



August 21, 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	TOWN	REP NAME / ALT NAME	P/A
Benson	Steve Murray / Lynn Bowen	A	Pittsford	Brett Mullin / Greg Hiltz	A
Brandon	Peter Werner / Bill Moore	P	Poultney	Mark Teetor / Terry Williams	P
Castleton	Leslie Cadwell / Ted Molnar	P	Rutland Town	Dannielle Mumma / Andrew Palmer	P
Chittenden	Andrew Quint	P	Rutland City	Alex Adams	A
Fair Haven	Jason Coupol	A	Shrewsbury	Laura Black , Chair	P
Goshen	Tyler Davidson-Toman	P	Sudbury	Mike Small / Tom Myer	P
Hubbardton	Chris Custer	P	Wells	/ Sharon Corey?	A
Mendon	Larry Courcelle , Vice Chair / Valerie Taylor	P	West Haven	Jennifer Book / Kerry Ellis	A
Pawlet	Jessica Van Oort	P	West Rutland	<i>No Appointment</i>	
Jackie Savela , OCCUD Treasurer P					
P= Present, A= Absent					

Governing Board Meeting Agenda:

1. Roll call, confirm quorum.
2. Call to order, and Recording started at 5:02
3. *Approval of agenda.* Chair asked to move agenda item #7, ‘OCCUD Business and Report from Exec Committee’ to start right after Approval of Agenda. Motion by Matt, second by Chris. Unanimous approval.
4. *OCCUD business and Report from Executive Committee meeting –*
 - *Clerk, Executive Committee member, Wells rep has resigned.* Laura reports that Wells selectboard chair is working on finding a new representative for Wells. The Wells alternate has not responded to Laura’s email inquiries of her participation, so Laura assumes she is also not available to represent Wells.
 - *Nominate and vote for Executive Committee member.* Mike Small nominated Leslie Cadwell, seconded by Larry. Leslie accepted the nomination. No further discussion nor nominations were made. Vote was unanimous (except for recusal from voting by Leslie) for Leslie Cadwell to serve on the Executive Committee.
 - *Application for allocated pre-construction funds, and budget for 2026.* Laura presented the draft letter and the budget spreadsheet for review and discussion (no motion needed as the board

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has already approved the Chair to move forward with the application for pre-construction funds). Laura described that VCBB staff said that the pre-construction funds, from our grant award term through 2025, that we don't use will be able to be accessed in 2026 if needed. There were no questions on the budget developed for 2026, nor on the draft letter to VCBB requesting those funds for 2026.

- *Relinquishing allocated construction funds.* (in previous item, Laura described the brief “story” of why OCCUD has leftover construction funds, in response to question by Leslie). Laura shared the draft letter to VCBB stating our intent to relinquish our remaining Construction allocation., including our Materials allocation. Discussion followed,
 - i. *Question* - If we don't relinquish the funds, we would have to present a plan to use the funds by Sept 31 (later Laura learned that the date for presenting a plan is later than Sept 31, but the grant would need to awarded by December 31, so would need to be approved in an earlier VCBB board meeting.
 - ii. *Question* - *What happens with these funds?* Laura describes that the funds would be able to be allocated to other CUDs or be used for VCBB's new program to funds service drops for Vermont residents. It would be up the VCBB how remaining funds get used.
 - iii. *Question* – *will the funds be available to OCCUD after we relinquish them?* Laura understands that once the funds are gone (relinquished) they are then unavailable to OCCUD.
 - iv. *Question* - *Do we need to consider a contingency fund? What if something comes up what if the contractor finds out they need more money (this sometimes happens on Municipal projects).* Laura describes that several points to put our mind at rest – Good solid contract with CCI. CCI remains under budget; two additional bunches of addresses have been added and CCI says they will serve them without needing additional grant funds. CCI is close to being completed with OCCUD construction.
 - v. Motion to move forward with letter to VCBB to relinquish remaining construction funds by Mark, seconded by Peter. Board voted unanimously in approval.
- *Financials: Review Warrant approved at Executive Committee meeting 8/14/24.* Laura presented and briefly reviewed the Warrant. Jackie informs us that the Primer PE&C always come in as two invoices because of the shared costs with other cuds for legal services. No discussion.
- *FPF Post for September.* Mike describes that next post we can submit will be for September, and solicits for any ideas, suggestions. Mark asks if we can get more than one post per month – answer is ‘no.’ Mark says he may put a post in for his town (Poultney). Laura describes how helpful the FPF posts have been to link our constituents to OCCUD (website/email contact) for



help on any issues, help to escalate issues, and/or just to be a liaison to our partners. Mike will draft something for FPF and send it out for suggestion.

- *Website has been updated –Schedule and note on Meetings page.*

~ Two members had left the meeting by 5:45 pm, so no quorum for remainder of the meeting. The following notes are for information only. ~

- *Grant Reports* - no report other than the

5. *Public input.* No public present.

6. *Approval of previous meeting minutes –7.17.24.* Tabled to September 18. (Larry notes that the minutes were very detailed!)

7. GNS Update.

- *Reminder for public hot-spot locations for each town.*
- *GNS build in Benson areas is delayed due to poles that need to be replaced/installed by GMP.*
- *Discussion to try to liaise with GMP to just make contact. Suggestions to contact VCBB, GNS for a contact. Website now says ‘TBD’ for schedule.*

8. CCI Update.

- *Reminder for public hot-spot locations for each town.*
- CCI will soon release for sales Castleton, Rutland, West Rutland. Jessica reports that CCI project manager met with Pawlet selectboard and reported that Pawlet will be done by end of September and residents can sign up now. Several members have seen Fidium labelled trucks in the CCI territory towns.
- Note that the Fidium website pricing is not up right now because they are running promotions in several areas.

9. *VCUDA update (Vice-Chair)* - Aug 13 was last meeting. A Tarley is off to another position but will still be available for VCUDA meetings.

10. *VCBB update (Chair)* –

- The Affordability Policy was adopted unanimously. Laura says that it was revised significantly and is acceptable to CUDs now. Laura suggests that we can see the Affordability Policy on the VCBB website. Mike asks whether there has been any discussion at VCBB mentioning the New York legislation passed on affordability.
- Lamoille’s Sustainability plan (which is also OCCUD’s and there was some discussion which was favorable. Both Rep Sbalia and H Groshner spoke favorably. VCBB will be able to vote on approving Lamoille’s Sustainability plan at the September Board meeting. OCCUD will also be presenting our Sustainability plan in September.

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- Also, Laura described VCUDA's draft of an Affordability Pledge. At last VCUDA legislative meeting, there was work on wording of this Pledge.

11. Other Business –

- Laura describes the one Wells address which neither CCI nor GNS can serve. Laura has been in discussion with VCBP for the strategy to serve this address or to remove this address from our USP. VCBP is helping us with this.

12. Set Next Governing Board Meeting – September 18, 2024

13. Adjourn at 6:03 pm