

Approved August 11, 2022

Addison County Communications Union District (dba) Maple Broadband

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

JULY 21, 2022

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

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

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 pm by the Vice-Chair.

PRESENT

Ellie de Villiers, Vice-Chair, New Haven

Magna Dodge, at large representative from Cornwall

Dan Sonneborn, at large representative from Bristol

Adam Lougee, Clerk, Addison County Regional Planning Commission

Sophia Holm, intern

Cy Tall, Treasurer

2. Agenda approval - MOTION to approve the agenda as posted was APPROVED by show of hands/voice vote.

3. Public comments - Adam L. congratulated the Executive Committee on the award of the construction grant and acknowledged the quantity and quality of work done by the Committee to reach this milestone.

4. Grant award debrief / discussion - discussion included details on the grant award decision meeting with Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB), how the conservative figures in the application were determined and verified, the VCBB vote tally, and the conditions of the grant. Ellie dV. said that while the details are yet to be worked out, basically the conditions are that, in addition to existing rules around incidental overbuild that specify Maple Broadband cannot use grant funds to “overbuild” areas sufficiently served (25/3) by GoNetSpeed, Maple Broadband also may not use grant funds to “overbuild” areas where GoNetspeed plans to build fiber. If GoNetspeed does not build the fiber, then Maple Broadband can build.

5. Construction bid

a. Review bids received - the Committee reviewed the two bids from Syracuse Utilities, Inc. and Eustis Cable Enterprises and compared the material costs, labor costs, total costs and reference checks. Syracuse was the low bidder at \$1,995,203.08 and Vantage Point Solutions (VPS) reported that they have good references and reputation. The total bid from Eustis Cable Enterprises was \$2,388,359.46.

b. VPS recommendation - Syracuse Utilities

c. Executive session - not needed

d. Decision on bidder recommendation to the Governing Board - MOTION to approve the recommendation of Syracuse Utilities to the Governing Board at the Special Meeting on July 25 was unanimously APPROVED by show of hands/voice vote.

6. Marketing - Dan S. reported that he and Sophia H. met with Pivot recently. Pivot is setting up a basecamp collaboration platform. Next steps include a demand aggregation platform and press release. Dan S. and Sophia H. will meet with Ellie dV. after this meeting to discuss marketing. It was also reported that VCBB is holding a press conference tomorrow in Montpelier with the Communication Union Districts (CUDs) that have received construction grants. A farmer and Lister from Orwell will be speaking during the press conference about how high speed internet will improve her life. Also, the most recent edition of the Addison Independent featured an article about the award of the construction grant to Maple Broadband on the front page.

7. Other

- a. Ellie dV. said an internal task force is needed to work on pricing. Magna D, Cy T., Adam L. and Ellie dV. stepped up to form this task force.
- b. Magna D. mentioned that she was recently sent a draft of Cornwall's update to the Town Plan, that contains information about Cornwall that goes beyond the census numbers. This type of information from each of the Maple Broadband member towns would be very helpful to know.

8. Future Meetings:

July 25, Special Meeting of the Governing Board
July 28 Executive Committee Meeting

9. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn the meeting APPROVED by show of hands/voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Tierra, Minute-taker