

June 19, 2024 – 5:00 PM

<https://meet.google.com/iwi-guxi-unz>

## Governing Board Meeting Minutes

2024 - Otter Creek CUD Governing Board Representatives & Alternates:					
TOWN	REP NAME / ALT NAME	P/A/X	TOWN	REP NAME / ALT NAME	P/A/X
Benson	Steve Murray / Lynn Bowen	P	Pittsford	Brett Mullin / Greg Hiltz	A
Brandon	Peter Werner / Bill Moore	P	Poultney	Mark Teetor / Terry Williams	A
Castleton	Leslie Cadwell / Ted Molnar	P	Rutland Town	Dannielle Mumma / Andrew Palmer	A
Chittenden	Andrew Quint	A	Rutland City	Alex Adams	A
Fair Haven	Jason Coupol	P	Shrewsbury	Laura Black, Chair	P
Goshen	Tyler Davidson-Toman	X P	Sudbury	Mike Small / Tom Myer	P
Hubbardton	Chris Custer	P	Wells	Eleanor Jones, Secretary / Sharon Corey	P
Mendon	Larry Courcelle, Vice Chair/ Valerie Taylor	P	West Haven	Jennifer Book / Kerry Ellis	P
Pawlet	Jessica Van Oort	P	West Rutland	No Appointment	X
Jackie Savela, 2023 OCCUD Treasurer		P			
P= Present, A= Absent, X=No 2024 Appointment Received (Goshen appointment pending receipt of signed form) Guest: None					

1. Roll call, confirm quorum - Confirmed.
2. Call to order - Start Recording - 5:04pm.
3. Approval of agenda - Motion to approve by Peter. Second by Larry. Motion passed.
4. Public input (limited to 3 minutes per presenter) - None.
5. Welcome new members: New members from Rutland Town (Dannielle Mumma / Andrew Palmer), Fair Haven (Jason Coupol), Pittsford (Brett Mullin / Greg Hiltz) and also mentioned Kerry Ellis (alt for West Haven).
6. Approval of previous meeting minutes –5.15.24 - Motion to approve previous meeting minutes by Eleanor. Second by Steve. Motion passed.
7. Financials (Treasurer/VP): Review approved Warrant. VCUDA dues. - Exec committee approved the warrant of \$767.00.
8. Report from Exec Committee Mtg –
  - DNO Insurance - Exec Bd recommends approving DNO Insurance proposal. Motion req'd. - Peter explains that D & O Insurance provides liability coverage for board director, officers and members during a lawsuit when complaint is that board officers or members have made a wrong decision. Premium is \$1196.00 for \$1 million in coverage. Leslie asks that we confirm the policy does suit our organization (as a public entity, not a non-profit). Motion to accept the policy and allow the chair to sign it based on the information that Peter will provide to us assuming the policy is approved/acceptable by Larry. Second by Chris. Motion passed.
9. Chair Report - GNS-update. CCI-update. CCI Sale. Sustainability planning. KPI Meetings with VCBB (4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays @ 4). FPF-Join?, post announcement.

We are only meeting virtually.

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GNS provided map and Laura will update with dates. GNS has been meeting with towns. Mike says GNS/Sudbury will be done by July 17. CCI will not be done with Sudbury till end of year. Tom says that GNS has some forms for customers to facilitate contact. Also, Tom says the selectboard did ask questions.

CCI is working on providing a cost for nine addresses that GNS will not serve. Laura needs that quote so she can request funds by July. Scott Brooks has been reaching out to towns.

Kerry asks when CCI would be in West Haven. Laura will have Scott contact Kerry.

CCI sale is moving along. There have been requests for reporting. Information is available on the PUCs website. Chittenden may want to join group for sustainability planning.

Sustainability planning is ongoing with Occud, Lamoille and Southern Vermont. Chittenden CUD may go for grant funding.

KPI, Key Performance Indicator meetings are now required with VCBB staff (4 th Thursday).

Front Porch Forum write up by Mike will help to get broadband news out to our towns. Laura will have FPF rep. contact Mike. Motion to open an account with FPF and to post the outreach statement made by Eleanor. Second by Chris. Motion passed.

- Public hot-spot locations for each town -  
CCI and GNS are looking for contact information for each town for public wifi hotspot. Email that information to Laura. Laura suggests the location have emergency power and also needs fiber available. According to Chris, towns can purchase wifi hardware/software to provide wifi access similar to what is offered in public schools (no porn/other types of websites).
- Applying for allocated pre-const funds. Letter of intent to VCBB by July 7. -  
The funds are for the 9 addresses and one out of state address (working with Southern Vermont).
- Any locations where residents may have trouble affording installation costs? (very long driveway, mobile home park). -  
Occud's mission is to provide broadband to everyone. Individuals who can't afford the installation (very long driveway or mobile home park) should contact Occud. The distance for a fiber run to a home is 500 ' for CCI and GNS is 750'.  
Mike reminds that Lifeline is available to qualifying individuals.
- How many off-grid, full-time resident addresses in each town?
- Consider less frequent meetings of the Governing Board. Quarterly?  
Laura suggests that we could consider quarterly meetings in the future. Mike thinks once builds are done, quarterly would be good. Leslie says we need to be mindful of budget/statute requirements. Tom says maybe we can wait till August or September to have a meeting. Steve says we can try every other month. We are meeting in July.

#### 10. Summer In-person meeting plans.

There is no internet access at state parks, but we could have an in person meeting. Maybe go to the golf course at Lake St Catherine. Laura did a poll, most do want an in person meeting. Right now planning for a July in person meeting.

#### 11. Website committee report.

Chris says new site is online and working good. Mike is blocking foreign countries. Laura thanks Jessica for her work also. Leslie really likes the new site.

#### 12. Grant Reports – next quarterly report will be in July (Vantage Point) – none.

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13. VCUDA update (Chair)

Meeting on June 18. They are looking for Digital Equity input. Putting together a coalition workshop questioning VCUDAs roll. The coalition needs to engage VCBB. They are looking at next steps – legislative and policy and working on a submission to Vermont Futures Project, working on the affordability policy. There was a request for a CCI docket answer. They are preparing positions for next years legislative session. There are 25,000 unserved or underserved addresses in Vermont still outstanding. Chittenden CUD will not own assets. Might be challenging to include Chittenden in the Occud, So VT, Lamoille sustainability plan.

14. VCBB update (Chair)

The in person meeting that all CUD chairs attended did not address the Affordability policy because that item was pulled off. NEK and CVFiber are merging. Discussion of rules to apply for ARPA funding.

15. Other Business - Look for the in person meeting in July.

16. Set Next Governing Board Meeting – July 17, 2024

Adjourn