

Telecommunications & Connectivity Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Meeting was held at the Department of Public Service
112 State Street, GIGA Conference room, Montpelier
March 22nd, 2024
9:34-10:17 a.m.

Attendance

1. David Snedeker – Chair of the Board, Northeastern Vermont Development Association
2. Hunter Thompson – Director, Connectivity Division, Dept. of Public Service
3. Evan Carlson - NEK Broadband
4. Costa Pappis – AOT
5. Lindsay Kurle – ACCD
6. Aaron Brassard – Fiber Optic Project Manager; Dept. Of Public Service
7. Harlie Quero – Telecommunications Coordinator; Dept. Of Public Service (notetaker)

Members of the Public

1. Stephen Whitaker

Item	Item Description	Action By
1.0	Call to order 9:34am	Chair Snedeker
2.0	<u>Meeting Minutes and Recording of 3-22-24</u>	Moved by David Snedeker
3.1	<u>2024 Vermont 10 Year Telecommunications Plan</u> PSD Telecom Division Staff presented the preliminary draft of the 10-year telecommunications plan. TCAB provided suggestions to the recommendations portion of the plan. TCAB needs more time to assess the public comments outside of those presented 3/22/24. TCAB suggested during this legislative session or next language about extending the VCBB sunset date be generated.	Hunter Thompson
3.2	<u>Future of TCAB</u> TCAB highlighted potential gaps in the VCBB oversight and needs more time to determine whether those responsibilities would and could be under TCAB purview. TCAB also suggests that during this legislative session that clarifying language of the TCAB's responsibilities be suggested this session.	Evan Carlson
3.3	<u>Public Comment</u> Public comment on the 10-year telecom plan and the TCAB responsibilities provided. Requested ACCD to invite Governor to all the TCAB meetings.	Member of the Public
4.0	<u>Motion to Adjourn</u> Meeting Adjourned 10:17am	Motion by Evan Carlson Seconded Costa Pappis

Call to Order @ 9:34 am

By David Snedeker

Action Item – Agenda

Overview of 3/22/24 meeting Agenda

Action Item – Review and Discussion of the 2024 Vermont 10 Year Telecommunications Plan

Hunter Thompson – Telecommunications Director PSD; Begins presentation and at direction of the Chair, begins recording the meeting at 9:38am.

Full Presentation

“So we'll go through the slide deck for the 10 year telecom plan. So the first slide, this is going to just give you a brief overview. The public comment portion of the plan is out on the website so we can get started, go to the next slide. We'll go with the plan contacts, the research on analysis, some basic findings and recommendations that are in the plan. So next slide please. So the 10 year plan as you know is guided by the telecommunication goals in 30 VSA, 202 C There has been created in accordance with the process established in 30 BSA 202-D. It builds on the momentum created by the federal resources Tom A RPR ARPA CPF and the beard and broadband digital equity plans. So while addresses all statutory requirements, we have made an effort to place a special focus on the elements not addressed in the simultaneous speed plan. I believe the legislature made it fairly clear, with Act 71 that they would like the VCB to be the primary focus for the fiber to the home and broadband across the state, or for that piece. So we don't want this plan to step on their feet next slide. So the research that underpins the plan, the landline and cellular phone survey of us, did statistically significant sampling of residence, an online survey of businesses, healthcare and public safety professionals, interviews with over 55 public and private stakeholders statewide, mobile wireless engineering and cover coverage analysis and the scientific input output workforce gap analysis based on broadband construction spending.”

10 Year Plan Continued

“So one of the things that we found or that was discovered in the writing of the plan was that fiber coverage is expanding rapidly, but stakeholders identified small challenges. Households with access to 100 megabit symmetrical more than doubled between 2021 and 2023. Vermont is on track to pass all on premises by 2029, but with that, Vermont needs to grow its broadband construction workforce between 2018 and 22, the broadband deployment workforce shrank by 12%, building 700 million in fiber deployments will require growing network force by roughly 750 workers. Fiber infrastructure owners may need to bury portions of a network, and the next 10 to 15 years as part of the utility hardening, but costs and responsibilities are unclear.”

