

**Vermont Community Broadband Board Draft Meeting Minutes**  
**Meetings are being held virtually.**  
**July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**I. Call To Order – 1:03pm**

**Roll call completed by Patty Richards**

Patty Richards, Chair (Remote)  
Brian Otley (Remote)  
Holly Groschner (Remote)  
Dan Nelson (Remote)  
Laura Sibia (Remote)  
Christine Hallquist - Staff (Remote)  
Stan Macel – Staff (Remote)  
Robert Fish – Staff (Remote)  
Alissa Matthews – Staff (Remote)

Patty Richards made a motion to approve the agenda, Holly Groschner seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**II. Maple Broadband Presentation, Q&A, & Board Decision**

Christine Hallquist introduced Maple Broadband to provide a brief overview of their District and their Proposed Universal Service Plan.

Magna Dodge presented an overview of the Maple Broadband CUD and their request for \$8.68 million of funding for their Phase 1 project for 180.6 miles to serve 1,789 addresses. Key points Magna highlighted included:

- 20 member towns in Addison County with 17,318 E-911 addresses in the District
- Following an RFP, an operating agreement was formed with Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom who will provide universal service to 2,877 underserved addresses in their ILEC territory that is part of Maple Broadband's Universal Service Plan which has a total of 5,898 underserved addresses.
- Maple Broadband has prepared to begin construction in Q3 2022 upon approval of funding by securing fiber cable for up to 200miles and additional deliveries in progress of network electronics for 3 network hubs and other materials. Phase 1 make-ready is in progress and an RFP for construction bids opened July 13<sup>th</sup> with a goal to start construction in September.
- A marketing contract is ready for execution and an Executive Director has been selected.

Christine Hallquist suggested remaining questions regarding confidential financial and business plan details should be discussed in Executive Session.

Patty Richards invited the Board, VCBB Staff, VCBB's 3rd party fiber optics consultants from CTC, and members of the Maple Broadband Executive Committee and their partners into Executive Session as 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)

Patty Richards confirmed no action was made in Executive Session and made a motion to approve Maple Broadband's Act 71 Construction Grant request for \$8,680,000, with the condition on grant dollars not being used for served areas other than incidental overbuild. Laura Sibilgia seconded. Three Board Members voted in favor, two voted no, and the motion passed approving the grant award.

Holly Groschner left the meeting at 2:57pm

### **III. Public Input**

There were no public comments.

Laura Sibilgia requested adding the topic of creating a video documenting the work being done across the Vermont to the parking lot for a future meeting agenda item.

### **IV. VCUDA Update**

F.X. Flinn was present to provide an update from VCUDA. Due to time constraints Patty Richards asked to postpone the VCUDA update to the next meeting.

### **V. Approval of July 1, 2022 Draft Minutes**

With Holly Groschner absent, there was not a quorum of Board Members present at the July 1, 2022 meeting to vote and the Board postponed approval to the next meeting.

### **VI. Motion to Adjourn**

Patty Richards made a motion to adjourn, Brian Otley seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 3:01pm.