance.
13. Next meeting July 10, 2024
14. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn by Mike. Second by Larry. Motion approved @6:15 pm.

Google Meet joining info:

Video call link: <http://meet.google.com/dsx-okxj-foe>

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