

**VLITE Board of Directors Meeting:  
Via Video Conference**

**Minutes of April 16, 2020  
Approved: June 16, 2020**

Meeting called to order at 1:05

**In attendance:**

Board members: Dick Marron, Richard Rubin, Hal Cohan, Peter Walke , Annie Noonan, Tony Klein (joined 20 minutes late)

Absent: Pat Moulton

Others: Gabrielle Malina, Patti Komline, Daniel Edson - State Energy Program Manager BGS, Maura Carroll - Vermont League of Cities and Towns, Jody Lesko - Efficiency Vermont, Dan Riley - Efficiency Vermont, Sue Minter - Executive Director, Capstone, Paul Zabriskie - Director of Weatherization and Energysmart of Vermont, Michael Dworkin - VELCO Board Member, Cort Richardson - VELCO Board Member

**Approve Minutes of December 2019**

- A motion was made to approve the minutes from December 17, 2019 Board of Directors meeting.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> - Annie Noonan, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Hal Cohen
  - 5 in favor, 2 absent

**Approve Amended Minutes of September 2019**

- A motion was made to correct the minutes of September 10, 2019 Board of Directors meeting.
  - 5 in favor, 2 absent

**Treasurers Report**

- Treasurers Report read by Annie Noonan: \$59,718 in checking; \$1,438,453 in savings; \$8,660 in money market.
- Other reports: program summary report shows average of eight grants per year at approx. \$124,000 average amount; uncommitted funds report shows approx. \$1,058,000 in uncommitted funds and \$479,500 in committed. Committed funds have been reconciled.

**Grant Updates**

- Reviewed GMP grant amendment that Board approved electronically (Phase II summary letter from Robert Dostis, GMP in packet).
- Amendment request from Washington Electric Cooperative to extend term by one year to April of 2021.
  - 1<sup>st</sup>- Dick Marron, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Annie Noonan
  - 5 in favor, 2 absent

## **Grant Presentations**

### **SEMP Expansion Grant**

Dan Edson, Maura Carroll, Jody Lesko and Dan Riley spoke in support of the proposal.

Dan Edson reviewed a slide show giving the board an overview of the state energy management program extension pilot. The request is for \$150,000 a year for two years. Last month the Clean Energy Development Fund Board approved this proposal for the same amount provided that PSD and BGS obtain the remaining 50% from VLITE or another source and CEDF also required reporting on advanced wood heating.

The Comprehensive Energy Plan identified that more energy efficiency work should be done in the MUSH sector and the SEMP expansion pilot will target municipalities and schools. BGS has a contracting office and already serves all political subdivisions. They propose to initiate, maintain and administer statewide contracts for energy auditors, contractors and ESCOs. They will help with preparing building benchmarks, energy audits, construction service procurement, loan applications, project management, monitoring and verification. Efficiency Vermont supports monitoring and verification. ESCOs will be on state retainer contracts and smaller entities like schools could put jobs out to bid through that.

This grant will support two project manager positions and some funding for energy audits. VLCT testified that their organization and municipalities do not generally have the capacity or expertise to manage these types of projects. Carroll said there is a great need and desire for these projects from towns but they are not being done for lack of the programming. Having project management capacity in place is key for deploying federal and other funds when they become available.

Peter Walke said that construction, rehab and efficiency projects will be some of the first allowed to move forward in the phased rollout from the pandemic. Having a program in place and projects in the pipeline enabled by the SEMP expansion pilot will help leverage federal funds. Tony Klein asked if VLITE funds are necessary since federal money may be coming in. Peter Walke explained that no one knows what is coming in yet.

### **Capstone Community Action – Next Gen Mobility and Access for Rural Vermonters**

Sue Minter and Paul Zabriskie outlined their proposal for an electric car service for low income and rural Vermonters to help with transportation needs.

Capstone are in stage 1, which is a market analysis to understand their constituencies and their needs. Over \$14 million a year is spent on Medicaid non-emergency transit. This opportunity to utilize technology to coordinate movement of people in clean vehicles is worth the effort. Capstone has invested its own resources so far and hopes to have High Meadows as an early funder as well. Sue testified that an important development in the national context is the federal transportation agency has just opened up funding for non-fixed route public transportation.

Stage 2 will be a pilot using some electric vehicles.

Tony Klein likes the concept. Hal Cohen added that coordinating rides is a big issue and he thinks this is a great idea. Peter Walke said from the state perspective providing low income, rural transportation is a significant and difficult problem for which there are no ready-made solutions and that is why the proposal is important.

### **VELCO Board Update**

Michael Dworkin and Cort Richardson updated the Board regarding their VELCO responsibilities and referred to their one page summary.

They said that the VELCO Board is functioning at a very high level with mutual respect and consideration for all parties and interests. VELCO has a fiduciary duty for the general good of the state. VLITE has a key role in appointing three members to the board who are fully involved in decision making. This creates a balance between investors and the general public. Non-utility generators have input which is vital to opening up new technologies.

In light of COVID-19 VLITE could see a decline in what it receives from VELCO dividends.

### **Votes on proposals**

#### **BGS/PSD SEMP Expansion**

- A motion was made to accept BGS SEMP grant proposal.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> - Hal Cohen, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Annie Noonan
  - All in favor, 1 absent

#### **Capstone**

- Motion was made to approve the \$150,000 grant subject to Capstone getting an additional \$100,000 from another source.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – Richard Rubin, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tony Klein
- An amendment was offered to change the wording.
- Motion to approve \$150,000 in the first year not to be released until Capstone receives an additional \$100,000 in funding.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – Hal Cohen, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tony Klein
  - All in favor, 1 absent

### **Board Discussion**

Gabrielle asked the group to review the grants in the pipeline and consider how future grants could be targeted for COVID-19 related needs. The board and staff will gather ideas and discuss at the next meeting. The board wants to consider any grants that are ready for a vote at the next meeting in June.

**The board adjourned at 3:40pm.**