“When the research was done regarding the mobile wireless service, we have obviously flagged mobile wireless as critical but limited coverage expansion has occurred. 80% of surveyed businesses indicated mobile wireless coverage is inadequate for their business needs. 64% of surveyed residents strongly agreed that the state should use public funds to improve wireless coverage. Broadband speeds have increased about 6 folds since 2018, but the actual coverage areas have seen little improvement, and it's been pointed out that over 400 miles of Rd still lack any sort of coverage from any provider. Some

engineering analysis was done to show that strategically placing small wireless facilities under 50 feet tall can make significant progress towards closing the easiest 50% of those gaps. Pictures, fiber and small facilities will be less than half the cost of the standard 140-foot towers.”

“One of the things that was pointed out in the last plan was some affordability issues. So the affordability of services is significantly challenged by the sunset of the ACP, so the ACP has not yet been renewed at the federal level. All of those stakeholders strongly know that both fixed and mobile connectivity are important. It's set to expire, not set to expire, but it's set to run out of money in about April of this year, 12% of the people with disabilities and 30% of income-based government assistance recipients participate in the ACP. 16% of survey respondents under the age of 45 reported that the costs of their mobile self-cellular bill often are always impacts the essential items they can afford, and healthcare workers noted that without continuous mobile coverage and access to devices unhoused, Vermonters will continue to struggle to get access to care.

“Public safety systems will continue to evolve, and the mobile chat coverage remains an issue. Peer states have consolidated the peace apps and various varying degrees. The advantage of this is increased staffing flexibility, improved coverage, more resources for statewide emergencies and long-term cost savings. The disadvantages of this is the need for new governance systems and processes are fairly large upcoming up front cost of system migration and the potential loss of local control and knowledge and newly the need for new redundancy and failover processes. Currently, a lack of state funding is a barrier to executing the goals of a statewide communications interoperability plan, which is required in some federal grant application today over 51st net sites have been deployed. However, however, only 5.6% public safety survey respondents report never losing mobile service on the job.”

10-year plan Continued

“And finally, before we get into the recommendations, the statute could be more specific and better aligned with current state strategy, broadband speed definitions and minimum deployment parameters are starting to lag behind. Some other states, just as a comment, I think we've seen that the FCC, I think this week or last week recently upped the definition of broadband from 25 three to officially 100 / 20. Statutorily mandated end date for the VCBB is most likely going to be before all the bead program activities are concluded and the goals 1st drafted 40 years ago contain some overlapping and nonspecific next slide. So then we'll get into a fairly small selection of the key recommendations in the plan. The state can take small actions to make wireline deployment more efficient. It can reinstate the AOT permit fee waivers until the state achieves universal 100 / 100 broadband service. You can scale training programs to ensure Vermont's workforce is skilled, qualified, and ready to execute the necessary construction. Calibrate the scale of state training programs to projected workforce needs and set a goal to recruit three times as many critical workers to training programs as needed to account for turnover and retirements. Lead a study among infrastructure owners of processing cost of burying infrastructure. They impacted ISP's and fiber owned financials and opportunities for savings and alignment.”

“We can encourage small wireless facilities, small facility wireless deployments via a pilot grant program. Pilot of small facilities less than 50 foot mobile wireless grant program to address coverage graphs while preserving landscape aesthetics. Proposed to dedicate 2 to \$3 million for initial pilot program and collect data to adjust future iterations of the program. Update data collection practices to strengthen state planning abilities and better measure mobile coverage. Progress we proposed to repeat the 2022 mobile

broadband Dr Test with the cadence of every two years to keep that map updated, we looked at establishing a Crowdsourced Dr test practice to increase the coverage of that drive test on class two and three roads. And finally requesting that 248 permit recipients notify the public service Department upon completion of a tower so that we can better maintain the map of currently deployed towers that we have across the state.”

