



NORTHWEST FIBERWORX

5-13-2024

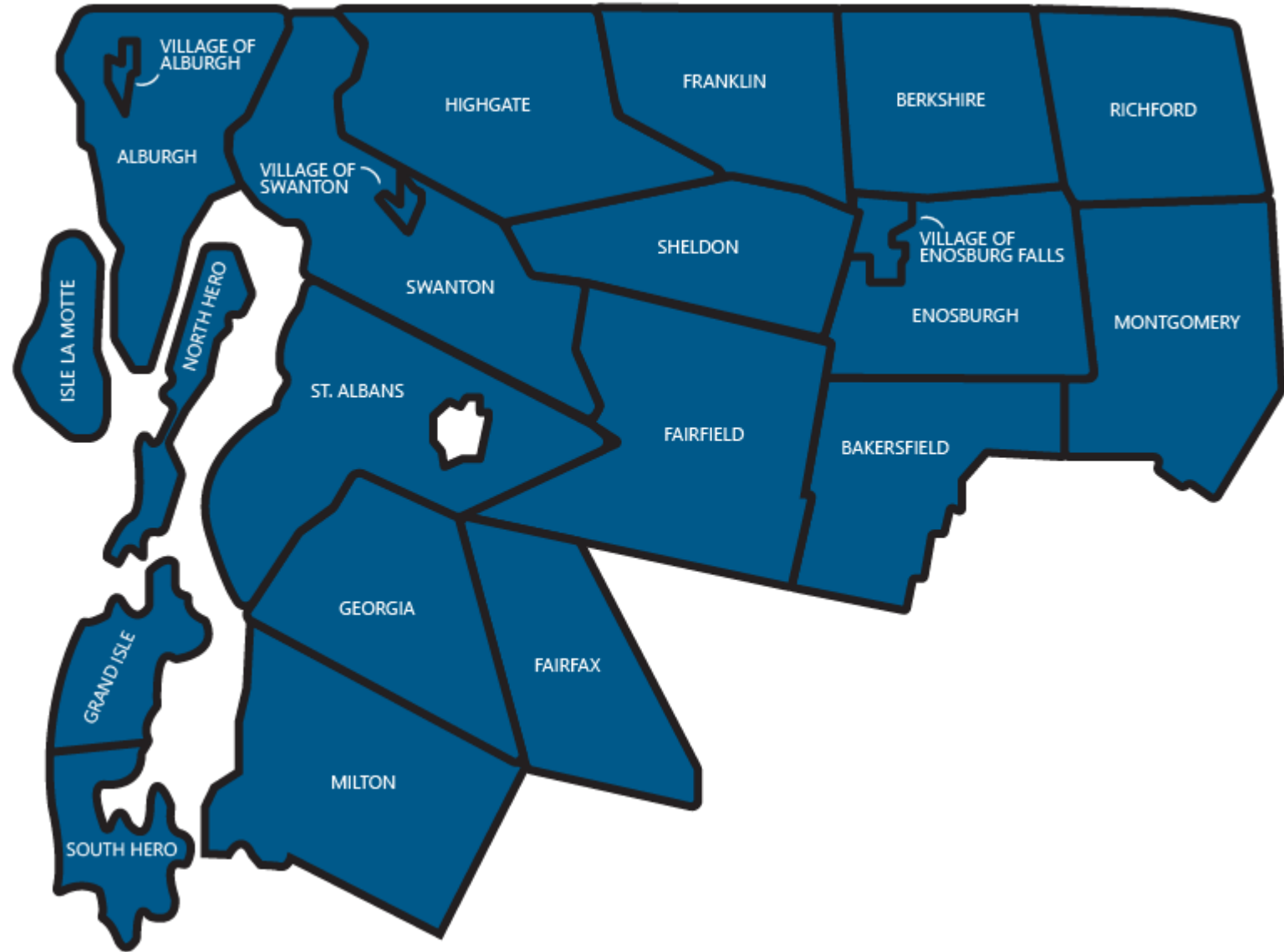
ARPA Construction Grant Application Presentation



**NORTHWEST
FIBERWORX**

Mary Kay Raymond, PMP

Presenting: Network Operations Manager



We want to thank the VCBB staff, especially Alexei, on behalf of NWFx, for being so helpful and available for our ARPA Application. His dedication to the State Broadband and to NWFx is greatly appreciated!

