

Clerk's Report for 10/11/23

- **Preconstruction Grant Monthly Reporting to VCBB:** Ann Janda submitted August financial report and status to VCBB via VCBB's WiseHive portal.
- **9/19 VCUDA Meeting:** Jeff Nevins of MBI attended meeting in Ann and Regina Mahony's absence. Jeff's meeting notes are pasted below.
- **9/27 Meeting with VCUDA Consultant:** Ann Janda, Charlie Baker, and Regina Mahony met with Denise Sullivan who is gathering information for VCUDA to prepare an RFP for finance/HR consulting for VCUDA members. Denise suggested that we get more involved with VCBB meetings regarding issues that concern us, such as annual reporting and lien requirements. MBI attended VCBB's subcommittee meeting on the lien requirement. The meeting on annual reporting was cancelled (new date TBD). Denise also suggested that we consider crafting our contracts with one or more ISPs to include some ongoing revenue to pay for administrative costs (such as VCUDA dues, administrative support, etc). She also encouraged us to think about whether we plan to own the infrastructure. VCBB is confirming the requirements of ARPA and BEAD funding.
- **10/3 VCUDA Meeting:** Ann Janda and Jeff Nevins of MBI attended meeting.
 - **Finance committee** working on gap funding between ARPA (VCBB) grants and BEAD funding. Denise Sullivan finished discovery phase, preparing presentation on findings.
 - **Digital Equity Subgroup:** Vernonburg Group did survey and finalized 67-page demographic report on affordability and accessibility. Discussion about which entity should take the lead on standing up a digital equity program. VCBB will receive \$5M/year for this. Britaney Watson of VCBB will follow up on the timing of funding.
 - Next meeting will talk about accountability policy workgroups
- **VCBB Check-in:** Ann Janda and Jeff Nevins met with VCBB staff. Information of note:
 - BEAD funding prefers fiber. However, if there is no reasonable fiber bid, would consider any bid that meets the required speeds.
 - Mapping: MBI should get new data from Fidium Fiber
 - ISPs are working on their build plans now
 - For VCBB Construction Grant, will need a complete plan for entire district
 - Going forward, Ann and Jeff will meet with VCBB staff every two weeks.
- **Emails from residents:** Ann Janda received two emails asking when the CCCUD will provide them with high-speed internet service – one in Underhill, the other in Essex. According to MBI, most likely the earliest would be the latter part of 2025 or first half of 2026.

Respectfully submitted by

Ann Janda

CCCUD Clerk

Vermont Communications Union District Association (VCUDA) Board Meeting
Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 9:00 – 10:00 am

Introduced CPA Denise Sullivan who discussed her role in assisting VCUDA and upcoming RFPs for financial support for the CUDs.

VCUDA Business –

Digital Equity Grant Stakeholder Meetings (Jennille) – Group has met once (9/6) and will meet once per month going forward. Discussion followed around what is covered under the BEAD umbrella of Digital Equity and how much funding the State will get. Rob V. reported Vermont should get approximately \$20M but won't see any funds until Q2 of 2024. The State's DE plan is due in March 2024. It seems like the CUDs will get a share of the funds.

Legislative and Policy Committee Report (Rob) – The group is in the beginning stages of sorting through multiple ideas and objectives for the upcoming session. The committee will begin prioritizing the ideas to present a list of goals by the end of the year. There was mention of an email by Ann W. (?) that provides a good history of the CUDs that could help guide the legislative process and help understand the background of CUDs in Vermont.

Finance Committee Report (Christa) – Denise is on the team now and figuring out her role. Will be reaching out to legislative contacts (VT Bankers, etc...) *Not a lot of detail...*

Make Ready Committee Report (Rob) – Reported on the status – and importance – of the MOU with Green Mountain Power.

Subcommittee Rosters and New Subcommittees (Andrew) – Discussion around all the committees and sub-committees of VCUDA/VCBB and a list was provided. A suggestion was made asking if anyone wanted to volunteer to serve on the committees to come forward. Andrew T. was asked to do an org chart of all the committees to help this process.

VCBB Staff Updates - Alexei Monsarrat – who is replacing Lucy Rogers – was introduced and he spoke about learning his new role.

Other Business/Comments - BEAD timetable was outlined...Vol. I sent to NTIA last week. Vol. II comment period is starting.

Question was asked about new FCC Commissioner Ann Gomez and some of the people on the call talked about their experiences with her.

CV Fiber announced its first subscribers (approximately 200) are online.

F.X. reported that USAC has confirmed the RDOF commitment of EC Fiber and their continued funding as a result.