

**Vermont Community Broadband Board
Meeting
October 18, 2021 12:00pm**

AGENDA

GIGA Conference Room
3rd Floor of 112 State Street, Montpelier VT

Join by video <https://bit.ly/3FQUGs2>

Join by Phone; +1 802-828-7667
Phone Conference ID: 348 696 968#

There may be other times during the meeting that Executive Session is called.

- 12:00 Agenda change requests and vote to approve agenda
- 12:10 Approval of Board minutes from September 28 and October 4, 2021
- 12:20 Discuss pre-purchase recommendation from staff – *Executive session requested due to the confidential nature of the discussion – possible harm due to premature release of information.*
- 12:50 CVFiber Preconstruction Grant Request – *Executive Session likely due to trade secrets and possible harm due to premature release of information.*
- 2:30 Northwest Preconstruction Grant Request
- 2:45 DVFiber Preconstruction Grant Request
- 3:00 Budget discussion
- 3:45 Public Input
- 4:00 Motion to Adjourn

Press inquiries; please contact Rob Fish, Robert.fish@vermont.gov 802-522-2617

Vermont Community Broadband Board Meeting Minutes
112 State Street, 3rd Floor,
Giga Conference Room
Montpelier, VT
September 28, 2021

I. Call to order

Holly Groschner moved to approve the agenda as is and Patty Richards seconded. Motion passed.

II. Roll call completed by Dan Nelson.

Patty Richards, Chair (In-person)
Holly Groschner (In-person) _
Dan Nelson (In-person)
Brian Otley (Arrived at 1:12 pm)
Laura Sibilgia (Remote)
Christine Hallquist (In-person)
Robert Fish (In-person)

III. Approval of minutes

Holly Groschner moved to approve the minutes of August 26, 2021, and September 16, 2021, and Patty Richards seconded. Motion passed.

IV. Maple Broadband Preconstruction Grant Application

In-depth discussion between Board Members, Steve Huffaker, Chair of Maple Broadband and Roger Nishi, VP of Industry Relations at Waitsfield, and Champlain Valley Telecom concerning the Universal Service Plan and transferability within the Pre-construction Grant Application.

- The two parts of the District would be divided as the first being served by Waitsfield Telecom and the other by the District. The Operating Agreement only pertains to the part that will be served by the District or known as the Maple Broadband area.
- Section 6.17 of the Operating Agreement states that Waitsfield Telecom must serve the underserved and unserved at a rate of at least 90% addressed by the District. There is also no enforceable provision in the agreement.
- Section 6.9 states Maple Broadband has no right to ask Waitsfield for data regarding their part of the District, only data for the CUD's part of the District. Other than an "intention" this Board has not received a Universal Service Plan and the pre-construction grants are based on a Universal Service Plan.

- These concerns led to the suggestion by Holly Groschner that the applicants come back with a more robust provision for ensuring the operator does deliver on Universal Service in their section of the territory as well as an obligation to deliver on the Universal Service Plan.

Discussion regarding how Universal would be achieved thru this application.

- Steve Huffaker provided testimony that the intent in the agreements writing, and execution was to recognize that two separate entities engaged in construction in two separate territories are not going to build out at an identical pace. Not feasible due to the nature of construction and challenges that occur.
- Roger Nishi provided testimony stating Waitsfield Telecom will be ahead to start but they are building out over the entire company. Goal is fiber to the homes of every customer Waitsfield serves today. The FCC has said some areas are too costly to serve and do not need to be a part of the Plan. Roger stated they will need to find another form of service such as satellite.
- Responding to Roger Nishi's testimony and for the purpose of correcting the record, Laura Sibilia quoted Section 8085(a), "The purpose of the program is to provide grants to Communication Union Districts for pre-construction costs." Laura Sibilia stated in Vermont Universal Service is 100% of addresses that have electricity and requested the Board be informed of these locations at the start of pre-construction and not later. Christine Hallquist seconded the thought.

The Board agreed an enforceable provision in the ten-year contract between the two companies should be added. This would make Waitsfield accountable to Maple Broadband. Steve Huffaker asked that the Board create the language for he and Roger Nishi to review. Holly Groschner and Brian Otley offered to craft the language.

Discussion regarding transferability.

- Magna Dodge of the Maple Executive Committee explained Maple would own all of its own assets at the end of the 30-year term. If Waitsfield was no longer available, Maple would need to find another operator.
- Brian Otley asked Maple Broadband and Waitsfield Telecom to amend their pre-construction application with language that defines their initial goal of locations covered and the work being done to refine that goal with the pre-construction funding and then turn the initial goal into an actual target at the time of the construction grant.
- Staff recommendation was in support of Board's decision to add an enforceable provision to contract.

- Holly Groschner moved for a conditional approval of 2.39 million dollars subject to the conditions that the applicant agreed to certain terms proposed by the Board that address the Universal Service Plan and accountability for such plan and that the applicant agree to modify the operating agreement to reflect Universal Service terms and the statutory requirement of transferability in the event of an assignment to the State. (Amount corrected to \$2,399,200.)
- Steve Huffaker expressed concern that the transferability question could have consequences in relation to Act 71 and the municipal bond market. Suggested separating the two conditions, making transferability a part of the construction grant rather than the pre-construction grant.
- Holly agreed the conditions can be separated however it is a condition of Section 8086(c)3 of the Construction grant program

Brian Otley made a motion to give approval to Maple Broadband with the condition to include Board's suggested language be included to cover the Universal coverage commitment for review and potential revision by the Maple. Timeframe for creating language was one week. All were in favor; motion passed.

The working group will send their developed language to the other Board members and present to the entire group during the October 4, 2021 meeting of the Board.

V. Staffing and Contracting Update

- General counsel position is posted and one application has been received.
- The Grant Administrator and Administrative Assistant are union positions and are in Human Resources being evaluated for their classification.
- There is a serious need for an engineer for fiber engineering support.
- Budget discussion as it relates to staffing.

VI. VCUDA Update

- Will Anderson, Program Coordinator for the Vermont Communications Union District Association expressed gratitude for the work being done.
- Bulk purchasing process continues to improve, and they are investigating each CUD's individual perspective right now on what they would like to get done in this initial bulk purchase for 2022 construction.

VII. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

- VCBB can do a pre-purchase of materials as a grant and fits within the ARPA guidelines. Does not necessarily need to be a competitive grant. Suggestion was made to have Doug Farnham present to the Board at the next meeting however the response was for the staff to meet with Doug and then report back to the Board as a whole.

- Staff were assigned to find out how the VCBB participate in the “Capital Projects” and present to the Board at the October 4th meeting.

VIII. Pre-purchasing Materials

May be permissible. VCUDA and staff will work together on this. The Board will need staff to provide a plan with list of options and present to the Board.

IX. Public Comment(s)

Will Anderson, Program Coordinator for the Vermont Communications Union District Association, continued conversation on pre-purchasing and what it might entail considering the possible new option of going thru Finance and Management to obtain money from the State.

X. Motion to enter Executive Session by Patty Richards. Holly Groschner seconded.

No Action Taken

XI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Holly Groschner. Brian Otley seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:57 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Audrey Fargo, Executive Assistant

Vermont Community Broadband Board Meeting Minutes
112 State Street, 3rd Floor,
Giga Conference Room
Montpelier, VT
October 4, 2021

I. Call to order

Chair Patty Richards called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

II. Roll call completed by Patty Richards.

Patty Richards, Chair (In-person)
Holly Groschner (In-person)
Dan Nelson (In-person)
Brian Otley (In-person)
Laura Sibia (Arrived in-person at 12:07 pm)
Christine Hallquist (In-person)
Robert Fish (In-person)

III. Agenda Change Discussion

Motion made for the below:

- Request to add a standing agenda item to “review parking lot”. Motion carried.

