

LAMOILLE FIBERNET COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT

Executive Committee: Emergency Meeting

Wednesday, Aug 5, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Action Items

Who	What	When	Status
Tim H. and Lucy R.	Complete letter to PSD	By Friday, Aug 7th	

Attending members

Jeff Tilton, Jane Campbell, Tim Humphrey, Doug Molde, Lea Kilvadyova

Also attending

Lucy Rogers, Charlotte Reber, Jack Wool, Clay Purvis (Director of Telecommunications and Connectivity Division at PSD) and Rob Fish Rural Broadband TA Specialist at PSD)

Call to Order

8:01 a.m. by Jeff Tilton

Agenda Changes

None

Public Comment

To occur during the discussion about proposals

Review of July 29, 2020 minutes

Jane Campbell moved and Tim Humphrey seconded the motion to approve the July 29th minutes. Jane, Tim and Jeff Tilton voted yes. Doug Molde abstained. Vote: 3-0-1

Review of ISP proposals for utilization of CARES act broadband funds in LF CUD territory

Lea Kilvadyova summarized that she received a notification on Monday afternoon of the following proposals to the COVID-19 Emergency Connectivity Initiative and Get Vermonters Connected Now Initiative: VTEL wireless buildout in Jeffersonville and Cambridge (app 450 addresses) Mansfield Community Fiber fiber optic buildout in Cambridge, Waterville, Johnson and Eden (app 1,000 addresses), and two small line extension projects from Comcast in Johnson and Morrisville. CUDs have 7 business days to raise objections. The final decision is with the Commissioner.

Clay Purvis acknowledged that the process is moving incredibly quickly. In making

decisions, PSD has to consider CUDs' objections as well as the legislative mandate to expand service to underserved locations. Rob Fish added that under the current law, any project to be funded with the CARES act funds has to complete the buildout by the end of the year. Rob added that the December completion deadline could be extended. MC Fiber's proposal includes an in-service date of April 1, 2021 for all Lamoille locations and as such does not qualify for the CARES act funding.

Doug Molde asked about the criteria for distributing the federal CARES act funding. Clay cited priority addresses which are those with speeds below 25/3 Mbps and without good access to remote learning, telehealth or remote working. Respondents whose basic internet subscription package offered through this program provides less than one (1) Terabyte of monthly un-throttled data will have their proposals penalized in scoring.

Jeff Tilton stated that the list of addresses proposed to be served in Waterville includes camps, vacant properties and properties without access to power.

Doug Molde was concerned that the proposals do not offer universal coverage and create pockets that remain underserved.

Tim Humphrey said that we should be careful about opposing competitors that have a high-quality offering. Jane Campbell added that they are competitors but can become partners. Tim said he would be comfortable opposing the VTel's proposal but not MC Fiber's.

Lucy Rogers presented a draft letter to send to PSD. Committee reviewed and considered the letter a good start.

Jane Campbell moved and Doug Molde seconded the motion to conceptually accept Lucy's letter and have Tim and Lucy finalize the letter to reflect the Committee discussion. The letter will be presented to the Governing Board for review and acceptance and then sent to Commissioner Tierney. Vote: 4-0-0.

Adjourn

Tim Humphrey moved, Jane Campbell seconded to adjourn at 9:05. Vote: 4-0-0