



Telecommunications & Connectivity Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

March 19th, 2020 Meeting

10:00 am – 12:00 pm DPS 112 State Street, GIGA Conference Room, Montpelier, VT

Attendees:

1. David Snedeker – Chair of the Board, Northeastern Vermont Development Association
2. Robert T. White- AOT
3. Michael Clasen – Deputy State Treasurer
4. Evan Carlson – Do North Coworking
5. Katherine Sims - Craftsbury
6. Clay Purvis – Director, Connectivity Division, Dept. of Public Service
7. Michael DeHart- Telecommunications & Connectivity Staff, Dept. of Public Service

Members of public:

Item	Item Description	Action By
1.0	Call to Order at 10:10am	Chair Snedeker
2.0	Meeting Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corrections• Motion to Approve	Moved Michael C, seconded Evan Carlson, approved unanimous
3.0	New Business: a. COVID-19 Discussion Dept doing work specific to pandemic. FCC issued pledge, asking carriers to suspend disconnections, waive data caps, offer free/reduced cost services to families/low income households. Many VT companies have done so, Dept seeking to publicize that info. Dept seeking to publicize info about public hot spots. 100% of libraries should be closed by end of week, so	Clay Purvis

	<p>Dept is hoping to understand which libraries/public buildings will have wifi accessible from parking lots.</p> <p>b. New Broadband Data</p> <p>BB data has been synthesized and is currently being posted to website. Still looking for data for some places, but it should be public in a couple weeks.</p> <p>c. Telecom Plan Update</p> <p>Received proposals from two respondents. Cannot share details of competitive bids at this moment.</p> <p>Asked for an appropriation of \$300k, but pandemic makes that unlikely.</p> <p>Dept is preparing to write the plan in-house as a result.</p> <p>Carlson: Is it possible to get an extension for the plan?</p> <p>Purvis: possible, but it would require the legislature to take up the topic. My best guess is that the telecom plan due date is a low priority for the legislature, given the current pandemic.</p> <p>Snedeker: When is it due?</p> <p>Purvis: December 1. We hope to have a public comment draft by August, so we can conduct appropriate public outreach for it.</p> <p>Snedeker: I know RPC's are hoping to extend the life of plans because we are unable to hold gatherings and collect public input for updates.</p> <p>Purvis: I spoke with Senator Brock this morning, and they are still just trying to</p>	
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	<p>get their bearings and triage the most pressing and immediate issues.</p> <p>Carlson: re-emphasizing the need for a robust telecom plan to pre-empt issues like the one we are experiencing- with people working from parking lots because they cannot telecommute from home.</p> <p>Purvis: re-iterating that the budget appropriation is the primary concern right now.</p> <p>d. BIG Rd. 3</p> <p>Issued right now. Added an early decision period and a late decision period. 3 for end of April, remaining funds end of May.</p> <p>Round 1: issued awards, signed contracts, work is underway.</p> <p>Round 2: proposals came in last Friday and we are reviewing those now. Electric utilities. 2 proposals, 2 eligible.</p> <p>Contract extensions considered for all rounds due to COVID-19.</p>	
4	Public Comment:	
5	Adjournment 10:30am	Motion: Michael C. Second: Evan C.

Minutes Subject to Approval