

Vermont Community Broadband Board Special Meeting Monday, February 6, 2024, 11:00am – 12:00pm

Draft Meeting Minutes

I. The meeting had a delay of ten (10) minutes start time.

II. Meeting Call to Order, Roll Call, and Approval of Agenda

Dan Nelson called the meeting to order at 11:15am and completed roll call.:

- Patty Richards (Not Present)
- Laura Sibilia (Remote)
- Brian Otley (Remote)
- Holly Groschner (Remote)
- Dan Nelson (Remote)
- Christine Hallquist - Staff (Remote)
- Robert Fish – Staff (Remote)
- Alissa Matthews – Staff (Remote)
- Toni Clithero – Staff (Remote)
- Heryn Herzog – Staff (Remote)
- Britaney Watson – Staff (Remote)
- Lucie Fortier – Staff (Remote)
- Alexei Monsarrat - Staff (Remote)
- Thomas Malinowski – Staff (Remote)

Dan Nelson made a motion to approve the agenda. Christine Hallquist requested to make changes to the agenda and combine item 4(H.657 and S181 Testimony This Week) and 2 (Budget Adjustment Act – H.839 – Update on the return of the \$20M for BEAD Match) together. Also, move Gwynn Zakov's presentation (Legislative Update Presentation) first and then do staff recommendations.

Dan approved.

Toni Clithero requested to add public comments at the end.

Dan responded, if there was time.

The modified agenda was approved unanimously.

III. Legislative issue with ACP funding

Christine said the legislature is taking up the issue because of the possible ending of the ACP funding. It's created a sense of urgency in terms of asking for the VCBB to come up with some recommendations. Christine asked Gwynn Zakov to present the legislative update. After, Christine stated that staff will make policy recommendations.

IV. Gwynn Zakov – Legislative Update

[Gwynn presented](#) the bills in question, including H.839, H.755, S.199, H.575, S.181, H.657. Holly asked if it was only about the bills mentioned in the agenda. Gwynn answered yes and mentioned that there's overlap on some of the bills that are in one chamber or the other (at the legislature), they're identical bills.

Holly asks where the confidentiality language is. Gwynn responded that it's in the bill or rather in both bills. (H.755/S.199) Gwynn wanted to highlight this for the Board. Holly requested that the confidentiality language be sent to the Board at a future date.

Holly asks Gwynn what is the source of the bill?

Gwynn responds that there are several points of origin and sponsors to the bill.

Holly requests to move into executive session. "I moved to move into executive session on the grounds that what we're about to describe is a strategy position that may or may not impact our ability to follow our grant program. And therefore, premature release of this information might be disruptive either to our strategic position or to our ability to administer our programs."

Toni agrees.

Brian seconds the motion.

Legislative Update Presentation - Executive Session - Premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body, or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage (1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(f))

Executive session ended at approximately 1:00. Toni announced they came out of executive session without taking any action and no longer had a quorum of the Board so were going to close the meeting.

Press inquiries; please contact Herryn Herzog, Herryn.herzog@vermont.gov, (802) 522-3396.