IV. Executive Director Update and Q&A with Staff

- The Department of Public Service received an application from Cape Broadband for an additional 230 addresses. This is part of the Cares Grant from last year however the VCBB has been working closely with the Department on this application.
- An application has been received by NEK Broadband and it is currently moving thru the process.

V. Report back from Working Groups on Universal Service and Transfer of Assets Discussion

In follow-up from Board discussion of September 28, 2021, Holly Groschner and Brian Otley provided the language containing the enforceable provision and the accountability from Waitsfield to Maple.

- Steve Huffaker, Chair of Maple Broadband and Roger Nishi, VP of Industry Relations at Waitsfield, and Champlain Valley Telecom are in attendance.

- Holly Groschner stated there was a general condition on the approval of the pre-construction approval.
 - Maple Broadband will provide best estimate, non-binding, number of locations underserved or unserved in the District. That would be an amendment to their grant application. Maple further agrees to develop a Universal Service Plan for broadband service to locations in the district, including an estimated date for completion of the plan now. An update of that estimate will need to be provided to this Board with their construction grant.
 - Reconciliation of the issue between data. Providing a weekly update of how many addresses are connected, the Plan in relation to the actual number. Christine Hallquist suggested a board working group be put together regarding data. The board wants this brought to them as an element of their application.
- Discussion regarding how the Operating Agreement between Waitsfield and Maple interfaces with the Universal Service Plan.
- Steve Huffaker did not feel the Board should be singling out Maple Broadband regarding the concern over transfer of default but that this should be a requirement for all the CUDs. Holly Groschner explained this is a grant condition.
- Roger Nishi stated Waitsfield will meet all the conditions with Maple Broadband so that a complete application representing the whole Maple Broadband area can be made.
- The Applicant has heard the conditions of the grant and they must follow-up on items 1-4 with Staff.
- 00:46:18.480 Patty Richards moved to reiterate approval to \$2,399,200 pre-construction request from Maple Broadband. 00:47:00.300 Motion approved.

VI. Construction Grant Program and Review of Staff Recommendations

- Discussion regarding the decisions that need to be made before the issuance of the construction grants. Review and open discussion of the “Staff Recommendations and Work Groups” document provided by staff. (Available on-line.) Goal is to have Construction RFP out by December 2020.
- Due to the number of applications staff expects to receive, Christine Hallquist suggested an all-day meeting for October 18th for the Board to review.

- The Board declined this suggestion and expressed they will continue with meetings every two weeks and review applications that arrive during each two-week time period. Staff are required to review and score the applications and provide to the Board members within five days of each Board meeting.
- Discussion regarding operating in towns represented by a CUD and Non-CUD towns. Universal Service Plans must address all locations in the town. A town not a part of a CUD must have a Universal Service Plan or join a CUD now.
- Discussion regarding benchmarks for allocation of funding.
- Public broadband access in relation to shared broadband access.

2:46 Entered Executive Session due to contractual matter that would put VCBB at a disadvantage if discussed in open session.

VII. Pre-purchasing Discussion

Staff will continue to research pre-purchasing. Objective of agenda item; to inform board of what staff is doing. Exploring different avenues for pre-construction, such as working with the utilities as they already have an established purchasing. The other is to provide bridge funding thru other organizations as construction grants are not approved yet. Bulk purchases will be less expensive. Act 71 gives the Board powers, but the Vermont Community Broadband Fund has specific items funds may be spent on. In negotiations with CUDs on this.

3:18 pm Dan Nelson left the meeting.

VIII. VCUDA (Vermont Communications Union Districts Association)

Represented by Will Anderson, Interim Program Coordinator. VCUDA is hoping to collaborate to make the best possible decision for purchasing in conjunction with the staff and also discussing how as an organization can be beneficial for that purchasing as well.

In regard to the pre-purchasing issue, VCUDA will have responses to these policies moving forward at the October 18th meeting.

Should the need for volunteers for working groups arise, VCUDA would like to be considered for representation.

Major sense of urgency for obtaining ARPA funds from towns because the CUD thinking right now is that investment now will mean affordability later and as soon as possible.

Discussion where funding was coming from.

IX. Public Comment

As there was no public comment, the Board moved into Executive Session.

3:27 Moved into Executive Session

3:45 pm Exited Executive Session. Action item from Executive Session is for Christine Hallquist and Patty Richards to meet with Commissioner June Tierney to discuss staffing of the VCBB.

X. Parking Lot

Progress of items in the Parking Lot report were discussed.

XI. 3:49 pm Motion to adjourn was made and moved.

Minutes submitted by: Audrey Fargo, Temporary VCBB Recorder

DRAFT

Vermont Community Broadband Board
 Maple Broadband Grant Recommendation
 October 12, 2021
 Christine Hallquist
 Executive Director
 Phone – 802-636-7853
 Email – christine.hallquist@vermont.gov

CVFiber

Rob Fish and I have scored, reviewed, and discussed the Pre-construction Grant Application from CVFiber. We have several concerns that we have addressed with the CUD. One major concern was the request amount being too high. CVFiber sent us a revised budget. We received answers to the following questions. This will require deliberation and possible executive session. We support the request in concept. There are challenges that we need to discuss further, including a contingency plan in the event that the WEC RUS loan is not supported.:

Table 2: CVFiber Proposed Activities and Budget

Expense Item	Cost
Administration	\$548,000
Project Management	\$25,000
Pole Inventory	\$495,000
Design Services-Area A	\$843,667
Make Ready Services-Area A	\$893,000
Total Available	\$2,804,667
Additional FY22 Preconstruction Needs	
Design Services-Area B	\$800,000
Make Ready Services-Area B	\$893,000
Additional \$Total	\$1,693,000

Revised 10.12.2021

1. Do you have plans to update your business plan? The plan does not account for RDOF or the extensive Consolidated build out. We highly encourage you to include such an ask in the grant application.
 - a. Yes, the business plan will be updated by our new operator - Nov-Dec time frame.
 - b. We will identify the ask for funds for a business plan update and address the possible impacts of RDOF.
2. Do you have a procurement policy? Please provide a link.
 - a. We are working a procurement policy based on the one NEK Broadband adopted in July. Our finance committee has been using the process in the Attachment.
3. Your feasibility study had a Fixed Wireless Component. Please elaborate in more detail and provide a status update and explain how this ensures overtime universal served of 100/100.
 - a. At the time the Feasibility Study was completed, Act 71 had not passed. We are committed to Universal service. Our updated construction plans indicate this.
4. I assume on PG8 “low subscription rate” was a typo? Please clarify.
 - a. This was a misinterpretation. For clarification: “Grant funds, competitive bids, and CVFiber's nonprofit status will help CVFiber keep our subscription rates low.”
5. What is the source of your budget #'s? Is this from an RFP?
 - a. Budget numbers for Design Services came from proposals we received from our RFP for Detailed Design that had not been funded.
 - b. Budget numbers for Make Ready came from ECFiber’s experience.

6. What is your contingency if the Public Utility Commission refuses to support WEC's RUS loan?
 - a. We will build out Universal Service with Grant funds from ARPA, Local ARPA and borrowing as needed.
7. Elmore is on your list, but based on a review of the poles, it is impossible to reach from the south. What is your plan?
 - a. We are working with Lamoille Fibernet and NEK Broadband to resolve the solution to providing Universal service in Elmore.
8. Has the accountant/grant management consultant been hired?
 - a. We have completed a second round of interviews and will announce the decision this week after the Executive Committee meeting.

