



U.S. House of Representatives COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House, by email at gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: William Smith

2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ OR None

b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____

3. a. Dates: Departure: August 16, 2022 Return: August 19, 2022

b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ OR None

4. Departure City: Washington, DC Destination: Burlington, VT Return City: Washington,

5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Foundation for Rural Service

6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended:

Travel throughout Vermont to visit local broadband providers and companies or operations that rely on broadband and highlight the geographic and financial challenges of providing rural broadband.

7. Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box:*

a. a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;

b. the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;

c. page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; **and**

d. the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.

8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda.

Signify statement is true by checking the box.

b. If not, explain:

I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Traveler:  Date: 9/6/22

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: Rep. Kat Cammack Date: 9/6/22

Signature of Supervising Member: 



SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated on the trip within ten days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House rules and the Committee's travel regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid for the trip: Foundation for Rural Service

2. Travel Destination(s): Warren, Waitsfield, Bristol, and other towns in VT

3. Date of Departure: August 16, 2022 Date of Return: August 19, 2022

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Will Smith

Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if *all* information is *identical* for each person listed.

5. Actual amount of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$787.63	\$438	\$142.75	none
Accompanying Family Member				

6. All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. Signify statement is true by checking box.

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Pamela Becker Date: 08/22/2022

Name: Pamela Becker Title: Executive Director

Organization: Foundation for Rural Service

I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.

Address: 4121 Wilson Blvd, #1000, Arlington, VA 22203

Email: pbecker@frs.org Telephone: 703-351-2044

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection. **This form and any attachments may be delivered to the Committee at 1015 Longworth or e-mailed to travel.requests@mail.house.gov.**

Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: _____

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: William Smith _____

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): _____

Office Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address of Contact Person: _____

- Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, *and* these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via e-mail: travel.requests@mail.house.gov.



PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:
Foundation for Rural Service (FRS)
2. I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. Signify that the statement is true by checking box.
3. **Check only one.** I represent that:
 - a. The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip: **OR**
 - b. The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds: **OR**
 - c. The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.
If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors:
4. Provide names and titles of ALL House Members *and* employees you are inviting. For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited (include additional pages if necessary):
See attachment A
5. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of departure: August 16, 2022 Date of return: August 19, 2022
7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC
b. Destination(s): Burlington, VT and then travel around Vermont during the tou
c. City of return: Washington, DC
8. **Check only one.** I represent that:
 - a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965: **OR**
 - b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent: **OR**
 - c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.
9. **Check only one of the following:**
 - a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
 - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
 - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
 - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:



10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*
11. **Check only one of the following:**
- a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box; OR*
- b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.
12. For *each* sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip *and* its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
- FRS is the sole sponsor of the trip and will make all arrangements for travel (lodging, meals, transportation) and will incur all expenses. The mission of FRS is to sustain and enhance the quality of life in rural America through philanthropic and educational programs. The trip will showcase the challenges of serving broadband to rural communities.
13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (specify: _____)
- b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (specify: _____)
- c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:
14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*
15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:
- a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
- b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation.
- If "b" is checked:
- 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided):
Meals will not exceed the per diem rate of \$69 (full day) or \$51.75 (partial day)
- 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:
Rural Vermont highlights a wide variety of geographic challenges that are also faced by other
16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
- Hotel Name: Sugarbush Inn City: Warren, VT Cost Per Night: \$149
Reason(s) for Selecting: Centrally located and meets the per diem requirements
- Hotel Name: Sugarbush Inn City: Warren, VT Cost Per Night: \$149
Reason(s) for Selecting: Centrally located and meets the per diem requirements
- Hotel Name: Sugarbush Inn City: Warren, VT Cost Per Night: \$149
Reason(s) for Selecting: Centrally located and meets the per diem requirements
17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*



U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

18. Total Expenses for each Participant:

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$880	\$450	\$245
For each Accompanying Family Member			

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	none	none
For each Accompanying Family Member		

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

19. Check only one:

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. I certify by my signature that

- a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
- b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and
- c. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: *Pamela Becker* Date: 06/21/2022

Name: Pamela Becker Title: Executive Director

Organization: Foundation for Rural Service

Address: 4121 Wilson Blvd, Suite 1000, Arlington, VA 22203

Email: pbecker@frs.org Telephone: (703) 351-2044

INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* and submit the agenda, invitation list, any attachments, and any *Additional Trip Sponsor Forms* directly to the Travelers.

Written approval from the Committee on Ethics is required before traveling on this trip. The Committee on Ethics will notify the House invitees directly and will not notify the trip sponsors.

Willful or knowing misrepresentation on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

For questions, please contact the Committee on Ethics at:

1015 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515

ethicscommittee@mail.house.gov | 202-225-7103
 More information and forms available at ethics.house.gov



U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Washington, DC 20515

August 5, 2022

Mr. William Smith
Office of the Honorable Kat Cammack
1626 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Smith:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Warren, Vermont, scheduled for August 16 to 19, 2022, sponsored by Foundation for Rural Service.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$415 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,



Theodore E. Deutch
Chairman



Michael Guest
Acting Ranking Member

TED/MG:kjf

Primary Trip Sponsor Form – ATTACHMENT A

The following individuals received an email invitation to attend the 2022 FRS Congressional Broadband Tour to Vermont.