Northwest Fiberworx (NWFx) is so excited to have a strong Business Plan that entails a strong ARPA network penetration model that can also support a strong BEAD Application.

Northwest Fiberworx CUD – Community Mission

- The NWCUD dba Northwest Fiberworx(NWFX) was officially formed on August 3, 2020.
- NWFX is a municipal body consisting of representatives from Northwest Vermont for the purposes of building communication infrastructure.



**Breaking Barriers
for Internet Access**

Connecting Northwest Vermont via Highspeed Fiber

WWW.NWFIBERWORX.COM



Northwest Fiberworx CUD – Community Mission

- As of May 2024, NWFEX represents 22 communities in Franklin & Grand Isle Counties of Vermont:

Alburgh, Bakersfield, Berkshire, Enosburgh, Fairfield, Franklin, Fairfax, Georgia, Grand Isle, Highgate, Isle la Motte, Milton, Montgomery, North Hero, Richford, Saint Albans Town, Sheldon, South Hero, Swanton, Village of Alburgh, Village of Enosburg Falls and Village of Swanton.



**Breaking Barriers
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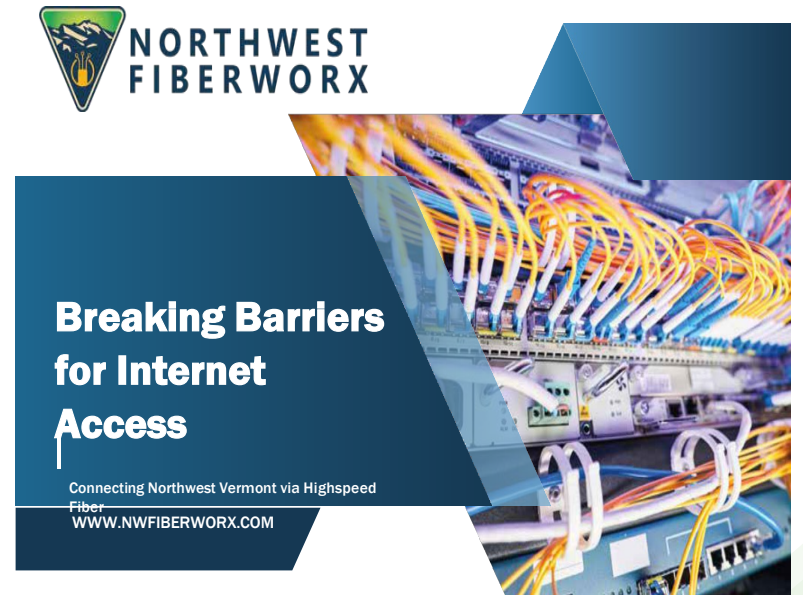
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Northwest Fiberworx CUD – Community Mission

- The **mission** of NWFEX, as adopted by the Board of Representatives, is:

"Leverage partnerships and procure funding to connect Northwestern Vermont with highspeed fiber to ensure opportunity for all underserved homes and businesses in our region."





**NORTHWEST
FIBERWORX**

NWFX Commitments

Universal Access

Build access to every unserved/underserved premise in the district with the reliable broadband.