Northwest CUD

Northwest needs some early funds as the CUD has not yet completed a Business Plan and then will move to detailed design. This request is reasonable for phase one of pre-construction activities. We recommend approval of this initial request and anticipate a second request later. We recommend funding the request for \$604,376.25

DVFiber

DVFiber submitted an excellent pre-construction grant request. We recommend funding for the full amount of \$4,111,318

Vermont Community Broadband Board - 2021 through 2022 Budget

This document outlines and confirms the state of Vermont's budget for achieving the policies, goals, and investment priorities for broadband infrastructure for the last five months of 2021 and the entire 2022 calendar year. It enables the Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) to monitor the progress of the state meeting its goals for broadband access, provides funding for the principal programs to enable broadband adoption, and provides support for Communication Union Districts (CUDs) and towns around the state. Finally, it assembles data resources for CUDs, towns, elected officials and residents engaged in broadband planning and provides resources for the coordination and support role of the VCBB.

The funds come mainly from the \$150 million appropriation that was provided through ACT 71. Also included are other funds that have been committed to the VCBB. This budget is adequate to meet the needs of the VCBB to the end of 2022 and provide more than enough construction funds to enable the CUDs to continue building into 2023. With the additional infusion of \$100 million in 2022, the CUDs will be able continue construction along with creating enough revenue to demonstrate financial viability. This viability will enable the CUDs to obtain additional funds in order to meet their goals. Additional revenues will help drive down the cost of the network, resulting in lower cost to consumers, which helps meet the state's affordability goals. In the latter half of 2022 the VCBB will create the 2023 budget.

The budget addresses key support activities that are needed to ensure the state of Vermont meets its goal of getting every 100/100 Broadband service. Key areas of focus for this budget include:

- Providing technical support to the CUDs to ensure resilient designs and quality construction
- Progress reporting to the Board, Administration, and Vermonters
- Workforce development and training to ensure adequate labor supply as well as growth opportunities for Vermonters
- Funds to enable pre-purchasing of long lead-time materials to avoid interruption of construction due to material shortage
- Assist the CUDs in developing strategies to help reduce the cost of the network
- Facilitate partnerships between communications union districts and their potential private partners
- Identify State, federal, nonprofit, and any other broadband funding opportunities and assist the CUDs in accessing those funds.

The first two tabs after this narrative summarizes the Operational and Capital budget. The remaining tabs provide the details for the Operations Budget.

Capital Budget

Capital Revenues and Sources

Revenue Source	Amount
ACT 71	150,000,000
Northern Borders Regional Commission	1,250,000
Universal Service Fund	700,000
Act 154 One Time Appropriation for Broadband Infrastructure (VEDA Match Grants of \$400,000)	1,500,000
Capital Funds Total	\$ 153,450,000.00

Capital Expenses

Budget Expenditure Categories	OMB Uniform Guidance Federal Awards Reference 2 CFR 200	TOTAL EXPENDITURES
1. VCBB budget		\$ 1,500,000.00
2. Pre-construction		\$ 35,000,000.00
3. Pre-purchase materials		\$ 10,000,000.00
2. Construction		\$ 106,950,000.00
18. Total Capital Expenses		\$ 153,450,000.00
Variance		\$0.00

At \$38K/mile this will support 2815 miles of construction. We are assuming \$45k/mile with \$5k/mile for design funded through pre-construction grants and another \$2k/mile funded through pre-purchase of materials.

Operations Budget

Operational Revenues and Sources

Revenue Source	Amount
ACT 71	1,500,000
Northern Borders Regional Commission	333,000
Universal Service Fund	700,000
Operational Funds Total	\$ 2,533,000.00

This is a \$1 million grant that we will change to a 3-year \$333k/yr. grant to fund the Broadband Project Developer as well as to provide training for the CUDs.

Operational Expenses

Budget Expenditure Categories	OMB Uniform Guidance Federal Awards Reference 2 CFR 200	TOTAL EXPENDITURES
1. Personnel (Salaries & Wages)	200.430	\$ 812,815.00
2. Equipment and Software	200.439	\$ 30,800.00
3. Supplies	200.94	\$ 1,000.00
4. Contractual Services	200.318 & 200.92	\$ 468,860.00
5. Training & Education	200.472	\$ 56,500.00
6. Board Operational Costs	200.414	\$ 130,025.00
18. Total ACT 71 expenses		\$ 1,500,000.00
Variance		\$0.00

NBRC Expenses

Budget Expenditure Categories	OMB Uniform Guidance Federal Awards Reference 2 CFR 200	TOTAL EXPENDITURES
1. Personnel (Salaries & Wages)	200.430	\$ 104,400.00
5. Training for the CUDs	200.472	\$ 228,600.00
18. Total NBRC Expenses		\$ 333,000.00
Variance		\$0.00

USF Expenses

Budget Expenditure Categories	OMB Uniform Guidance Federal Awards Reference 2 CFR 200	TOTAL EXPENDITURES
1. Personnel (Salaries & Wages)	200.430	\$ 172,167.50
5. Workforce Development Programs	200.472	\$ 527,832.50
18. Total Universal Service Fund Expenses		\$ 700,000.00
Variance		\$0.00

Personnel

1). Personnel (Salaries & Wages) (2 CFR 200.430) -

Name	Position(s)	Salary or Wage	Basis (Yr./Mo./Hr.)	% of Time	Length of time	Personnel Cost	
<i>Grants Administrator (PSD)</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>\$47</i>	<i>Hr.</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>2333</i>	\$ 109,651.00
<i>Executive Director</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>\$ 18,000.00</i>	<i>Mo.</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>17.5</i>	\$ 315,000.00
<i>General Counsel</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>\$ 13,650.00</i>	<i>Mo.</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>12</i>	\$ 163,800.00
<i>Executive Assistant</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>\$42</i>	<i>Hr.</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>2167</i>	\$ 91,014.00
<i>Project Manager</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>\$50</i>	<i>Hr.</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>2167</i>	\$ 108,350.00
<i>Contingency</i>							\$ 25,000.00
						ACT 71 Total	\$ 812,815.00
 <i>Broadband Project Developer funded by NBRC Grant</i>		 <i>1</i>	 <i>\$ 52.20</i>	 <i>Hr.</i>	 <i>100%</i>	 <i>2000</i>	 \$ 104,400.00
						NBRC Total	\$ 104,400.00
 <i>Rural Broadband Technical Assistant funded by USF</i>		 <i>1</i>	 <i>\$ 10,127.50</i>	 <i>Mo.</i>	 <i>100%</i>	 <i>17</i>	 \$ 172,167.50
						USF Total	\$ 172,167.50
						Total Personnel	\$ 1,089,382.50

Personnel Narrative

- Executive Director duties identified by ACT 71
- Grant Administrator will be a pass-through to the PSD
- General Counsel duties to handle day to day inquiries from VCBB staff, review contracts, review Board minutes, handle information requests and ensure compliance with Open Meeting Law and Public Records requirements.
- The Executive Assistant will provide administrative support to the Executive Director and VCBB Board Members; attend VCBB meetings to provide technological support, note taking and other administrative functions including preparation for meetings; perform administrative, supervisory and technical work at a professional level for the VCBB.
- The Project Manager duties include responsibility for planning, organizing, and directing the completion of projects for the VCBB (examples include Workforce Development initiatives, pre-purchasing of materials, progress and key metric reporting to the Board, Administration and public). The Project Manager will work with the CUDs to support, monitor and assist with timely performance to individual project plans. The project manager will be responsible for coordinating with AOT, the electric utilities and municipalities.¹²³
- The Broadband Project Developer duties include; programmatic, administration, and technical work involving the overall direction, policy and operations of the VCBB,. Work involves developing policies and implementing strategies to ensure responsible and effective deployment and furthering leveraging of federal funds derived from the Board to ensure a fiscally responsible building out of fiber optic network. In addition to monitoring all grants issued,, the Broadband Project Developer will work with the CUDs to layer various public and private financial instruments (federal, state, private grants loans, bonds,¹²⁴ and investments), to accelerate fiber-to-the-home buildouts.
- The Rural Broadband Technical Assistant is Rob Fish. 'Equipment '!A13:D13