“Ensure affordability of both wireline and wireless service for low-income residents is 2% of the monthly income is a definition for affordable for fixed and mobile wireless mobile broadband spending for low income from owners. Establish a state-run subsidy program to provide up to \$67 a month to low income Vermonters for both wireline and wireless broadband subscriptions, and establish a program to provide full, fully subsidized mobile devices mobile subscriptions to unhoused Vermonters to ensure continuous access to services. To strengthen the state’s emergency communication systems. Federal grants are unavailable. Dedicate significance sufficient state funding to execute goals and objectives in the skip the stakeholder support peace app consolidation. Funded, dedicated detail consolidation plan. The plan will illuminate specific costs of consolidation and potential long-term savings, and 30 V SA202C and 30 BSA, 20 TD are specific and aligned with ACT 71. Extend the Vermont Community broadband boards sunset date to provide adequate oversight and monitoring of the BEAD deployments and consider aligning the statutory goals with ongoing deployment strategies are set. The goal is to address the intended benefits of competition, which are better speeds, lower costs and better customer service, rather than specifically insist on more competent. That's it. That is a brief slide deck overview of the plan.”

End of Presentation

Discussion on 10 Year Plan – Summary

Costa Pappis; AOT - presented concerns over the proposed removal of the ROW fees waiver. Pappis suggests the issue is larger than broadband and telecommunications.

Question presented by Pappis on the purpose of bundling mobile and wire lined connections in the proposed state subsidy program in the plan.

Answer presented by Thompson: “I don't have the plan in front of me, but it's my understanding that the \$67 would encompass the subsidy for both. Currently, the subsidy for wire line I believe is \$30 through the ACP, so the extra money would be able to use to subsidize wireless, which we have found through research, is what lower income and housing challenged individuals tend to use for broadband access.”

Evan Carlson - NEK Broadband– Appreciates the new format and work done on this year’s plan recommendations.

Suggestions presented by Carlson:

Timeline – PSD to provide a timeline for the plan’s implementation and inclusion of specific measurement for success on each of the recommended items.

Updates to statutory language - the VCBB sunset date extension should get added soon, whether this session or next.

- Chair asks question if language on the VCBB sunset date and workforce has been added. PSD confirms no language is currently proposed to the legislature. Chair seconds the suggestion to have language to be presented soon.

Modernization - PSD is responsible for driving the statutory language changes and keeping the legislature on track with these changes as they fit to the plan's timeline.

Mobile Wireless – Leveraging the CUDs that do have fiber structure for the small cells and test sites. There needs to be a deeper level of involvement with the CUDs and the mobile deployment. The state's infrastructure should be used to the fullest extent.

PSD explained to the board the current phase of the plan, public comment period. TCAB asked about public involvement. PSD responded with “we had one participant the first meeting we had four participants, a second meeting and we have another meeting on next Monday, (March 25th).”

TCAB needs more time to look over the rest of the public comment on the preliminary draft of the 10 Year plan.

Discussion on 10 Year Plan – Full Transcript

David Snedeker - NVDA (Chair)

“Go ahead Costa.”

Costa Pappis – AOT

“Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, on the issue of access permit fees by the Agency of Transportation, I'm going to forward some additional language for context because that authority to waive those access fees was not limited to telecommunications. So, it's not that the Agency of Transportation is reinstating. Access fees it it's that the authority to do so is no longer available, so just a point of clarification.”

Costa Pappis – AOT

“I also had a comment on the subsidy for mobile services. I was curious as to why they were combined with wireline. It seems to me with the MVNL's out there the cost of mobile services has dropped dramatically, and it was curious as to why they were bundled with wireline that tend to be way more expensive than MVNL services on the wireless side.”

Costa Pappis – AOT

“Thank you, Mr. Chair.”

David Snedeker - NVDA (Chair)

“Hunter, are you able to respond to the Costas question about the wireline and wireless?”

