



## LAMOILLE FIBERNET COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT

Via Zoom

April 21, 2021 at 7:30 pm

**7:31 Michael called the meeting to order.**

**Agenda additions:**

- April board meeting agenda (Jane)
- Special May board meeting for the new appointments? (Doug)
- LECAP program (Stephen)

**Public comment:**

Lucy shared that Ted Lancaster is a guest from Waterville.

**7:37 Roll Call**

*Executive Committee:* Michael Rooney, Jane Campbell, Doug Molde, Larry Lackey

*Public:* Lucy Rogers, Ted Lancaster, Christine Hallquist, Stephen Friedman, John Meyer, Paul Warden, Carol Caldwell-Edmonds

**7:40 May Organizational Meeting for Office and Executive Committee Appointments**

Jane moved, Doug seconded, for a special governing board meeting the second Tuesday in May to align with statute. Unanimous in favor, no abstentions.

**7:43 Potential April 28 Governing Board Meeting Agenda Items**

- Reminder to submit Selectboard appointments paperwork
- We will continue to think on it and send ideas to Christine
- Potential projects for Federal funds going to towns

**7:47 LECAP**

- LECAP (Line Extension Consumer Assistance Program) is re-opening with additional funding; not yet known if application criteria will change or if the funding will only target previous applications that weren't fulfilled due to the CARES deadline.
- Marketing & Communications Committee will post LECAP info when it's available.
- Stephen and Stowe alternates will research whether/how LECAP can benefit Lamoille FiberNet, e.g., areas with conduit.

**8:01 Consent Agenda**

Jane moved, Doug seconded to approve the April 7, 2021 Executive Committee minutes.  
Unanimous in favor, no abstentions.

**FYI Updates:** With the 2024 deadline for federally funded broadband projects, there will be shortages in materials and contractors. This creates the urgency for moving ahead with construction phasing and the RFP.

H.315 has become law; it includes \$1.6 million for immediate preconstruction costs for CUDs. Applying for this is a high priority for Lamoille FiberNet.

### **8:12 Construction phasing**

In the proposed network construction phasing, grant funds will help build our assets and generate three full years of operation once we go to the bond market. The money from the infrastructure plan can allow a year or two of growth, then those assets can be used to extend the network, and by the third year borrowing in the bond market should be possible.

### **8:24 RFP for Full-Service ISP partner**

The proposed RFP establishes:

- how we will measure our partners' performance — ultimately, their performance reflects on the CUD and its ability to generate revenues and expand its network.
- that we will use GPON, which has fewer failure points and does not rely on power, as active optical networks do.
- that we want a partner with human redundancy, who is willing to grow with us.

The RFP targets our long-term partnership(s), even as we consider an immediate partner(s) for purposes such as our NBRC grant application.

There is a strong overlap between the RFP and the charge of the Partnership Task Force. This RFP would set the agenda for the PTF.

Suggested changes to the RFP:

- Include ability to change regions of construction, to accommodate areas built by others, areas related to NBRC grant, etc.
- Include legal review of RFP (use Green Mtn. Fund grant funds first)
- Verify LCPC's support for years 1, 2, 3 (Christine will verify)
- Include Lamoille FiberNet demographic information (Larry and Jane will send to Christine; info is also in draft business plan).
- Note that the LCPC business plan for Lamoille FiberNet is only a draft; final plan approval will take place after RISI consultation (within a few weeks).
- Include a request for a specific response format, to make assessment of responses more efficient.
- Correct Appendices.

- Note that we would strongly prefer to own the passive portions of the network but are willing to consider alternate proposals and ask respondents to be clear re which entity will own which assets.

The committee thanked Christine for drafting such a comprehensive and timely RFP.

Jane moved, Doug seconded, to approve having Christine finalize this RFP and move it forward the timeline outlined in the RFP, and also to approve the phased construction plan as presented. Unanimous in favor, no abstentions.

**9:35** Motion to Adjourn

Jane moved to adjourn; Doug seconded. Unanimous in favor, no abstentions.