Equipment and Software

2). Equipment (2 CFR 200.439) --

Item	Quantity	Cost	Equipment Cost
<i>Portable video conferencing system</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>\$ 2,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 2,000.00</i>
<i>Computers and related hardware</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>\$ 3,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 15,000.00</i>
<i>GIS and related measurement tools</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>\$ 5,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 5,000.00</i>
<i>ArcGIS professional License</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>\$ 3,800.00</i>	<i>\$ 3,800.00</i>
<i>Contingency</i>			<i>\$ 5,000.00</i>
		<i>Act 71 Total</i>	<i>\$ 30,800.00</i>

Equipment Narrative (State):

- We will be holding meetings throughout the state. To comply with Open meeting Law, these will be broadcasted and recorded.
- New employees will require computers and associated hardware
- Working with the CUDS will require integrated GIS tools for updating maps as well as a demarcated hot stick for addressing make-ready concerns
- ArcGIS Pro is desktop GIS application for creating maps in 2D and 3D, analyzing data, and developing geographic knowledge. Use this mapping and analytics application to examine spatial relationships; predict outcomes; and make data-driven decisions. ArcGIS Pro Advanced provides the tools and environment for map creation and interactive visualization, multiuser editing, advanced data management capabilities, advanced analysis, high-end cartography, and extensive database management.

Supplies

3). Supplies (2 CFR 200.94) --

Item	Quantity/ Duration	Cost	Supplies Cost
<i>Office Supplies</i>	1	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
			<u>\$ -</u>
		<i>ACT 71 Total</i>	\$ 1,000.00

Supplies Narrative (State):

Contracted Services

4). Contractual Services (2 CFR 200.318) & Subawards (200.92)

Please also note the differences between subaward, contract, and contractor (vendor):

- 1) Subaward (200.92) means an award provided by a pass-through entity to a subrecipient for the subrecipient to carry out part of a Federal/State award, including a portion of the scope of work or objectives. It does not include payments to a contractor or payments to an individual that is a beneficiary of a Federal/State program.
- 2) Contract (200.22) means a legal instrument by which a non-Federal entity purchases property or services needed to carry out the project or program under a Federal award. The term as used in this part does not include a legal instrument, even if the non-Federal entity considers it a contract, when the substance of the transaction meets the definition of a Federal award or subaward.
- 3) "Vendor" or "Contractor" is generally a dealer, distributor or other seller that provides supplies, expendable materials, or data processing services in support of the project activities.

Item	Contractual Services Cost
<i>Legal Support - (\$300/hr. 25% of 2333 hours)</i>	\$ 174,975.00
<i>GIS Support - (\$75/hr. 100% of 2333 hours)</i>	\$ 174,975.00
<i>Fiber Optic Engineer - (\$125/hr. 33% of 2333 hours)</i>	\$ 96,236.25
<i>Contingency</i>	\$ 22,673.75
Total ACT 71 Contractual Services	\$ 468,860.00

Contractual Services Narrative:

- Legal support is for specialized legal services that will be required by the Board and the staff.
- GIS support will include developing a usable map for the VCBB as well as providing regular updates to reflect weekly progress
- The Fiber Optic Engineer will assist the VCBB in developing standards for construction and materials, provide guidance to CUD in design and construction activities, monitor (light) loss budgets, review performance data and provide overall technical consultancy to the VCBB

Training and Education

#REF!

Description	Quantity	Basis	Cost	Length of time	Training & Education Cost
<i>Broadband Communities Summit</i>	7		\$ 3,500.00	1	\$ 24,500.00
<i>Fiber Connect</i>	7		\$ 3,500.00	1	\$ 24,500.00
<i>Contingency</i>					\$ 7,500.00
				<i>ACT 71 Expenses</i>	\$ 56,500.00
<i>Training and Education for CUDs</i>				<i>NBRC Expenses</i>	\$ 228,600.00
<i>Support of State-wide workforce development programs</i>				<i>USF Expenses</i>	\$ 527,832.50

Training & Education Narrative (State):

The Broadband Communities Summit is for community leaders, multifamily property owners and network builders and deployers interested in the building, managing, marketing and monetizing of high-speed broadband technologies and services. It is focused on the successful delivery of high-speed broadband networks to communities – from multifamily properties to ultra-connected master-planned developments to the city or town where you live. The program offers presentations by outstanding speakers with a finger on the pulse of what's new and what's coming, what works and what doesn't.

The Fiber Connect conference & exhibition represents the annual convening of suppliers and operators who foundational are critical to communications, computing, innovation and commerce. The 2021 Fiber Connect event offers opportunities for market development, technology demonstration and peer-group interaction. The event has executives from a wide scope of industry sectors – traditional audiences as well as new audiences — commercial network operators, mobile network operators, digital infrastructure asset owners & developers; investors; technology suppliers, enterprises and more.

The VCBB will provide training programs for the CUD Boards in the area of Financial Governance as well as technology.

The VCBB is working with the Vermont Community Foundation, the Department of Labor, Vermont Technical College, Northern University and Social Finance (Career Investment Bonds) to develop training programs to develop in-state labor resources. The estimate is that Vermont will need 200 Fiber Technicians (total of inside and outside) to build and maintain the network. The fall-out is 2/3 which means 600 technicians will need to be trained. These funds will help purchase the bucket trucks and training materials.

Board Costs

6.Board Operational **Costs** --This category contains items that are directly related to Board Member payments

Description	Quantity	Basis	Cost	number	Other or Miscellaneous Cost
<i>Board meeting per diem</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>3/month/ 17 months</i>	<i>\$ 250.00</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>\$ 51,000.00</i>
<i>Board meeting mileage</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>miles/meeting</i>	<i>\$ 0.55</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>\$ 14,025.00</i>
<i>Additional Board work</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>days/member</i>	<i>\$ 250.00</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>\$ 25,000.00</i>
<i>Board Training and Education</i>			<i>\$ 4,000.00</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>\$ 40,000.00</i>
Total ACT 71 Expenses					\$ 130,025.00

Board Costs Narrative (State):

- Board training to include good governance, technical training and excellence in performance reporting.

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 3:16:11 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 3:53:26 PM
Time Spent: 00:37:14
IP Address: 64.223.111.48

Page 1: Preconstruction Grant Scorecard

Q1

Contact Information

Official Name of Communications Union District	CV Fiber
Email Address	jhansen@cvfiber.net
Phone Number	802-279-6054

Q2

Name of Reviewer

Christine Hallquist

Q3

Amount Requested

\$4,454,000

Q4**More than 3**

of committees that actively meet

Q5**More than 10**

How many board members volunteer outside of the monthly meeting? This could be participating in a working group or committee.