Hunter Thompson – Telecommunications Director PSD

“I don't have the plan in front of me, but it's my understanding that the \$67 would encompass the subsidy for both. Currently, the subsidy for by line I believe is \$30 through the ACP, so the extra money would be able to use to subsidize wireless, which we have found through research, is what most lower income and housing challenged individuals tend to use for broadband access.”

Costa Pappis – AOT

"Thank you."

David Snedeker - NVDA (Chair)

"Have any other questions?"

Evan Carlson - NEK Broadband

"Yep, I have a couple. I just wanted kind say I do really appreciate the kind of updated format in the summary recommendations, which include suggested leads and kind of who should be taking on the work outlined in the recommendation. So definitely think that's vastly improved version from what was produced from the last plan. So thank you for that. A couple other things, just kind of generally speaking is I think it would be really helpful to include specific measurements for success on each of these items and potentially recommended timelines for them, like when would be kind of the drop dead date for some of these A proposals that are there, you know, obviously things like the updates to the statutory requirements for VCBB or VCBB, that's something that needs to happen pretty soon."

Evan Carlson - NEK Broadband

"I think you know, obviously the legislature has a lot of different things they would like to do. But you know the idea of having you guys helping push that forward and making sure that is priority will be important because all these other things are also important as well. And I could definitely see that those things falling to falling lower on the list, if not continually pushed. Umm, I had one other thought as well. So, on the mobile wireless side of things. There wasn't a timeline. I think really the idea of leveraging the CUD's that do have fiber infrastructure for getting some of the deployments into place for some of the small files or for some of the test sites that you're talking about deploying would make a lot of sense. And so, I think there just needs to be some level of deeper collaboration between this CUDs and that mobile plan. We have this publicly on infrastructure and so it should be utilized to the fullest extent from my perspective. That's all I have for the moment."

David Snedeker - NVDA (Chair)

"Thanks Evan. Lindsay do you have any comments or questions?"

Lindsay Kurrle - ACCD

"I'm all set right now. Thank you, Dave"

David Snedeker - NVDA (Chair)

"One question I had some of the recommendations, especially those like regarding workforce of the sun setting of the Vermont Community Broadband Board or the funding for the wireless grant program or any of those actually, is there any legislation being proposed in this session that we need to be aware of? There's a lot to keep track of these days as you know, so. The wireless grant program funding that you mentioned was a recommendation."

Hunter Thompson – Telecommunications Director PSD

"Umm, no, there's been no legislation proposed for those as far as I know. So the VCBB language would come from the VCBB and we haven't even finalized a plan, so my expectation would be that language be proposed next session."

Evan Carlson - NEK Broadband

"Just for my clarity, and I know it's outlined, but I just would like to have it outlined here is just the next steps in process that you're planning to take to kind of move this forward?"

Hunter Thompson – Telecommunications Director PSD

"So the 10 year the public comment plan has been drafted for statute, we are conducting 3 meetings. I don't think that part is for statute, but we are currently in the public comment phase with the public comment draft of the plan. Once we get all the comments, we will either update the plan or respond to the comments and writing in the plan and then put the final draft back out where we will go to Saint Albans, Randolph, Springfield as well as our meet with JITOC."

Evan Carlson - NEK Broadband

"And have you been getting much public comment to date?"

Hunter Thompson – Telecommunications Director PSD

"Uh, we got a limited amount of public comment. So far we've had some."

Evan Carlson - NEK Broadband

"And that has there been a kind of area of focus for the majority of it or is it more widespread?"

Hunter Thompson – Telecommunications Director PSD

"I personally found it to be more widespread."

Evan Carlson - NEK Broadband

"OK."

Lindsay Kurrle - ACCD

"Are people like showing up at the you know the opportunities for in person?"

Hunter Thompson – Telecommunications Director PSD

"We had one participant the first meeting we had four participants, a second meeting and we have another meeting on next Monday. So we'll see."