Name	Last Name	Position	Office
Adela	Amador	Deputy Chief of Staff/Legislative Director	Rep. Harder
Paul	Balzano	Professional Staff Member	Rep. Thompson
Elizabeth	Barrie	Legislative Assistant	Rep. Correa
Nate	Beltran	Policy Advisor	Rep. Veasey
Katie	Bergh	Senior Policy Advisor	Rep. Pingree
Will	Binger	Legislative Director	Rep. Axne
Alicia	Bissonnette	Legislative Assistant	Rep. Schrier
Steven	Blattner	Legislative Director	Rep. Clarke
Morgan	Bodenarain	Legislative Assistant	Rep. Butterfield
Josh	Bradley	Deputy Chief of Staff	Rep. Moore
Joanna	Brown	Legislative Director	Rep. Walberg
Drew	Cannon	District Director	Rep. Hartzler
Charlie	Chamness	Legislative Director	Rep. Quigley
Kate	Chiucchini	Counsel	Rep. Rice
Lauren	Citron	Legislative Director	Rep. Rush
Kristin	Clarkson	Professional Staff Member	Rep. Aderholt
Stephen	Coffey	Deputy Chief of Staff	Rep. Cartwright
Janie	Costa	Legislative Assistant	Rep. Davis
Courtney	Craig	Legislative Assistant	Rep. Feenstra
Tim	Daniels	Deputy Chief of Staff	Rep. Harris
Kenneth	Degraff	Senior Policy Advisor	Pelosi
Mark	Dennin	Legislative Director	Rep. Panetta
Parul	Desai	FCC Detailee	Rep. Pallone
Katie	Devlin	Senior Legislative Assistant	Rep. LaMalfa
Troy	Dougall	Senior Legislative Assistant	Rep. Curtis
Zellie	Duvall	Legislative Assistant	Rep. Letlow
Stephen	Dwyer	Senior Policy Advisor	Hoyer
Ryan	Early	Legislative Assistant	Rep. McGovern
JessiKa	Eglin	Senior Legislative Assistant	U.S. Rep. Al Lawson
Ben	Elleson	Deputy Chief of Staff	Rep. Long
Adam	Finkel	Legislative Director	Rep. O'Halleran
Meagan	Foster	Legislative Director	Rep. Welch
Alexa	Fox	Senior Legislative Assistant	Rep. Costa
Kevin	Fox	Senior Legislative Assistant	Rep. Ro Khanna
Ali	Fulling	Policy Advisor	Rep. Tim Walberg
Emily	German	Staff Director	Rep. Scott
Chelsea	Glynn	Senior Legislative Assistant	Rep. Delgado

Justin	Goldberger	Senior Policy Advisor	Rep. McEachin
Joshua	Gross	Legislative Director	Rep. Duncan
Hali	Gruber	Senior Legislative Assistant	Rep. Ralph Norman
Elliott	Guffin	Deputy Chief of Staff	Rep. Hudson
Christopher	Hall	Legislative Counsel	Rep. Rob Wittman
Megan	Handau	Senior Policy Advisor	Rep. Hayes
Cory	Harris	Legislative Director	Rep. Baird
Emily	Hebein	Legislative Assistant	Rep. Latta
Emmet	Hedin	Policy Advisor	Rep. Craig
Abbey	Herfurth	Legislative Assistant	Rep. Trent Kelly
Gorddon	Holzberg	Legislative Assistant	Rep. Adams
Cameron	Hull	Legislative Assistant	Rep. Fletcher
Seth	Ismail	Legislative Assistant	Rep. Jim Clyburn
Angeline	Jabbar	Chief of Staff	Rep. Plaskett
Derek	Judd	Legislative Director	Rep. Jacobs
Hank	Kilgore	Senior Advisor	Rep. Doyle
Michael	Kotsovos	Legislative Assistant	Rep. Balderson
Jeff	Kratz	Legislative Director	Rep. Bacon
Travis	Krogman	Deputy Chief of Staff/Legislative Director	Rep. Kuster
Marek	Laco	Deputy Chief of Staff	Stefanik
Brenna	Larkin	Legislative Aide	Rep. Mullin
Jerry	Leverich	Chief Counsel	Rep. Pallone
Elizabeth	Lloyd	Legislative Director	Rep. Dusty Johnson
Kyle	Lombardi	Deputy Chief of Staff	Rep. McCarthy
Nick	Lunneborg	Legislative Director	Rep. Fischbach
Michael	Mansour	Deputy Chief of Staff	Rep. Kinzinger
John	Martens	Professional Staff Member	Rep. Womack
Justin	Masucci	Professional Staff Member	Rep. Harris
Svetlana	Matt	Legislative Director	Rep. McNerney
Abby	McHan	Legislative Director	Rep. Cloud
Matt	McMurray	Legislative Director	Rep. Kelly
Megan	Medley	Legislative Director	Rep. Aderholt
Amber	Milenkevich	Legislative Director	Rep. Lawson
Pam	Miller	Professional Staff Member	Rep. Harris
Elaina	Murphy	Senior Legislative Assistant	Rep. Guthrie
Yusuf	Nekzad	Senior Policy Advisor	Rep. Bustos
Scott	Olson	Legislative Assistant	Rep Schrader
Riley	Pagett	Legislative Director	Rep. Mann
Caroline	Paris-Behr	<i>Legislative Director</i>	Rep. Underwood
Jessica	Powell	Legislative Director	Rep. Womack
Samantha	Price	Senior Policy Advisor	Rep. Carbajal
Chrissy	Rabuse	Legislative Director	Rep. Miller
Asad	Ramzanali	Legislative Director	Rep. Eshoo