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Affordability

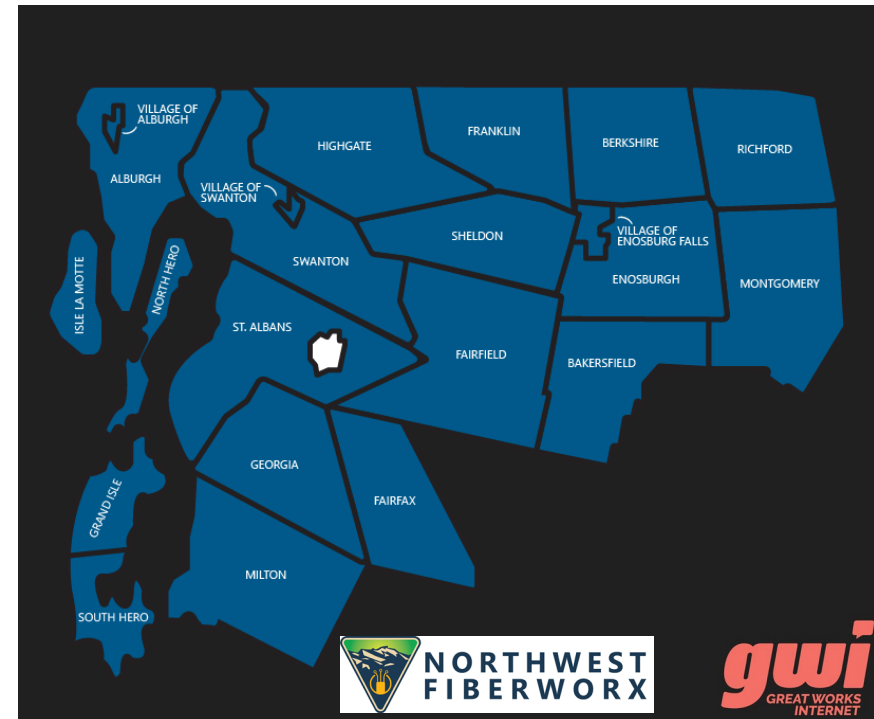
Provide access to affordable broadband service and participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program or any future comparable program.

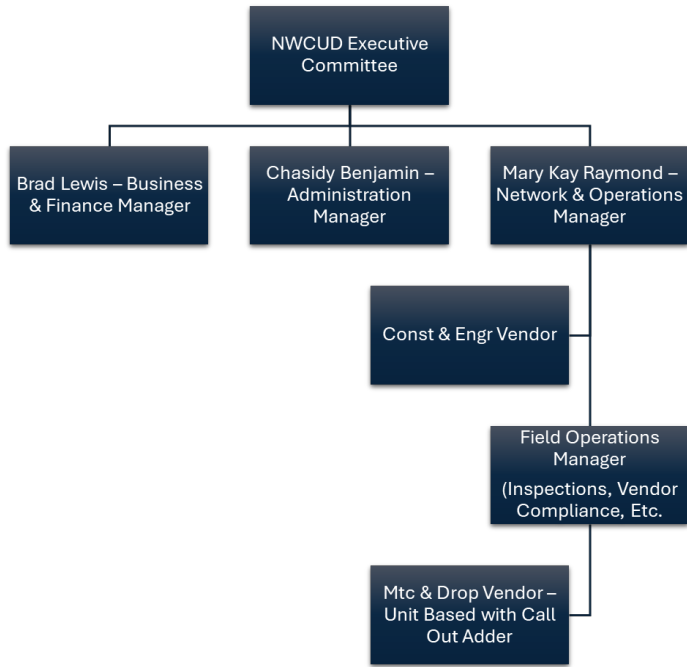
Built for Tomorrow

This infrastructure will provide a network sustainable for the next 50 years.

Key Drivers & Approach

- To provide **reliable & affordable** broadband service through public/private partnerships
- NWFX will build, own, and maintain a Fiber-to-the-Premise **open-access network**. The network will focus on universally serving homes & businesses that are currently not connected to a fiber network.
- NWFX has partnered with Great Works Internet (GWI) to provide **next generation broadband services** & support network operations.
- **Financially viable** business plan is a requirement for grant funding and the NWFX team presents a strong Business & Financial Model to the VCBB.
- Consolidating facility resources with interested existing municipalities within our district will **reduce our expenses & create an opportunity** for each location to have redundant highspeed data network upon each ring completion in our district in return.

