

Otter Creek
Communications Union
District
January 27, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Andrew Quint (Chittenden), Bill Moore (Brandon), Chris Custer (Hubbardton), Amanda O'Connor (RRPC), Tim Monks (Castleton), Mary Anne Goulette (W Rutland), Sam Jackson (Pittsford), Cassandra Hayes (Goshen)

Guests: Jackie Savela

Meeting opened at 5:03 p.m.

Agenda approved:

- Chris made a motion to approve the agenda, Andrew seconded the motion, the motion passed.
- New member approval: Pawlet has voted to join our CUD
 - Andrew made a motion to to accept Pawlet into our CUD, Amanda seconded the motion, the motion passed.
- CUD Accelerator Program: Series of 9 trainings for CUD members. Beginning on Feb. 1st from 5-6:30 pm. Only 4 people of each CUD can attend. All trainings will be recorded and available to all CUD members. Attending: Bill, Amanda, Cassandra, Tim
 - Will these trainings be recorded so all CUD members can view them? It is our hope that they will be recorded and we will be requesting this as well.
 - Links will be posted on our website when they are made available.
- Financial update / treasurer / bookkeeper recruitment:
 - We have an applicant who has submitted a resume, they are familiar with municipal bookkeeping, finance background, does the bookkeeping for the town of Brandon
 - Amanda made a motion to approve the appointment of Jackie Savela as our CUD bookkeeper and treasurer. Cassandra seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Executive Committee: Bill, Amanda, Jackie,
 - Bill made a motion to accept Andrew to the executive committee, Tim seconded the motion. The motion passed.
 - Amanda made a motion to accept Cassandra to the executive committee, Tim seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Cares Act update: 2020 funding has been wrapped up and reported back to the state. We are waiting to hear back from the state concerning the availability of remaining Cares Act funds. Support at the state level looks promising. We are waiting for approval.
- Funding opportunities may be coming along that encourage CUD to cooperate with each other to increase our market and bidding power. We have begun to reach out to neighboring CUD's, Maple and Addison county and Southern Vermont or Bennington to see what a cooperative might look like.
- Grant updates: We still have money from the Vermont Community Foundation Grant available.
 - Bill and Amanda were able to meet with them recently to make sure we are following the funding protocol. They will be helping us create our benchmarks to gauge our success.
 - We currently have \$20,000 that the RPC is the fiscal sponsor for our CUD until we establish a bank account, which we can now do with Jackie on board.
- Rutland Regional Planning Commission Contract: Bill advised that it be put this issue aside at this time. We want to wait to see what state funding is available to offset costs.
 - Amanda will draw up a contract that we will work with.

- VCUDA update: (Vermont Communication Union District Association) no significant updates at this time.
- New Member Recruitment: If CUD members have contacts in other towns that are not a part of a CUD, reach out to them. Also, if CUD members have not signed up on the outreach platform, that helps us with the business planning that we'll be launching into having numbers and actual interest.
- Other Business: Tim attended an Economic meeting: Consolidated will be running fiber from Fair Haven on 4a through to the eastern side of Castleton. Legislative testimonies also had this information available. Consolidated will be working on the most concentrated areas as is typical practice in Rutland City, West Rutland, Rutland Town, Poultney, Proctor, Pittsford, Castleton, Brandon, Fair Haven, and Pittsfield.
 - It will be critical that we work on filling in the gaps in those areas that are not being built out. We will be sending out a newsletter with this information, but have been asked to wait until they give us their marketing information.
- Consolidated plans to begin buildout this year. They have 140 million of their own funds as well as funding from Ardof, from the FCC auction.
- Discussion around partnerships with other CUD as well as independent contractors, no specifics, just passing around possible ideas that can be beneficial to our CUD.
 - Addison CUD has reached out for a possible cooperative, but will not go forward until they have decided on a contractor.
- Website status: Our website is up and running. It is occur.org
- Starlink: Some communities have been reached out to, but we have not had contact with them at this time. They won some addresses within our CUD from the RDOF auction.
 - weather conditions could be a problem with the Starlink systems, more information is needed.
- February meeting: will include a presentation from consultants on CUD's. Feb. 24, 5 pm
- An executive meeting will also be held in Feb.
- Amanda made a motion to adjourn the meeting, cassandra seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Recorded meeting link: [January 27, 2021](#)