



Telecommunications & Connectivity Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

July 19th, 2019 Meeting

9:30 am – 10:30 am DPS 112 State Street, GIGA Conference Room, Montpelier, VT

Attendees:

1. David Snedeker – Chair of the Board, Northeastern Vermont Development Association
2. Ashlynn Doyon – Executive Assistant, State Treasurer
3. Robert T. White- AOT
4. Katherine Sims – Director of Northeast Kingdom Collaborative
5. Evan Carlson – Do North Coworking
6. Corey Chase – Telecommunications Specialist, Dept. of Public Service
7. Michael DeHart- Telecommunications & Connectivity Staff, Dept. of Public Service
8. Ken Jones – Surrogate for Michael Schirling, ACCD

Item	Item Description	Action By
1.0	Call to Order at 10:10 am	Chair Snedeker
2.0	Meeting Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corrections• Motion to Approve	
3.0	New Business: <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Agenda Changes<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Provide update on Microcell RFP (Jones)b. Provide update on new DPS hire (Carlson)	Chair Snedeker
3.1	Update on Connectivity Initiative <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. MCFiber has completed work, DPS is awaiting final reporting materials before payment is disbursed.b. One CI 2018 awardee has requested renegotiation prior to	Michael DeHart

	<p>signing an agreement with the Department. If project cannot proceed to agreement, the allocated funds will roll over to the following round of the Connectivity Initiative.</p>	
<p>3.2</p>	<p>Microcell Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Conducted RFP, received two bids, and had discussions with both bidders. b. Both proposals were “problematic.” One proposal suggested using a novel technology with airships. Another would only deploy some of the units, potentially underperforming with the available funding. c. Staff prepared a survey to send to Vermont towns to gauge interest in having microcells installed, as well as desire/ability to share operating costs. Results are incomplete, but a report will be done soon. d. Many towns are interested in having microcells (roughly two thirds). Fewer than that are interested in cost-sharing. Full deployment will require some amount of subsidy. e. Previous vendor indicated that direct operating costs is around \$1800/yr per- 	<p>Corey Chase</p>

	<p>site. 193 sites are installed, some towns have 10-12, some have a single device.</p>	
3.3	<p>Update on new DPS hire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Paperwork to create a new classified position has been submitted. b. Not yet seeking applicants until formal process in HR is complete. c. Best case scenario the position is advertised by the end of August. 	Michael DeHart/Corey Chase
3.4	<p>Broadband Innovation Grant Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Michael DeHart provided brief overview of the current RFP draft of Broadband Innovation Grant b. Corey Chase provided details on how the grant program will consider Electric Utilities, as well as the timeline set forth by Act 79 (H.513) 	Michael DeHart/Corey Chase
4.0	<p>Schedule regular meetings/ Schedule summer public meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Tentatively an afternoon in the middle of September b. Staff will discuss an appropriate meeting space. c. Week of town meeting (March) would be good for a future well-attended meeting (Doyonn) 	Michael DeHart
5.0	<p>Public Comment Stephen Whitaker</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Objection to meeting's validity due to not receiving minutes/agenda in a timely manner after requesting them. b. Drive Test methodology not as good as 2010 or 2013 due to sampling frequency and ability to monitor signal strength. Has bearing on ability to reach 911. c. Band 14 microcells for FirstNet are subverting carrier-neutral microcells d. Legislature required Department to study costs/alternatives for Microcells, and Dept's report was inadequate e. New antenna regulations adopted on west coast (location not specified) that could be relevant to 248a sunseting and telecom plan language f. Isolation, community fiber, and microcells could be addressed at the same time by state-owned middle-mile fiber g. State can overlash fiber on any carrier's fiber (veracity of this point contested by White) 	
8.0	Adjournment- Meeting adjourned 10:30 AM	

Minutes Subject to Approval