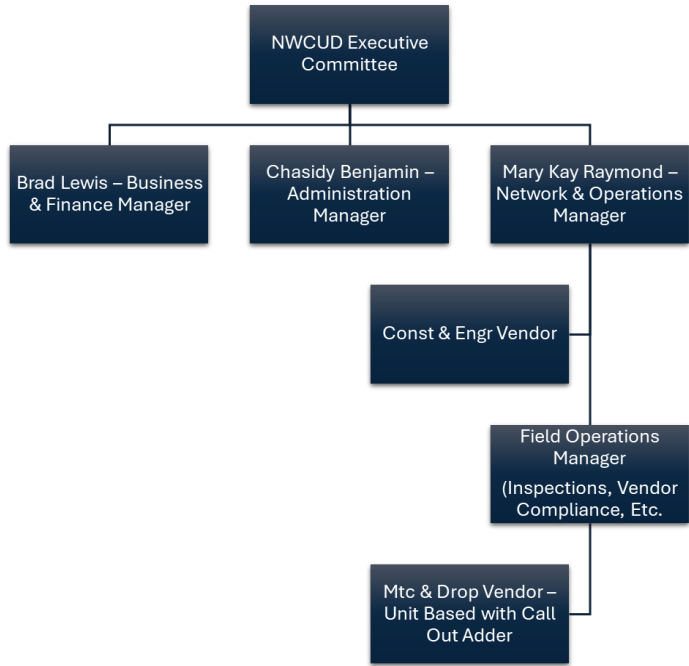




NWFX Made a recent organizational change as a team platform. In which reporting directly to the Executive Chair/Committee of the Board.

This currently maximizes on the existing experience of the employee's skillsets & the Chair/Executive Committee's, to support the needs of NWFX while using our funding to deploy a network.

Employee Roles & Responsibilities



Executive Committee:

Zachary Burdick, Chair
 Cathy Ainsworth, Vice Chair
 Chasidy Benjamin, Clerk
 Brad Lewis, Treasurer

Community Delegates:

Alburgh

- Ken Millman
- Stu McGowan
- Mark Stephens

Bakersfield

- Heather Jewett
- Brenda Churchill

Berkshire

- Kurt Valenta
- Emily Grims

Enosburgh

- Jesse Weatherwax

Fairfax

- Scott Mitchell

Fairfield

- Cathy Ainsworth
- Ronald Bocash

Franklin

- Amy Adams
- Rob Cormier
- Corrina Stanley

Isle La Motte

- Vacant

Georgia

- Zachary Burdick

Grand Isle

- Michael Inners

Highgate

- Robyn Klein

Milton

- Erik Breiland
- Amy Crawford

Montgomery

- Erin Kopacz

North Hero

- Vacant



Richford

- Vacant

Saint Albans Town

- Robert Warner

Sheldon

- Matthew Stebbins
- Nicholas Norris

South Hero

- George Rice
- Rich Goggins

Swanton

- Vacant

Village of Alburgh

- Cheryl Dunn

Village of Enosburg Falls

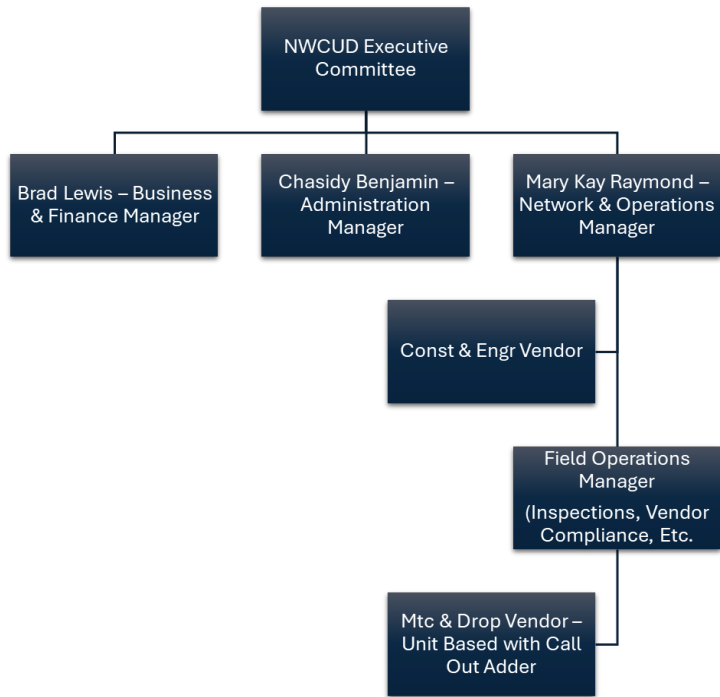
- Daniel Tumwesigye

Village of Swanton

- Larry King

Employee Roles & Responsibilities





Network Operations Manager (Mary Kay Raymond, PMP) - Forge and maintain relations with stakeholders, partners, and external vendors. Actively manage project-level activities with internal and external resources. Be accountable and oversee all deployment activities including but not limited to fiber network design, leasing, due diligence, architectural/engineering, zoning, permitting, project management, construction management, system acceptance, NOC integration, & Service Assurance.