Lindsay Kurrle - ACCD

"OK. Thanks."

Action Item – Future of the Telecommunications and Connectivity Advisory Council

Discussion on Future of TCAB – Summary

PSD requests that any recommendations to disband come from the chair directly in writing.

Evan Carlson - NEK Broadband; Recommendation to follow the recommendation in 2022 to disband.

Lindsay Kurrle – ACCD; Raised concern over potential gaps in VCBB oversight. TCAB should potentially review what the VCBB has oversight of and then fill in any gaps that is not in the VCBB purview.

Chair mentioned the board's past role of reviewing the Connectivity Fund.

PSD mentions that the fund has not received funding in several years as other programs, such as the VCBB, take precedence in the Universal Service Fund waterfall.

Question raised by Costa Pappis of the VCBB's role in telecommunications policy. Is the VCBB limited to broadband deployment and related activities?

PSD answers: "I need to read Act 71, but it's my understanding that it is related to fiber to the home and broad broadband activities."

TCAB finds there are gaps with not only wired and wireless, but also gaps with telecommunication policy at large. Further discussions are needed to find the gaps with the VCBB oversight.

TCAB finds that it necessary to update the statutory requirements of the board if they decide to not disband.

Discussion on Future of TCAB – Full Conversation

Hunter Thompson – Telecommunications Director PSD

"So I think that bears discussion your public servants, we don't make that recommendation. And umm, if that is the recommendation that you all come to, then I think it would be best for it to come in writing from the chair of the board to me, and I can pass it up the chain and then work it from there."

Lindsay Kurrle - ACCD

"I just have some questions. So, I think one of the questions I would have before making a decision would be with the creation of the Vermont Community Broadband Board is there, is there something that we would do that they wouldn't do is there is there a is there some reason to keep us going because there's some gap?"

David Snedeker - NVDA (Chair)

"I think the Vermont Community Broadband Board assumed a lot of the responsibilities that this board had. Maybe an exception being the advisement on this long-term plan, but it's almost because we're in statute. We have to keep meeting, but it's 2022 with our recommendation that we disband or sunset."

Lindsay Kurrle - ACCD

"That's helpful. Thank you."

Hunter Thompson – Telecommunications Director PSD

"So for clarity to the connectivity fund, still quasi exists, but it now goes to the from our Community Broadband Board when there's any money left, it goes, it goes to them."

Costa Pappis - AOT

"So I was curious, does the VCBB have a mandate to look at telecommunications policy broadly? Or is it limited to the scope of broadband deployment and related activities?"

Hunter Thompson – Telecommunications Director PSD

“I need to read Act 71, but it's my understanding that it is related to fiber to the home and broad broadband activities.”

Costa Pappis - AOT

“Thank you.”

Evan Carlson - NEK Broadband

“The mobile wireless piece is something that falls outside of it and I don't know if there's other places where it is discussed and there's another board that has some level of oversight on it, but that is obviously one part of the work that we're doing as well.”

Lindsay Kurrle - ACCD

“So just to clarify what I'm hearing is there could be a gap for the wire for the mobile wireless, there could be.”

Costa Pappis - AOT

“And I guess for telecom policy generally, right, items that may fall outside the scope, excuse me of mobile may also be a gap.”

David Snedeker - NVDA (Chair)

“Agreed.”

Lindsay Kurrle - ACCD

“Would it be something that we could? Intentionally highlight as a gap and put into the hands of the VCBB. Or does that not make sense? I just don't want something to be left out.”

David Snedeker - NVDA (Chair)

“Right.”

Evan Carlson - NEK Broadband

“I do think that there's aspects of it being that, you know, there is many discussions happening around CUDs taking the position of an iliac or, you know, taking on some of that responsibility as being the carrier of last resort which you know traditionally was following to other telecommunications providers. So I think there's it's worth a discussion to see if there is a space for it, but I don't think that that has been that was the intention originally of the VCBB. And they're absolutely still a major challenge as highlighted in the plan relating to more wireless in the state.”

