



Special Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2021

Board of Directors:

	Vacant, Barton	X	Bill Humphrey, Lyndonville
X	Jonathan Elwell, Enosburg	X	Penny Jones, Morrisville
X	Mike Sullivan, Hardwick	X	Stephen Fitzhugh, Northfield
	Vacant, Jacksonville	X	John Morley, Orleans
P	Meredith Birkett, Johnson	X	Reginald Beliveau, Swanton
X	Thomas Petraska, Ludlow		

X indicates attendance in person, P indicates attendance by phone.

Alternates present:

Lynn Paradis, Swanton (P)	

Others present:

Ken Nolan, VPPSA - (X)	Amy Parah, VPPSA - (X)	Crystal Currier, VPPSA - (P)
Julia Leopold, VPPSA - (P)	Melissa Bailey, VPPSA - (P)	Ken St. Amour, VPPSA - (P)
Steve Farman, VPPSA - (P)	Alex Nicholson, VPPSA - (P)	Heather D'Arcy, VPPSA - (P)
Kim Harris, VPPSA - (P)	Josh Bancroft, VPPSA - (P)	
Amanda Simard, VPPSA - (P)	Shawn Enterline, VPPSA - (X)	James Gibbons, BED- (P)
Tim Blodgett, Hometown Connections - (X)	Kim Lyon, VPPSA - (P)	David Gagne, VPPSA - (P)

Numbers in bold type correspond with agenda item numbers:

The meeting (retreat) was called to order at 9:32 am at the West Hill Bed & Breakfast located at 1496 W Hill Road, Warren, Vermont.

Chairman Beliveau asked if there were requests for changes and/or modifications to the current agenda. There were no changes requested.

Chairman Beliveau asked if there were public comments and/or individuals who would like to address the Board. There was no public presence in attendance.

The General Manager introduced Tim Blodgett from Hometown Connections who would facilitate the meeting. He further indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to hold a retreat for the Board that would provide time for discussion and planning related to the Authority's strategic planning process,

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regional issues and the survey recently completed by the Member's governing boards, managers, and staff. The Board will establish priorities today and the VPPSA staff will follow-up by turning the priorities into strategic goals on Tuesday, July 20th.

Mr. Blodgett began by asking for introductions from those in attendance followed by a review of national industry trends – those include: an increase in utility regulation as well as power supply, aging infrastructure, grid security, tax-exempt financing, and the effects of the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

The General Manager indicated that many of the national trends are consistent with those on a State and local level. Specifically, the pressures on Affordability, Reliability, Responsiveness, and Local Control. The General Manager also reviewed examples of what other Joint Action Agencies are offering their member utilities; such as MRES, Electricities, OMPA, and IMPA.

The General Manager shared the VPPSA survey results and the status of the 2021 Strategic Plan.

The group recessed for lunch.

Mr. Blodgett indicated that the intent of the afternoon session is to be a brainstorming session with the goal of building an action plan. The Board discussed strategic priorities and came up with the following additions and modifications to the 2022 Strategic plan:

- Value of Public Power position paper/education campaign plan
- Customer friendly website/data to support
- Skill sets/Personnel, Staff/Board Committee
- Bylaw/Charter update, first right of refusal on member sale
- Modify Board member attendance goal
- Change "add" to retain existing membership

The Board was comfortable with the proposed changes/additions to the 2022 Strategic Plan and having the VPPSA staff discuss these in further detail to develop more defined goals.

Director Jones motioned to adjourn, seconded by Director Humphrey. The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Parah

Amy Parah, Assistant Secretary