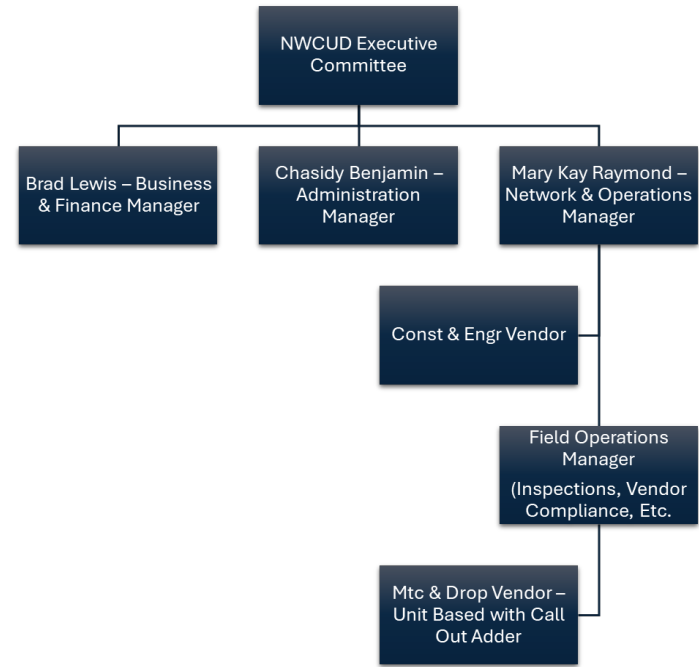


"Mary Kay has 29 years in Telecommunications (Inside Plant/Wireless/Data Managed Services Engineer) based in New England. She has worked in multiple roles: Sales/Marketing Administrator, Sr. IT Network Administrator, Switch Wireless Technician, & Service Assurance Engineer. She is certified Project Management Professional (PMP)

Her strengths in managing technical projects, next generation deployments & upgrades, Incident & Disaster Recovery outage management, with years as a Technical lead in wireless switch FOAs provides one of the three strong legs NWFx team brings together"

Employee Roles & Responsibilities

Business & Finance Manager (Brad Lewis) – Ensures business processes, administration & financial management. Maintains accounting system, leads planning and forecasting activities with business partners to achieve organization goals.

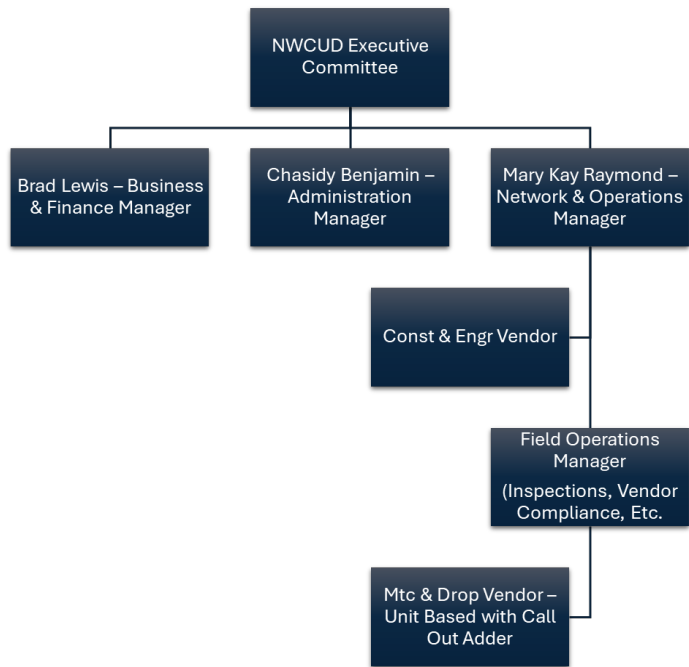


"Brad has 23 years experience in Accounting/Finance. He has worked at many levels across varied industries, including Accounting Manager, Senior Staff Accountant & Bookkeeper/Treasurer.