Hunter Thompson – Telecommunications Director PSD

“Right. Yeah, I think that my predecessor had requested funding and two separate legislative sessions to do some work for some mobile wireless pilot projects, and both times it was not funded.”

Costa Pappis - AOT

“That that's a concern to me for a couple reasons. One is cellular access for any number of reasons. But the more the cost competitive environment is going to make services affordable. I read the executive summary of the report where that that talks about mobile coverage caps and it a really high number.”

Evan Carlson - NEK Broadband

"I mean the modernization of the statutory requirements might just need to be revamped to really consider what is the actual focus of this board if it is going to be continuing on. And maybe that's the main kind of charge for us is to push the legislature to revamp that and give some focus to what we're supposed to be doing. That would be my thought and recommendation."

David Snedeker - NVDA (Chair)

"I'm wondering if we just look at what the Vermont Community Broadband Board does not cover and find and identify those responsibilities. And then if we're asking that sunset to be extended beyond 2029 to maybe push those responsibilities to the that board, just a thought."

Public Comment

Summary of Public Comment

One member of the public was present and provided concerns with the 10-year telecommunications plan, along with comments on the role of the TCAB and its future.

Key recommendation— extend 2024 telecom plan adoption date to 2025.

Primary Concern – TCAB and PSD are not following their statutory requirements, both with the plan and other areas in telecom policy.

Full Public Comment

Stephen Whitaker – Member of the Public

"Yeah, I've started off the cuff providing compiling a list of all the gaps that would be left wide open where the telecom and connectivity board to, uh, recommended cease to exist specifically in statute. I call your attention to section 202 E&F is the connectivity division, and they're supposed to do a whole bunch of work of mapping dead zones and providing annual mapping and report to the legislature. But they're also supposed to be advised by this telecom and connectivity board in preparing that report and in assessing the prod progress on the 10-year plan in the absence of that, I did a records request for the broadband action plan from the department just last week and the answer was 2024 Broadband action plan. The department does not produce nor possess a document by that name, and I do hereby certified pursuant to Public Records law. So this gap that you're talking about is causing flagrant violations of existing statute and this draft that you were just read a scripted slide deck from scripted by a contractor. Uh is so deficient in that it is written assuming that the statutes were already changed. It's written from a point of view of what we wish the statutes are, rather than what the statutes are today, and that is just that should get your interest up as it telecom governing board. You should be advising that. That's no way to write a plan. We have to write a plan to today's statutes, not statutes. We hope someday will be implemented so that list of gaps that would be created would the if this. And which are not appropriate to shift to the broadband board. Our carrier grade service to support what is also called public safety grade service to state police, radio towers and regional public safety, communications equipment and small cells that might be publicly owned or managed."

Stephen Whitaker – Member of the Public

“ Uh mobile wireless, which was recommended to be included in the broadband board scope. But the broadband Board members opposed it and came into Senate cops and said no, we don't want that responsibility. I had attempted to put that in there so that they would the planning would be integrated in most cost-effective public safety communications entirely. There's a temporary, an interim public safety communications task force, and they've hired a very capable contracting firm, which is going to produce a plan a year from now that will become a core element of a real telecom plan. But that's a year from now, so I'll stop that list. You're pause that list for a second and tell you that my recommendation here is that we asked the legislature this session to extend the adoption date for the 2024 plan to become a 2025 plan. Let this contractor, who is clearly to shortchange this last time, to the tune of \$200,000 and something \$100,000 worth of work and is doing the same this year to the tune of \$400,000 worth of work. The role of the AMO's in recording civic discourse and providing possibly providing assistance in public information education during disasters, Open Access and competitive choice clearly defined. Requirements in the statutory policy and goals of 202 C, which the Broadband Board has flagrantly denied.”