Q6**Conflict of Interest Policy**

Please check all policies formally adopted by the CUD

<p>Q7</p> <p>How does the CUD manage grants and finances? (5 points max)</p>	<p>Bookkeeper,</p> <p>Contracts with an RPC, RDC, or other outside group</p>
<p>Q8</p> <p>What type of account system does your organization use?</p>	<p>Manual</p>
<p>Q9</p> <p>Did the organization have one or more audit findings in their last single audit regarding significant internal control deficiency or program non-compliance?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Q10</p> <p>Confirmation of commitment to provide Universal Service. If there is no commitment, the application cannot be approved.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Q11</p> <p>Has the CUD completed a feasibility study? Please include a link in the "comments" section?</p>	<p>Yes,</p> <p>Other (please specify):</p> <p>It was done early, not applicable now</p>
<p>Q12</p> <p>Has the CUD completed a business plan? We acknowledge business plans are living documents.</p>	<p>Yes,</p> <p>Other (please specify):</p> <p>Need to update the plan to reflect grant availability</p>
<p>Q13</p> <p>Is the CUD updating its business plan? - Check all that apply.</p>	<p>Other (please specify):</p> <p>Plan needs to be updated to reflect grants, Waterbury entry and Elmore exit to Lamoille Fibernet</p>
<p>Q14</p> <p>Timeframe for selecting an operator/partner</p>	<p>Operated expected to be selected before the end of 2021 (RFP issued or joint grant application submitted)</p>
<p>Q15</p> <p>Sustainability: Please check all boxes that applied</p>	<p>Received small donations (less than \$10,000) from community members</p> <p>,</p> <p>Received a state grant,</p> <p>Received a federal grant (USDA, EDA, NTIA, etc) ,</p> <p>Received a grant from a private foundation</p>

Q16

The CUD presents a comprehensive and detailed overall strategy to achieve its short-term (increase capacity) and long-term goals (constructing a network)

The Applicant provided a comprehensive strategy with an appropriate amount of detail for achieving universal service in the District.

Q17

Capacity Proposals

The Applicant provided an overview of the current capacity and expected capacity needs for the District over the next 18 months

,

The Applicant proposed activities that will adequately address those capacity needs

,

The activities proposed will increase the ability of the CUD to perform due diligence on potential partners (or they have already selected a partner)

,

The Applicant described how capacity not funded through this application will be met

Q18

Preconstruction Proposal

The Applicant provided a complete timeline overview of the entire project

,

The Applicant broke down effort to achieve universal service into phases

,

The Applicant has provided a detailed description of each activity proposed

Q19

Are the activities proposed by the Applicant consistent with the overall strategy and does the timeline properly for commencing each activity align with best practices for the phased build-out of a broadband network?

Timeline for at least the first two construction phases was provided and aligns with best practices.

Q20

Has the CUD discussed plans or sought input for any of the following? (check all that apply)

Other CUDs,
Utilities serving the district

Q21

The Applicant understands and describes steps being taken to ensure a resilient and redundant network that is interoperable with other networks and is capable of supporting future growth.

Applicant demonstrated an understanding of the concern and is integrating that concern into its planning activities

Q22

The Applicant has addressed concerns regarding overbuilding and is either not overbuilding or makes a compelling case that it is necessary in the project area.

Applicant demonstrated an understanding of the concern and is integrating that concern into its planning activities

Q23

Sustainability: The Applicant discussed their strategy for acquiring the additional funds necessary beyond funds awarded by the VCBB to support operations and additional construction to achieve universal service.

Applicant demonstrated an understanding of the concern and is integrating that concern into its planning activities

Q24

Affordability: The Applicant demonstrated an understanding and initial thoughts on how to address affordability.

Applicant demonstrated an understanding of the concern and is integrating that concern into its planning activities

Q25

Budget #'s are realistic and reflect typical cost assumptions (10 Points)

Costs are typical and reflect and understand of the market

,
Comments:
I do not think we should fund make-ready at this point. This should come as part of the construction budget request as it will be informed by the detailed design at that point.

Q26

Applicant should only apply for what is needed within the next eighteen (18) months. The Board will not approve requests equal to the entire estimated amount available. Applicants are encouraged to conserve their preconstruction budget.

over 90% ,
Comments:
Exclude the make-ready

Q27

Detailed Project Timeline w Tasks

Provides a breakdown of tasks that is logical and provides a roadmap for the project

,
Start date for each activity is strategic and logical for the overall strategy

,
Clear connection between the project timeframe and the expected construction start date

Q28

Comment/Concerns

Respondent skipped this question

Q29

Items recommended to be funded, amount, comments

Line Item to Be Funded if not all items are recommended	administration - \$548K
Line Item to Be Funded if not all items are recommended	Project Management - \$25K
Line Item to Be Funded if not all items are recommended	Pole Inventory - \$495K
Line Item to Be Funded if not all items are recommended	Design Services - \$1,600K

Q30

Items recommended not to be funded, amount, brief explanation.

Line Item Not to Be Funded	Make Ready - \$1.786K
----------------------------	------------------------------

Q31

Amount Awarded

2,668K

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 11, 2021 8:37:11 PM
Last Modified: Monday, October 11, 2021 8:53:49 PM
Time Spent: 00:16:38
IP Address: 69.5.119.180

QUIZ SUMMARY

75%
SCORE

15/20
POINTS

1/4
RANK

100%
PERCENTILE

QUIZ RESULTS

Correct	Incorrect	Partially Correct	Skipped	Total Questions
0	0	1	0	1

Page 1: Preconstruction Grant Scorecard

Q1

Contact Information

Official Name of Communications Union District	CVFiber
Email Address	jhansen@cvfiber.net
Phone Number	802-279-6054

Q2

Name of Reviewer

RF

Q3

Amount Requested

Request was for \$4,454,000. The allotment was \$2,804,667

Q4

More than 3

of committees that actively meet

Q5

How many board members volunteer outside of the monthly meeting? This could be participating in a working group or committee.

More than 10**Q6**

Please check all policies formally adopted by the CUD

Conflict of Interest Policy**Q7**

How does the CUD manage grants and finances? (5 points max)

Bookkeeper,**Contracts with an RPC, RDC, or other outside group****Q8**

What type of account system does your organization use?

Automated,

Other (please specify):

Accounting firm being hired. Will use an automated system. I've inquired as to the timeframe

Q9

Did the organization have one or more audit findings in their last single audit regarding significant internal control deficiency or program non-compliance?

No**Q10**

Confirmation of commitment to provide Universal Service. If there is no commitment, the application cannot be approved.

Yes,

Other (please specify):

construction plan broken down into phases to serve all addresses

Q11

Has the CUD completed a feasibility study? Please include a link in the "comments" section?

Yes,

Other (please specify):

documents attached to application

Q12

Has the CUD completed a business plan? We acknowledge business plans are living documents.

Yes,

Other (please specify):

documents attached to application

Q13

Is the CUD updating its business plan? - Check all that apply.

The plan is being finalized/updated to account for new information the addition of news towns

,

The plan is being finalized/updated to account for the availability of substantial grant funding

,

Other (please specify):

Waterbury joined after June 2021 and has not be incorporated into the plan. The plan must be updated before the Construction Program.

Q14

Timeframe for selecting an operator/partner

Operated expected to be selected before the end of 2021 (RFP issued or joint grant application submitted)

Q15

Sustainability: Please check all boxes that applied

Received small donations (less than \$10,000) from community members

,

Received a state grant,

Received a federal grant (USDA, EDA, NTIA, etc) ,

Received a grant from a private foundation

Q16

The CUD presents a comprehensive and detailed overall strategy to achieve its short-term (increase capacity) and long-term goals (constructing a network)

15/20 pts

✘ The Applicant provided a comprehensive strategy with an appropriate amount of detail for achieving universal service in the District. (15pts),

Other (please specify): (0pt)

I have questions regarding several areas of Duxbury and Elmore that both lack poles or access to poles. It was unclear in the application whether the Duxbury addresses were "on grid." The Elmore addresses are on-grid but can only be accessed from Lamoille. I believe discussions are underway for the town to switch CUDs, but I'd like additional information and a status update.

