

**Maple Broadband**  
**Addison County Communications Union District**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**March 2, 2022**

**5:00 p.m. – 6:30p.m.**

**VIA ZOOM**

**To attend the meeting via your computer or mobile device:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85455820036?pwd=aWdac2JjcWZlU2tNeGZuVklYdE5CQT09>

Meeting ID: 854 5582 0036

Passcode: 293590

Join by phone: +1 646 558 8656

Steve Huffaker, Chair of Maple Broadband welcomed the representatives of the member towns.

**1. Welcome/Introductions/Roll Call.** The following people were present:

Paul Nikolich, Delegate Addison;  
Dan Sonneborn, Delegate Bristol;  
Magna Dodge, Delegate Cornwall;  
Cy Tall, Alternate Cornwall;  
Steve Huffaker, Delegate Ferrisburgh;  
Ross Conrad, Delegate Middlebury;  
Hugh McLaughlin, Alternate Middlebury;  
Jim Robinson, Delegate Orwell;  
Howard Hall, Delegate Panton;  
Paul Vaczy, Delegate Salisbury;  
Carl Seibecker, Delegate Shoreham;  
Nancy Cornell, Delegate Starksboro;  
Richard Warren, Alternate Starksboro;  
Shannon Haggett, Delegate Vergennes;  
Andrew Martin, Delegate Waltham;  
Spence Putnam, Delegate Weybridge;

Adam Lougee, Clerk, non-member representing Addison County Regional Planning Commission

- 2. Agenda Approval.** Steve asked for additions or changes to the agenda. **Paul Nikolich moved approval of the agenda. Carl Seibecker seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by a voice vote/show of hands.**
- 3. Approve meeting minutes from February 2, 2022.** **Paul Nikolich moved approval of the minutes from February. Shannon Haggett seconded the motion to approve the minutes. All approved**

the minutes from February's meetings, which passed by a voice vote/show of hands.

4. Grant Report. Nancy reported that Steve and Magna are working on our construction grant and expect to complete that application soon. We have our pre-construction grant for \$2.3M and will be amending that grant to ask for approximately \$635,000 in additional funds for expenditures beyond the current fiscal year. Nancy noted we were not successful in securing the NTIA grant with WCVT. No entity from Vermont received an NTIA grant.
5. Town Contribution Update. Steve reported that 8 of our 20 towns had contributed a total of \$335,000. He was pleased with that to date and encouraged delegates from towns that had not contributed to speak with their selectboards.

Andrew Martin asked why towns contribute. Magna Dodge responded that even with all the federal money available, Maple Broadband still expects to borrow approximately \$18M to complete our buildout. Every town dollar raised reduces our borrowing and our debt service and therefore, the cost to subscribers. Additionally, the town money right now is critical to our ability to pre-purchase long lead time equipment. It substantially enhances our ability to build next year.

6. Executive Session. **Steve Huffaker moved to find that premature public knowledge of Maple Broadband's contractual negotiations would clearly place Maple Broadband at a substantial disadvantage in those negotiations. Magna Dodge seconded the motion and all approved. Steve then moved that Maple Broadband enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Maple Broadband's contractual negotiations. Paul Nikolich seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to enter Executive Session to discuss confidential business matters at 5:20.**

The Board exited the Executive Session at approximately 6:10.

7. FTP electronics vote. **Steve Huffaker moved that Maple Broadband purchase FTTP electronics from Calix Electronics for a total price of \$713,228 + \$72,789, subject to bid confirmation and leveling by the Executive Board. Spence Putnam seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by a show of hands/voice vote.**
8. Electronic enclosures vote: **Steve Huffaker moved that Maple Broadband purchase Clearfield electronics enclosures. Carl Seibecker seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by a show of hands/voice vote.**
9. Splitter Cabinet vote: **Steve Huffaker moved that Maple Broadband purchase the Clearfield splitter cabinets from Graybar Distributing for approximately \$103,330, subject to bid confirmation and leveling by the Executive Board. Paul Nikolich seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by a show of hands/voice vote.**

After the votes Steve thanked the delegation and noted that he had also worked with WCVT to secure a very favorable storage location at WCVT's headquarters in Waitsfield. Steve showed the storage location and noted the cost would be minimal. Several delegates encouraged Steve to make sure the storage area and trailers would be secured and insured. Steve assured them he would speak with WCVT about security and insure our purchase of equipment while it was being stored.

10. Marketing Agency Selection: Dan Sonneborn noted we are still speaking with two finalists. The marketing committee will bring forth a recommendation at the next meeting.

11. Preconstruction activity Report. Steve stated that Maple Broadband was moving forward with its pre-construction tasks. VantagePoint Solutions (“VPS”), Maple Broadband’s engineering firm, has its design work well underway. Additionally VPS has a crew on the ground in the region to field verify data. They have field verified all of the phase 1 build area. We are moving to start our build in fall 2022 and then to really hit the ground running in the spring of 2023.

Steve also announced that he had worked with WCVT on a reporting mechanism for delegates from towns within the WCVT territory to be able to gauge how much building WCVT was doing and to ensure it kept its bargain to build as much fiber in the region as Maple Broadband. Every 6 months both Maple Broadband and WCVT will release figures about the amount of building they completed in the previous time frame. Steve expects WCVT will build faster than Maple Broadband in the first two years.

Ross Conrad asked about the pre-purchase of hardware to hang the fiber. Steve responded that there are too many moving pieces and parts to pre-purchase all of the hardware and that we will rely on our contractor to purchase the hardware.

12. Future Meeting: Our next meeting will be on April 6, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

13. Adjourn: **Magna Dodge moved to adjourn and the members voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:40 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Lougee, Clerk