



**Valley Community Fibre Network  
Minutes of the Board Meeting of  
February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 – 10:00 a.m.  
Wolfville Municipal Chambers**

---

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was present. Board members in attendance were:

Don Clarke (chairman)  
Gary Doucette (Acadia University)  
Scott Geddes (Councillor, Windsor)  
Faye Hill (Councillor, Hantsport)  
Shirley Pineo (Councillor, West Hants)  
Hugh Simpson (Deputy Mayor, Wolfville)  
Dan Spearns (NSCC - Alternate)  
Jim Winsor (Councillor, Municipality of Kings County)

Regrets:

Dale Facey (NSCC) (NSCC Alternate attended)

Also present were:

Maen Artimy (IAI)	Gary Meister (Acadia University)
Chris Carruthers	Cris Shirritt (Muttart's Law)
Terry Dalton (ACORN-NS)	Robin Veinotte (IAI)
Kathleen Leslie (Kings County)	Heidi Walsh-Sampson (Kings County)
Bruce MacDougall (IAI)	

2. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda (document 100-170-350) was approved with the following additions.

Item 4. e) Presentation by Terry Dalton

Item 5.) In Camera Session 1

Item 6.) In Camera Session 2

It was noted that a presentation by Kathleen Leslie regarding a VOIP implementation would be held immediately upon the adjournment of the meeting.

3. **Minutes of the September 9th, 2013 Meeting:** The minutes of the previous Board Meeting (document 100-170-334a) were approved following a motion. ( Pineo / Simpson )

4. **VCFN Operations Reports:**

a. Bruce MacDougall Noted that Network Operations Reports were circulated separately. Bruce noted that there had been no mainline failures or impairments during the previous period but that a failure of an underground duct had led to an outage affecting the Town of Wolfville. Bruce noted that the lateral branch into the Town Hall had been replaced with an overhead service and that the existing fibre-optic line would be abandoned in place.

b. Bruce MacDougall presented a year-to-date financial report for the VCFN, noting that revenues were approximately on budget.

c. Bruce MacDougall noted that new laterals had been constructed to meet customer and user requirements as follows:

**-Avonport Wastewater Treatment Plant:** It was reported that this lateral was completed, and was in use by Kings County. The \$ 10,900 cost of the lateral was invoiced to Kings County.

**-Middleton Town Hall:** It was noted that the Town of Middleton had signed a service agreement and had become a customer of the VCFN. The fibre cable was being installed on Feb 27<sup>th</sup>.

**-Commercial Customer:** A commercial Customer signed an agreement addendum for additional fibres. An installation and monthly recurring fee resulted.

**-Town of Windsor:** An additional fibre lateral for the Town of Windsor was reported to be in engineering and soon to be under construction.

d. New Prospects

- i. **Annapolis Valley School Board:** Bruce MacDougall reported that a project was under way with the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board to extend VCFN fibre laterals to most of the AVRSB schools. Robin Veinotte, VP of Business Development is working on developing the project with AVRSB representatives. The project will require capital construction of approximately \$ 400,000 and generate monthly recurring revenue for the VCFN of approximately \$ 4,000. Terry Dalton has committed to submitting a funding request to an upcoming Canarie program that would fund 50% of the capital cost of the project. It is anticipated that a portion of the remaining 50% of the funding will be paid by the AVRSB. It has been suggested as well that a portion of the capital cost could be funded by the VCFN, and recovered from higher recurring fees paid by AVRSB for a limited time. A discussion followed with questions and comments from several Board members. Councillor Pineo noted that it would be desirable to reach all schools that were reachable by the VCFN. Bruce MacDougall noted that some schools would represent a significant additional capital cost as they were located far from the VCFN main line. It was noted that this point would be raised with the AVRSB

and that further discussions would be undertaken with a view to resolving this issue.

- ii. **Terra Firma:** Bruce Noted that he has had preliminary discussions with Terra Firma regarding the Forest Lakes subdivision and their possible connection to the VCFN. Bruce Noted that Terry Dalton wished to bring additional information about Terra Firma to the Board in camera as he was subject to a non-disclosure agreement with Terra Firma. Further discussion on the matter was deferred to the in-camera session.
- e. Terry Dalton made presentations about several items as follows:
  - i. **Canarie Project Funding.** Terry noted that in addition to the AVRSB project, he was working with various stakeholders to fund VCFN connections to the Halifax IBM site, four additional Health sites in the Annapolis Valley, as well projects with Acadia University and the NSCC regarding upgrades to network equipment.
  - ii. **Halifax Internet Exchange.** Terry noted that a new organization had been put in place which was now operating the Halifax Internet Exchange point. Additional information is available at [www.hfxix.ca](http://www.hfxix.ca)
  - iii. **i-Canada.** Terry noted the existence of i-Canada, and the successes of several i-Canada projects. Website is at: [www.icanada.nu](http://www.icanada.nu). Terry noted that i-Canada had established a contract with the Halifax Regional Municipality for the development of an Intelligent Community Forum entry. Terry proposed the creation of an i-Valley organization. Mayor Clarke noted that the Valley Regional Economic Network (REN) could be interested in this idea. Terry noted as well the success of “Gigabit Mainstreet” projects including St. Louis Missouri.

A general discussion ensued, including questions and statements from Councillor Winsor, Councillor Hill, and Gary Doucette.

5. **Acceptance of Reports:** A motion was passed to accept the VCFN operations reports presented earlier. ( Pineo / Hill )

6. **In Camera Session:** A motion was passed enter an in-camera session. ( Simpson / Doucette )

<in camera session>

7. **In Camera Session:** A motion was passed to end the in-camera session. ( Pineo / Hill )

8. **Adjournment:** A motion was passed to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 pm ( Simpson / Pineo )

**Following the meeting, a presentation was made regarding VOIP by Kathleen Leslie, Director of IT for Kings County.**