He brings extensive experience in all aspects of Accounting and financial management, including: non-profit accounting, grant reporting, financial report preparation, and payroll.

Brad has spent the past two years as Bookkeeper and Treasurer for NWF."

Employee Roles & Responsibilities



Administration Manager (Chasidy Benjamin) – Responsible for maintaining organizational and documentation requirements for a special-purpose municipality and first POC for Governing Board members and community members.



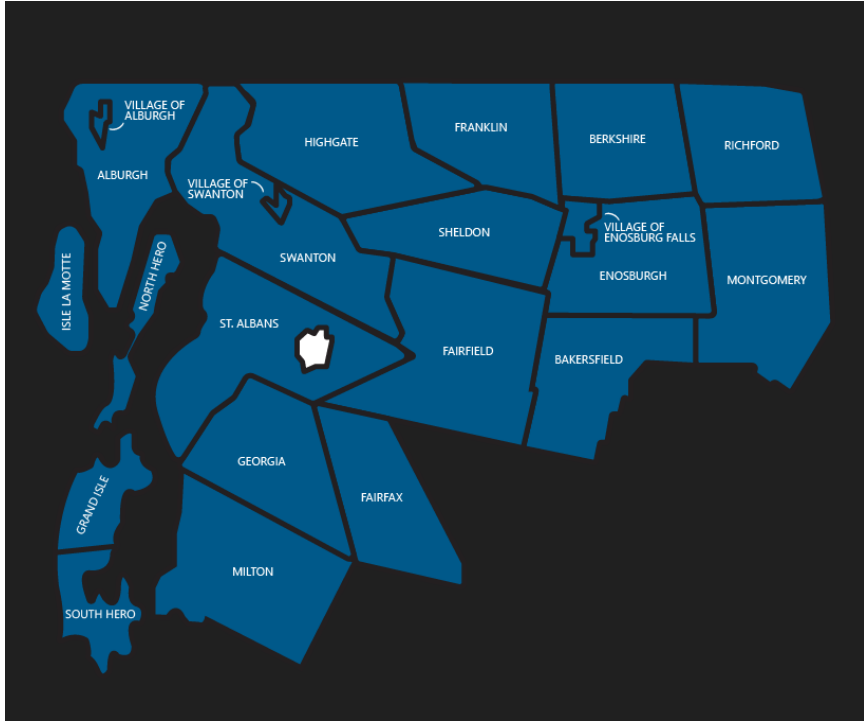
"Chasidy has 12 years of experience in administration. Since joining NWFEX, she swiftly adapts and absorbs all things telecom related.

Her extensive skills have helped build NWFEX employee benefits and personnel from the ground up!

Since joining the organization, she has been instrumental in efficiently coordinating board events, managing grant reporting, handling accounts payable, and assisting with the yearly budget.

Her proactive approach ensures that staff and board members receive the necessary support for successful project execution."

Employee Roles & Responsibilities



NORTHWEST FIBERWORX

The NWFx construction model is divided into phases.

Today we are submitting for our ARPA Construction Grant Allocation for Funding of 20.2 million

NWFx Phase 1 - ARPA Grant Construction Application




NORTHWEST FIBERWORX



Phase 1 Goals:

- Serve our region's most needed communities for broadband services
- Reach over 3,800 Total UU (unserved/underserved) Passed Premises
- Provide NWFx a Sustainable & Viable Business Model as a CUD
- Establishes a strong Financial Model for future funding



Executive Session Request to Move Forward

pursuant to 1 V.S.A. s. 313 (a)(1)(A), which protects information concerning contracts where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or person involved at a substantial disadvantage



**NORTHWEST
FIBERWORX**

Thank You!

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Questions?