Q17

Capacity Proposals

The Applicant provided an overview of the current capacity and expected capacity needs for the District over the next 18 months

,

The Applicant proposed activities that will adequately address those capacity needs

,

The activities proposed will increase the ability of the CUD to perform due diligence on potential partners (or they have already selected a partner)

,

The Applicant described how capacity not funded through this application will be met

Q18

Preconstruction Proposal

The Applicant provided a complete timeline overview of the entire project

,

The Applicant broke down effort to achieve universal service into phases

,

The Applicant has provided a detailed description of each activity proposed

,

The Applicant is following best practice engineering standards or agrees to follow standards set by the Board

,

The Applicant has an understanding of the risk and contingencies for addressing those risks

,

Comments:

Retainer contracts with multiple pre-qualified contractors for make-ready, construction, and installation work.

Q19

Are the activities proposed by the Applicant consistent with the overall strategy and does the timeline properly for commencing each activity align with best practices for the phased build-out of a broadband network?

Timeline for at least the first two construction phases was provided and aligns with best practices.

Q20

Has the CUD discussed plans or sought input for any of the following? (check all that apply)

Other CUDs,
 Utilities serving the district,
 Incumbent telephone, cable providers, or another internet service provider
 ,
 Regional Planning Commissions of Local Development Districts
 ,
 School Districts or Libraries

Q21

The Applicant understands and describes steps being taken to ensure a resilient and redundant network that is interoperable with other networks and is capable of supporting future growth.

Applicant demonstrated an understanding of the concern and is integrating that concern into its planning activities

,
 Comments:
 ensuring redundancy within and between networks.

Q22

The Applicant has addressed concerns regarding overbuilding and is either not overbuilding or makes a compelling case that it is necessary in the project area.

Applicant demonstrated an understanding of the concern and is integrating that concern into its planning activities

Q23

Sustainability: The Applicant discussed their strategy for acquiring the additional funds necessary beyond funds awarded by the VCBB to support operations and additional construction to achieve universal service.

Applicant demonstrated an understanding of the concern and is integrating that concern into its planning activities

,
 Comments:
 The business plan completed before the influx of grant funds indicated that CVFiber would be EBITDA positive by the third year of operation.

Q24

Affordability: The Applicant demonstrated an understanding and initial thoughts on how to address affordability.

Applicant demonstrated an understanding of the concern and is integrating that concern into its planning activities

Q25

Budget #'s are realistic and reflect typical cost assumptions (10 Points)

Costs are typical and reflect and understand of the market

,
 Comments:
 Based on the H315 process, I believe the quotes are from an RFP and they have entered a Master Service Agreement, but I would like to confirm.

Q26

Applicant should only apply for what is needed within the next eighteen (18) months. The Board will not approve requests equal to the entire estimated amount available. Applicants are encouraged to conserve their preconstruction budget.

over 90% ,

Comments:

Request was for \$4,454,000. The allotment was \$2,804,667. I propose we ask them to reduce their budget either by creating phases for the preconstruction work, saving the make-ready for phase 2 for the construction grant, or making the case that more funds should be allocated to the Pre-Construction "pot."

Q27

Detailed Project Timeline w Tasks

Provides a breakdown of tasks that is logical and provides a roadmap for the project

,

Start date for each activity is strategic and logical for the overall strategy

,

Clear connection between the project timeframe and the expected construction start date

Q28

Comment/Concerns

Ask was too high. Cannot approve without a phased approach for preconstruction or a request to include additional preconstruction (make-ready) in the construction grant.

Q29

Items recommended to be funded, amount, comments

Respondent skipped this question

Q30

Items recommended not to be funded, amount, brief explanation.

Respondent skipped this question

Q31

Amount Awarded

Respondent skipped this question

#8

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 8:00:54 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 8:19:44 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:49
IP Address: 69.5.119.180

Page 1: Preconstruction Grant Scorecard

Q1

Contact Information

Official Name of Communications Union District	Deerfield Valley Communications Union District
Email Address	chair@dvfiber.net
Phone Number	8023800208

Q2

Name of Reviewer

RF

Q3

Amount Requested

4,111,318

Q4

More than 3

of committees that actively meet

Q5

More than 10

How many board members volunteer outside of the monthly meeting? This could be participating in a working group or committee.

Q6

Please check all policies formally adopted by the CUD

Conflict of Interest Policy,
Procurement Policy,
 Other (please specify):
 Accounting Auditing and Reporting Policy; Finance
 Committee Administrative Procedures

Q7

How does the CUD manage grants and finances? (5 points max)

Bookkeeper,**Contracts with an RPC, RDC, or other outside group,
Volunteer****Q8**

What type of account system does your organization use?

Automated,

Other (please specify):
BDCC will be taking over full management of financial systems in Jan 22.

Q9

Did the organization have one or more audit findings in their last single audit regarding significant internal control deficiency or program non-compliance?

Never required to have an audit**Q10**

Confirmation of commitment to provide Universal Service. If there is no commitment, the application cannot be approved.

Yes,

Other (please specify):
bylaws, feasibility study, business plan, RFPs, and proposal offered vendor partner. The phased construction plan also demonstrates such a commitment

Q11

Has the CUD completed a feasibility study? Please include a link in the "comments" section?

Yes,

Other (please specify):
documents attached to application

Q12

Has the CUD completed a business plan? We acknowledge business plans are living documents.

Yes

Q13

Is the CUD updating its business plan? - Check all that apply.

The plan is being finalized/updated to account for new information the addition of news towns

,

The plan is being finalized/updated to account for RDOF, CI, LECAP and known new projects

,

The plan is being finalized/updated to account for the availability of substantial grant funding

,

The plan is being finalized/updated to account for workforce and material shortages

,

OR the planning has already been updated (not other answers should be selected)

,

Other (please specify):

Updated to comply with Act 71

Q14

Timeframe for selecting an operator/partner

Operator has been selected,

Other (please specify):

currently finalizing scope of work - draft agreement attached

Q15

Sustainability: Please check all boxes that applied

Received small donations (less than \$10,000) from community members

,

Received a state grant,

Received a grant from a private foundation

Q16

The CUD presents a comprehensive and detailed overall strategy to achieve its short-term (increase capacity) and long-term goals (constructing a network)

The Applicants strategy is a proven strategy and based on previous success

Q17

Capacity Proposals

The Applicant provided an overview of the current capacity and expected capacity needs for the District over the next 18 months

,

The Applicant proposed activities that will adequately address those capacity needs

,

The activities proposed will increase the ability of the CUD to perform due diligence on potential partners (or they have already selected a partner)

Q18

Preconstruction Proposal

The Applicant provided a complete timeline overview of the entire project

,

The Applicant broke down effort to achieve universal service into phases

,

The Applicant has provided a detailed description of each activity proposed

,

The Applicant is following best practice engineering standards or agrees to follow standards set by the Board

,

The Applicant has an understanding of the risk and contingencies for addressing those risks

Q19

Are the activities proposed by the Applicant consistent with the overall strategy and does the timeline properly for commencing each activity align with best practices for the phased build-out of a broadband network?

Timeline for at least the first two construction phases was provided and aligns with best practices.

Q20

Has the CUD discussed plans or sought input for any of the following? (check all that apply)

Other CUDs,

Utilities serving the district,

Incumbent telephone, cable providers, or another internet service provider

,

Regional Planning Commissions of Local Development Districts

,

School Districts or Libraries

Q21

The Applicant understands and describes steps being taken to ensure a resilient and redundant network that is interoperable with other networks and is capable of supporting future growth.

Applicant demonstrated an understanding of the concern and is integrating that concern into its planning activities

Q22

The Applicant has addressed concerns regarding overbuilding and is either not overbuilding or makes a compelling case that it is necessary in the project area.

Applicant did not address or comment on this item

Q23

Sustainability: The Applicant discussed their strategy for acquiring the additional funds necessary beyond funds awarded by the VCBB to support operations and additional construction to achieve universal service.