Stephen Whitaker – Member of the Public

“ And this draft plan hopes to dissolve those requirements. But competition is in statute and the current strategy is to avoid and deny that it exists in statute and to try to get away with writing a plan that does not lay out strategies to implement Open Access and competitive choice for consumers, disaster preparedness, backup power as we move more and more landlines, copper based Central Office battery backed up service to fiber. That leaves those new customers who have switched to voiceover IP over fiber without an ability to call for help when the power is out. Carrier of last resort, I won't speak to because Hunter has mentioned it. The education sector and how about the AT&T FirstNet outage? But this plan documents that we've had no meaningful increase in cell coverage was 2018. And so the question becomes, what did we get for our 25 million and 30 million worth of spectrum? So but I wanna point to the fact that this it's premature to even be having a public review draft because the statute reads.”

Stephen Whitaker – Member of the Public

“And I'm reading from 202 D here that prior to preparing the plan, the department shall prepare an overview looking 10 years ahead of statewide growth and development future requirements for services, patterns of expansion, economic growth shifts and transportation, economic development, technological advances and factors that will significantly affect telecommunications policy and programs. The overview shall include an economic and demographic forecast sufficient to determine infrastructure investments, goals and objectives. None of that is in this draft plan. Secondly, what are the surveys? There are some surveys in the plan. I won't speak to whether they meet statistically significant, but they require the educational sector to be analyzed. There's nothing about distance learning and pandemic response and the shortcomings and the weaknesses and the possible mitigating factors for ohh distance learning it in a forced kind of pandemic environment, nor for the bandwidth limitations in certain areas.”

Stephen Whitaker – Member of the Public

“The healthcare and Human Services sector. Uh, no mention of how we're going to Human

Services. Includes corrections. We there's no mention of how corrections. Remote adjudication hearings. Bail hearings, visitation with family members is gonna be supported by telecommunication workforce training and development and public safety sector. There's no mention of the entire microwave network, which we've invested millions upon millions on. It's not even referenced in here, and yet the statute requires an assessment of current state and telecommunications infrastructure. So without going into all the detail. Ohh Hunter forgot to mention that there are transcripts of these first hearing which I which I was the only speaker. The second hearing in which one state senator and then Lauren Glenn Davidian, myself and FX Flynn, spoke at those transcripts would reveal a lot of the shortcomings of this plan. But if they didn't, it doesn't take a lawyer to read this plan and read the statutes and say the prerequisites haven't been met."

Stephen Whitaker – Member of the Public

"We shouldn't even be calling this a preliminary draft, but it's clear from what you've seen prior to the recording being turned on that the department intends to double down and try to barrel on and bluff through with a grossly deficient plan in grossly in violation of statute. And they're asking for your to contribution to that charade. And so I would ask that you consider just supporting the. Recommendation that the legislature extend the deadline and then reconvene, get some new appointments, reconvene and talk about how we're gonna fill the gaps in the plan because we can't rely on people who are willing to flagrantly uh, ignore the statute to complete this plan and we can't rely on people who are flagrantly ignoring the contract terms, both on the last plan and this plan."

David Snedeker - NVDA (Chair)

"So there is time to make improvements and I guess our board will decide whether to we wanna pursue the recommendation to extend the date of from 2024 to 2025."

Stephen Whitaker – Member of the Public

"But will you decide that?"

David Snedeker - NVDA (Chair)

"We haven't even discussed it yet, so I'm not sure what they what."

Stephen Whitaker – Member of the Public

Right, but you have enough for two years.

Stephen Whitaker – Member of the Public

"So are you scheduling another meeting?"

David Snedeker - NVDA (Chair)

"We have not scheduled another meeting at this point in time."

TCAB Meeting Schedule

Nothing scheduled yet but the Chair will reach out to the Commissioner of the PSD to coordinate.

Next meeting date projected in April.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion by Evan Carlson - NEK Broadband

Seconded by Costa Pappis

Meeting Adjourned at 10:17am

**** Meeting Minutes subject to Approval ****

DRAFT