

Approved _____, 2025

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Addison County Communications Union District (dba) Maple Broadband

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

August 26, 2025

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

**Location: 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury, VT
VIA TEAMS**

PRESENT

Steve Huffaker (Ferrisburgh) - Chair

Shannon Haggett (Vergennes) - Vice-chair

Nancy Cornell (Starksboro) - At-large

Zapata Courage - (Lincoln) - Governing Board representative

Ellie de Villiers — Executive Director (ex officio)

Lynn Dunton - Treasurer (ex officio)

1. Call to order / agenda approval

Recording announced. The meeting was called to order at 4:08 pm by the Executive Director. Quorum announced. Nancy MOVED / Shannon SECONDED a motion to approve the agenda as modified, with addition of approval of payment for make ready work in Ferrisburgh as 4a. MOTION APPROVED unanimously by show of hands/voice vote.

2. Approval of minutes: August 6, #2, 2025

Steve MOVED / Shannon SECONDED a motion to approve the minutes as presented. MOTION APPROVED unanimously by show of hands/voice vote.

3. Public comments - none

4. Calls for decision/key discussions

a. Approval of payment of GMP make ready order.

Ellie reported that the estimate from Green Mountain Power (GMP) for make ready work in Ferrisburgh is \$12,429.50. This estimate is under the tariff rider program so the actual cost may vary. Steve MOVED / Shannon SECONDED a motion to approve payment of the above estimate from GMP. MOTION APPROVED unanimously by show of hands/voice vote.

b. BEAD - Ellie said that the VCBB should be notifying the likely sub-recipients tomorrow.

c. VCBB Affordable Long Drop RFA

- Before applying to the RFA, some policy decisions need to be made. The purpose of this discussion is to consider those policy questions and move toward consensus.
- By way of context, Ellie said that with the Long Drop Program, VCBB is trying to have parity between ARPA funded areas and BEAD funded addresses. While ARPA and BEAD are both federal funds, they have very different sets of rules.
- Under BEAD rules, service must be installed within 10 days of a customer requesting it and the customer must not be charged anything in excess of the provider's standard installation fee and must not be required to make any modifications to their property. The Act 71 ARPA-funded construction grant program does not have these same requirements and Maple Broadband and other CUD recipients have been spending the limited funds on building mainline in furtherance of achieving universal service vs paying for conduits on private property.
- The Long Drop Program requires prioritizing funding of long drops for:
 - households in mobile home parks that are unserved or underserved;
 - lower income households;
 - households that have signed up and that need buried service that is not completed because of the cost.

There are no mobile home parks that are currently passed with Maple Broadband mainline; there is one where service goes down the main road but construction of mainline within the park is disallowed by the VCBB's overbuild policy because all the households are considered served by

Comcast/Xfinity. Therefore the two groups that Maple Broadband is most concerned about are the lower income households and the households that have already signed up for Maple Broadband service but who have stopped the process because of the cost of buried service. The deadline for spending Long Drop Program funds is September 30, 2026.

- CVOEO has agreed to do household verifications for households that are already verified by being in another program that serves lower income households.
- The committee discussed the question of the criteria for lower income eligibility, what measures need to be in place to ensure that program resources are directed to those who genuinely need assistance, and agreement that the rules should be as simple and broad as possible. Ellie said that the discussion with the committee has provided sufficient feedback so that she can now draft a document and send it out to the committee for review and comments.
- Ellie added that Maple Broadband's subsidy program needs to be developed, if the decision is made to implement it.

5. Other Business - Zapata Courage has actively attended and contributed to the Executive Committee's recent meetings. She has accepted the invitation to join the committee. Steve and Ellie will be in touch with all members of the committee, to find a regular meeting day and time that works for everyone.

6. Future meetings/ adjourn

Finance Committee: August 27, 2025 (subsequently postponed)

Executive Committee: September 3, 2025

All agreed to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Minute-taker