Applicant did not address or comment on this item

Q24

Affordability: The Applicant demonstrated an understanding and initial thoughts on how to address affordability.

Applicant did not address or comment on this item

Q25

Budget #'s are realistic and reflect typical cost assumptions (10 Points)

Costs reflect RFP responses or price quotes

Q26

Applicant should only apply for what is needed within the next eighteen (18) months. The Board will not approve requests equal to the entire estimated amount available. Applicants are encouraged to conserve their preconstruction budget.

over 90%

Q27

Detailed Project Timeline w Tasks

Provides a breakdown of tasks that is logical and provides a roadmap for the project

,

Start date for each activity is strategic and logical for the overall strategy

,

Clear connection between the project timeframe and the expected construction start date

Q28

Comment/Concerns

I couldn't have asked for a more detailed application.

Q29

Respondent skipped this question

Items recommended to be funded, amount, comments

Q30

Respondent skipped this question

Items recommended not to be funded, amount, brief explanation.

Q31

Amount Awarded

4,111,318

#6

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 4:36:40 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 4:49:52 PM
Time Spent: 00:13:11
IP Address: 64.223.111.48

Page 1: Preconstruction Grant Scorecard

Q1

Contact Information

Official Name of Communications Union District	Deerfield Valley Communications Union District
Email Address	Chair@DVFiber.net
Phone Number	(802) 380-0208

Q2

Name of Reviewer

Christine Hallquist

Q3

Amount Requested

\$4,111,318

Q4**More than 3**

of committees that actively meet

Q5**More than 10**

How many board members volunteer outside of the monthly meeting? This could be participating in a working group or committee.

Q6

**Conflict of Interest Policy,
Procurement Policy**

Please check all policies formally adopted by the CUD

<p>Q7</p> <p>How does the CUD manage grants and finances? (5 points max)</p>	<p>Bookkeeper, Volunteer</p>
<p>Q8</p> <p>What type of account system does your organization use?</p>	<p>Automated</p>
<p>Q9</p> <p>Did the organization have one or more audit findings in their last single audit regarding significant internal control deficiency or program non-compliance?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Q10</p> <p>Confirmation of commitment to provide Universal Service. If there is no commitment, the application cannot be approved.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Q11</p> <p>Has the CUD completed a feasibility study? Please include a link in the "comments" section?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Q12</p> <p>Has the CUD completed a business plan? We acknowledge business plans are living documents.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Q13</p> <p>Is the CUD updating its business plan? - Check all that apply.</p>	<p>No plans to update business plan and it does not address previous items.</p>
<p>Q14</p> <p>Timeframe for selecting an operator/partner</p>	<p>Operator has been selected</p>
<p>Q15</p> <p>Sustainability: Please check all boxes that applied</p>	<p>Received small donations (less than \$10,000) from community members ,</p> <p>Received a state grant,</p> <p>Received a grant from a private foundation</p>

Q16

The CUD presents a comprehensive and detailed overall strategy to achieve its short-term (increase capacity) and long-term goals (constructing a network)

The Applicants strategy is a proven strategy and based on previous success

Q17

Capacity Proposals

The Applicant provided an overview of the current capacity and expected capacity needs for the District over the next 18 months

,

The Applicant proposed activities that will adequately address those capacity needs

,

The activities proposed will increase the ability of the CUD to perform due diligence on potential partners (or they have already selected a partner)

Q18

Preconstruction Proposal

The Applicant provided a complete timeline overview of the entire project

,

The Applicant broke down effort to achieve universal service into phases

,

The Applicant has provided a detailed description of each activity proposed

,

The Applicant is following best practice engineering standards or agrees to follow standards set by the Board

,

The Applicant has an understanding of the risk and contingencies for addressing those risks

Q19

Are the activities proposed by the Applicant consistent with the overall strategy and does the timeline properly for commencing each activity align with best practices for the phased build-out of a broadband network?

Timeline for at least the first two constructions phases was provided and aligns with best practices.

Q20

Has the CUD discussed plans or sought input for any of the following? (check all that apply)

Other CUDs,
 Utilities serving the district,
 Incumbent telephone, cable providers, or another internet service provider
 ,
 Regional Planning Commissions of Local Development Districts

Q21

The Applicant understands and describes steps being taken to ensure a resilient and redundant network that is interoperable with other networks and is capable of supporting future growth.

Applicant demonstrated an understanding of the concern and is integrating that concern into its planning activities

Q22

The Applicant has addressed concerns regarding overbuilding and is either not overbuilding or makes a compelling case that it is necessary in the project area.

Applicant demonstrated an understanding of the concern and is integrating that concern into its planning activities

Q23

Sustainability: The Applicant discussed their strategy for acquiring the additional funds necessary beyond funds awarded by the VCBB to support operations and additional construction to achieve universal service.

Applicant demonstrated an understanding of the concern and is integrating that concern into its planning activities

Q24

Affordability: The Applicant demonstrated an understanding and initial thoughts on how to address affordability.

Applicant did not address or comment on this item

Q25

Budget #'s are realistic and reflect typical cost assumptions (10 Points)

Costs reflect RFP responses or price quotes

Q26

Applicant should only apply for what is needed within the next eighteen (18) months. The Board will not approve requests equal to the entire estimated amount available. Applicants are encouraged to conserve their preconstruction budget.

over 90%

Q27

Detailed Project Timeline w Tasks

Provides a breakdown of tasks that is logical and provides a roadmap for the project

,

Start date for each activity is strategic and logical for the overall strategy

,

Clear connection between the project timeframe and the expected construction start date

Q28

Comment/Concerns

This was an excellent submittal. I recommend fully funding their request.

Q29

Items recommended to be funded, amount, comments

Respondent skipped this question

Q30

Items recommended not to be funded, amount, brief explanation.

Respondent skipped this question

Q31

Amount Awarded

Respondent skipped this question

#7

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 4:56:12 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 5:06:01 PM
Time Spent: 00:09:49
IP Address: 64.223.111.48

Page 1: Preconstruction Grant Scorecard

Q1

Contact Information

Official Name of Communications Union District	Northwest Communications Union District
Email Address	sean@nwcud.com
Phone Number	8023168526

Q2

Name of Reviewer

Christine Hallquist

Q3

Amount Requested

\$604,376.25

Q4**1-3**

of committees that actively meet

Q5**More than 10**

How many board members volunteer outside of the monthly meeting? This could be participating in a working group or committee.

Q6**Conflict of Interest Policy**

Please check all policies formally adopted by the CUD

<p>Q7</p> <p>How does the CUD manage grants and finances? (5 points max)</p>	<p>Contracts with an RPC, RDC, or other outside group</p>
<p>Q8</p> <p>What type of account system does your organization use?</p>	<p>Automated</p>
<p>Q9</p> <p>Did the organization have one or more audit findings in their last single audit regarding significant internal control deficiency or program non-compliance?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Q10</p> <p>Confirmation of commitment to provide Universal Service. If there is no commitment, the application cannot be approved.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Q11</p> <p>Has the CUD completed a feasibility study? Please include a link in the "comments" section?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Q12</p> <p>Has the CUD completed a business plan? We acknowledge business plans are living documents.</p>	<p>No plans to complete a business plan (No Go!)</p>
<p>Q13</p> <p>Is the CUD updating its business plan? - Check all that apply.</p>	<p>Other (please specify):</p> <p>The business plan is being developed. By definition, it will be up-to-date. Estimate for completion is 3 to 6 months.</p>
<p>Q14</p> <p>Timeframe for selecting an operator/partner</p>	<p>We have not yet engaged in discussions with potential partners</p>
<p>Q15</p> <p>Sustainability: Please check all boxes that applied</p>	<p>Received a state grant,</p> <p>Received a federal grant (USDA, EDA, NTIA, etc) ,</p> <p>Received a grant from a private foundation</p>

Q16

The CUD presents a comprehensive and detailed overall strategy to achieve its short-term (increase capacity) and long-term goals (constructing a network)

The Applicant provided an overview of an overall strategy, but the strategy requires major adjustment and key details were missing

Q17

Capacity Proposals

Respondent skipped this question

Q18

Preconstruction Proposal

The Applicant provided a complete timeline overview of the entire project

Q19

Are the activities proposed by the Applicant consistent with the overall strategy and does the timeline properly for commencing each activity align with best practices for the phased build-out of a broadband network?

