



**LAMOILLE FIBERNET COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT**  
**EXECUTIVE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**September 15, 2022 at 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**Online Virtual Meeting Only**

**7:02 pm Call to Order & Roll Call** - Vice Chair Jeff Tilton called the meeting to order. Members present were Stephen Friedman, Paul Warden, Teelah Hall and Jeff Tilton. Other Board members attending included Randy Tomlin and Andy Ross. Staff included Val Davis, Lisa Birmingham, Fabian Bourgeois.

**7:03 pm Agenda Changes** - No changes.

**7:03 pm Public Comment** - No comments.

**7:04 pm Approval of September 1, 2022 Minutes** – Stephen Friedman moved, and Paul Warden seconded, approval of the September 1 minutes. Hearing no discussion, the Chair called the question. All approved; none opposed.

**7:05 pm Executive Director Update** – Val reported and shared pictures of the delivery of 100 miles of fiber - 8 spools of 144 strand and 4 spools of 48 count - to Vermont Electric Coop in Johnson; four spools, not yet delivered, are expected this fall. Val noted that discussions regarding the NRTC contract for the design build is moving forward and currently being discussed internally at NRTC. He further noted that LFCUD and NRTC had two very productive meetings this week which will be discussed later tonight.

**7:06 pm Michael Rooney** joined the meeting.

**7:07 pm Letters of Support for Middle Mile Project(s) - Discussion, Possible Decision on Recommendation** - Val explained the Middle Mile project which VCBB and others would be submitting applications, the difference between the middle mile and last mile, the general benefits to Vermont and LFCUD of a resilient middle mile, and the VCBB's request for support of its application prior to the September Governing Board meeting. The committee briefly discussed the project and draft letter. Val noted that he did not think formal action by either the EFC or the Governing Board was necessary for him to submit a letter of support. Stephen Friedman, agreeing no formal Board action was necessary and noting that the EFC was empowered to authorize time sensitive action, moved to support the issuance of a letter of support for the VCB[B] *sic* application for BEAD financing for the middle mile. Paul Warden seconded. Hearing no discussion, the vote



was called. All in favor; none opposed.

**7:19 pm Additional ED updates** - Before moving on to the next agenda item, Val noted VCUDA had made progress on the municipal advisor, and asked Stephen Friedman to share the update. Stephen explained that a consultant had been identified and the open issue was how to pay for services. They were exploring whether it could be an assessment by VCUDA or directly to individual CUDs. Stephen would review material and update the committee.

Val also reported that the RFQ for audit had one response, which was from Sullivan Powers, and he would be following up. The scope of work would include audits of 2021, 2022, and 2023, including a single federal audit for 2022 and 2023. Val concluded his ED update noting that VCUDA had retained a new administrator, Rob Vietzke.

**7:23 pm Community Feedback re: Pivot from Google Fiber, Open Access, Universal Service, Next Steps - Discussion** - Val reported that he has had no responses from his letter to the town managers and town offices and asked if others were hearing or needing anything. Michael Rooney expressed disappointment that there was little response or feedback and questioned whether we were getting our message out and if people understood. Members discussed the media coverage, and the disconnect between the headlines and what actually happened. The committee then shifted focus to the public's level of interest in what happens next, and public meetings held and to be held.

**7:29 pm Status Update NRTC Business Model and Strategic Options - Discussion, Possible Executive Session** – Stephen Friedman moved, and Paul Warden seconded that the committee move into executive session to discuss our draft business model and options within it because premature disclosure could result in a competitive disadvantage to the CUD, and that those who are a part of that executive session include Randy Tomlin, Jeff Tilton, Teelah Hall, Michael Rooney. Val Davis, Paul Warden, Fabian Bourgeois, Andrew Ross, Lisa Birmingham, and myself, Stephen Friedman. The Chair called the vote: all in favor; none opposed.

**8:08 pm** – Noting that no actions follow the executive session, Jeff called for any further discussion on other business.

Val noted that Stephen and he were presenting to the Stowe Selectboard on September 19. In regard to future business, Stephen requested that LFCUD and its member towns consider, and act on, a number of policy issues: requiring communications conduit in all roads, public or private, where utilities must be underground; requiring spare conduit in MDUs or installing fiber instead of copper. He noted a new low-income tax credit development in Morrisville that was built with only twisted pair in mind. Jeff Tilton recommended talking with LCPC and town planning commissions, so they might incorporate such modifications into their town plans. There was consensus to support broadband friendly construction policies and building codes.



**8:14 pm Agenda for September GB meeting** - Val suggested the budget, draft business plan, drop policy, and perhaps some bylaw changes relating to ethics, and committee composition for agenda items. Randy recommended that the first item on the agenda be the new business plan to ensure it received sufficient deliberation. Lisa suggested there be a discussion on the definition of open access and universal service to ensure common understanding. Recognizing that the agenda would be packed, Jeff Tilton recommended that policy issues be highlighted for Jane to consider in case certain items needed to be postponed.

After noting that EFC would meet on Wednesdays following the September Board meeting and reviewing the schedule for the Q4 Governing Board meetings, including the Wednesday, November 23 Board Meeting, Val suggested that the Governing Board consider, and add to its September agenda, postponing the November Meeting until after Thanksgiving.

**8:21 pm Wrap Up and Adjournment** – Hearing no further discussion, Paul Warden moved to adjourn; Stephen Friedman seconded. The Chair called the question; all in favor; none opposed.

**Adjourned.**

###