



Lamoille FiberNet

www.lamoillefiber.net

Senate Finance Committee Testimony
April 7, 2021

Michael Rooney – Board Chair
Christine Hallquist – Administrator

Introduction

- Founded in July 2020 – we represent eight towns:
 - Belvidere
 - Cambridge
 - Eden
 - Hyde Park
 - Johnson
 - Morristown
 - Stowe
 - Waterville
- The population of the region we serve is approximately 23,000 total, with addresses located on over 500 road miles.

Policy Positions

- *On the VCBA* – Primary focus on Fiber To The Premise (FTTP). Can look at wireless after the FTTP goals are achieved.
- *Towns not in the CUD* – In the process of recruiting them. The CUD can serve those towns on the borders.
- *Starlink* – Unstable and inconsistent, not practical for wooded areas (Vermont is over 80% trees, capacity is limited compared to FTTP.)
- *Public/Private partnerships* – Lamoille FiberNet expects to be partnering with an ISP to provide services. The CUDs as the conduit for grant funding has resulted in collaboration – will ensure all addresses get served.

Timeline of Activities

- Business plan is complete
 - Currently in review by Rural Innovation Strategies
 - Total cost to serve all addresses – \$37.2 million; requires 64% equity investment (\$23.8 million)
- Pole Study is complete. Pole data in place for planned fiber routes.
- Currently in discussions with potential ISP partners.
- Plan in place for proposed joint project with NEK Community Broadband – \$1.54 million, serves 506 premises (½ served at 4/1 or less, other ½ not served). Serving Eden and Lowell with 47 miles of fiber. Engineering planning to begin in Fall 2021.
- Fund business plan in 2021 to start construction in 2022.