Comments:
NWCUD is not ready for this question.

Q20

Has the CUD discussed plans or sought input for any of the following? (check all that apply)

**Other CUDs,
Utilities serving the district,
Incumbent telephone, cable providers, or another internet service provider**

Q21

The Applicant understands and describes steps being taken to ensure a resilient and redundant network that is interoperable with other networks and is capable of supporting future growth.

Comments:
NWCUD is not ready for this question.

Q22

The Applicant has addressed concerns regarding overbuilding and is either not overbuilding or makes a compelling case that it is necessary in the project area.

Applicant did not address or comment on this item

Q23

Sustainability: The Applicant discussed their strategy for acquiring the additional funds necessary beyond funds awarded by the VCBB to support operations and additional construction to achieve universal service.

Applicant demonstrated an understanding of the concern and is integrating that concern into its planning activities

<p>Q24</p> <p>Affordability: The Applicant demonstrated an understanding and initial thoughts on how to address affordability.</p>	<p>Applicant did not address or comment on this item</p>
<p>Q25</p> <p>Budget #'s are realistic and reflect typical cost assumptions (10 Points)</p>	<p>Costs reflect RFP responses or price quotes</p>
<p>Q26</p> <p>Applicant should only apply for what is needed within the next eighteen (18) months. The Board will not approve requests equal to the entire estimated amount available. Applicants are encouraged to conserve their preconstruction budget.</p>	<p>less than 80%</p>
<p>Q27</p> <p>Detailed Project Timeline w Tasks</p>	<p>Comments: NWCUD is not ready for this question</p>
<p>Q28</p> <p>Comment/Concerns</p> <p>Northwest is just getting started with its detailed business planning and will need these funds to proceed to detailed design. We expect that NWCUD will come in for a second pre-construction grant.</p>	
<p>Q29</p> <p>Items recommended to be funded, amount, comments</p>	<p>Respondent skipped this question</p>
<p>Q30</p> <p>Items recommended not to be funded, amount, brief explanation.</p>	<p>Respondent skipped this question</p>
<p>Q31</p> <p>Amount Awarded</p> <p>\$604,376.25</p>	

#9

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 2 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 8:21:02 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 8:39:33 PM
Time Spent: 00:18:30
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Page 1: Preconstruction Grant Scorecard

Q1

Contact Information

Official Name of Communications Union District	Northwest Communications Union District
Email Address	sean@nwcud.com
Phone Number	8023168526

Q2

Name of Reviewer

RF

Q3

Amount Requested

\$604,376.25

Q4**1-3**

of committees that actively meet

Q5**More than 10**

How many board members volunteer outside of the monthly meeting? This could be participating in a working group or committee.

Q6

Please check all policies formally adopted by the CUD

Conflict of Interest Policy,

Other (please specify):

Confirming they have a procurement policy. I know that NRPC has been handling the process for all previous grants.

Q7**Contracts with an RPC, RDC, or other outside group**

How does the CUD manage grants and finances? (5 points max)

Q8

Automated,
Other (please specify):
NRPC

What type of account system does your organization use?

Q9**Never required to have an audit**

Did the organization have one or more audit findings in their last single audit regarding significant internal control deficiency or program non-compliance?

Q10**Yes**

Confirmation of commitment to provide Universal Service. If there is no commitment, the application cannot be approved.

Q11

Yes,
Other (please specify):
documents attached to application. Not impressed with the work of Matrix.

Has the CUD completed a feasibility study? Please include a link in the "comments" section?

Q12

No, but the plan is being being finalized,
Other (please specify):
consultant being selected and scheduled for completion this year. Switched consultants based on experience with feasibility study

Has the CUD completed a business plan? We acknowledge business plans are living documents.

Q13

The plan is being finalized/updated to account for new information the addition of news towns

Is the CUD updating its business plan? - Check all that apply.

,
Other (please specify):
plan will address all issues

Q14

We are in discussions with multiple potential partners, but do not have a timeframe for finalizing agreements

Timeframe for selecting an operator/partner

Q15

Received a state grant,
Received a federal grant (USDA, EDA, NTIA, etc) ,
Received a grant from a private foundation

Sustainability: Please check all boxes that applied

Q16

The CUD presents a comprehensive and detailed overall strategy to achieve its short-term (increase capacity) and long-term goals (constructing a network)

The Applicant provided an overview of an overall strategy, but the strategy requires major adjustment and key details were missing

Q17

Capacity Proposals

The Applicant provided an overview of the current capacity and expected capacity needs for the District over the next 18 months

,

The Applicant proposed activities that will adequately address those capacity needs

,

The activities proposed will increase the ability of the CUD to perform due diligence on potential partners (or they have already selected a partner)

Q18

Preconstruction Proposal

The Applicant provided a complete timeline overview of the entire project

Q19

Are the activities proposed by the Applicant consistent with the overall strategy and does the timeline properly for commencing each activity align with best practices for the phased build-out of a broadband network?

Comments:

Not applicable at this stage

Q20

Has the CUD discussed plans or sought input for any of the following? (check all that apply)

Other CUDs,

Utilities serving the district,

Incumbent telephone, cable providers, or another internet service provider

,

Regional Planning Commissions of Local Development Districts

Q21

The Applicant understands and describes steps being taken to ensure a resilient and redundant network that is interoperable with other networks and is capable of supporting future growth.

Applicant demonstrated an understanding of the concern and is integrating that concern into its planning activities

,

Comments:

Too early to judge, but they are aware of the issue

Q22

The Applicant has addressed concerns regarding overbuilding and is either not overbuilding or makes a compelling case that it is necessary in the project area.

Applicant demonstrated an understanding of the concern and is integrating that concern into its planning activities

Q23

Sustainability: The Applicant discussed their strategy for acquiring the additional funds necessary beyond funds awarded by the VCBB to support operations and additional construction to achieve universal service.

Applicant demonstrated an understanding of the concern and is integrating that concern into its planning activities

Q24

Affordability: The Applicant demonstrated an understanding and initial thoughts on how to address affordability.

Applicant demonstrated an understanding of the concern and is integrating that concern into its planning activities

Comments:

one of three core values, but does not provide details on how. Too early for this question

Q25

Budget #'s are realistic and reflect typical cost assumptions (10 Points)

Costs reflect RFP responses or price quotes

Q26

Applicant should only apply for what is needed within the next eighteen (18) months. The Board will not approve requests equal to the entire estimated amount available. Applicants are encouraged to conserve their preconstruction budget.

less than 80%

Q27

Detailed Project Timeline w Tasks

Provides a breakdown of tasks that is logical and provides a roadmap for the project

Q28

Comment/Concerns

NWCUD is an early-stage CUD. The goal of this application to secure the capacity to accelerate growth and to gather additional data to assist with negotiating with potential operators.

Would like to confirm where pole studies are to be conducted.

Q29

Items recommended to be funded, amount, comments

Respondent skipped this question

Q30

Respondent skipped this question

Items recommended not to be funded, amount, brief explanation.

Q31

Amount Awarded

\$604,376.25 (pending answer to pole study question)