Flynn	Rico Johnson	Legislative Director	Rep. Matsui
Emma	Rindels	Legislative Assistant	McCarthy
Zach	Roberts	Legislative Director	Rep. Austin Scott
Bill	Rockwood	Deputy Legislative Director	Rep. Soto
Julia	Rossmann	Legislative Assistant	Rep. Brown
Hannah	Russell	Legislative Director	Rep. DesJarlais
Jaqueline	Serrano	Legislative Director	Rep. Cardenas
Ashley	Shelton	Legislative Director	Rep. Crawford
Cam	Shepherd	Legislative Assistant	Rep. Allen
Will	Smith	Senior Legislative Assistant	Rep. Cammack
Rebekah	Solem	Chief of Staff	Rep. Vela
Courtney	Stevens	Legislative Director	Rep. Steven Palazzo
Michael	Taggart	Professional Staff Member	Rep. McMorris Rogers
Adam	Tanga	Legislative Director	Rep. Sablan
Jonathan	Vecchi	Legislative Director	Rep. Bilirakis
Evan	Viau	Professional Staff Member	Rep. McMorris Rogers
Austin	Walton	Policy Adviser	Rep. Scalise
Robby	Wehagen	Deputy Chief of Staff	Rep. Carter
Holmes	Whalen	Counsel	Rep. Markwayne Mullin
Ian	Whitson	Legislative Director	Rep. Rouzer
Sam	Wojcicki	Legislative Director	Rep. Spanberger
Austin	Yager	Legislative Director	Rep. Maloney



FRS Congressional Broadband Tour – Vermont August 16-19, 2022

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) is a 501c3 non-profit dedicated to enhancing quality of life in America by promoting a better understanding of rural issues. The vision of FRS is to harness the power of the rural communications industry to enrich lives in America.

The purpose of this trip is to educate Capitol Hill staff on the geographic and financial challenges of providing robust broadband service to remote rural areas, as well as to highlight the role rural telecom companies play in providing these essential services that support education, commercial activity, agriculture, health, and public safety. Attendees will meet with a range of small, rural telecommunications companies in Vermont as well as companies that rely on broadband to provide essential services to their communities. The group will also visit rural community leaders and discuss ways in which the state has been enhanced by broadband applications. Drive times through Vermont will give FRS staff an opportunity to provide educational sessions on the bus, as well as illustrate the difficulty of serving “last mile” areas in a highly rural state.

No registered lobbyists will attend this trip. All expenses will be paid in full by the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) and will be subject to the daily per diem allowances for Senate and House employees—in other words, all meals, lodging and transportation for staffers will be covered by FRS within these allowance rates.

ITINERARY

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 10:21 a.m. | Leave DCA on American Airlines #5409 |
| 12:10 p.m. | Arrive Burlington, Vermont |
| 12:15 p.m. | Pam Becker, Executive Director of the Foundation for Rural Service will provide staffers with welcome packets and escort them to bus. |
| 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. | Bus to hotel |
- Sugarbush Lodge at Sugarbush**
102 Forest Drive
Warren, VT 05674



- 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Arrive at hotel for lunch and check in. During lunch, FRS Executive Director Pam Becker will lead introductions and discussion about the group's itinerary for the next two days, provide background, what to expect, and answer questions.
- 2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Board the bus to Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom (3898 Main Street, Waitsfield, VT 05673)
- 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. **Introduction and Welcome to the Mad River Valley** with an overview of the local business community and some of the rich history of the rural community, and a recognition of the role of local newspapers in rural communities.
Speakers:
- Kurt Gruending, VP of Marketing and Business Development, Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom
 - Susan Klein, former Executive Director of the Mad River Valley Chamber of Commerce
 - Lisa Loomis, Editor of the Valley Reporter
- 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Broadband 101** presentation with information about the ins and outs of the telecommunications network and the challenges of building and maintaining broadband networks in rural communities.
Speaker:
- Steve Shepard, Shepard Communications Group
- 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Tour of the Waitsfield and Champlain Valley 496 Central Office and Demonstration of Tools of the Trade.** A hands-on demonstration of how to splice fiber, various telecom testing equipment, network equipment including ONT (Optical Network Terminal), Access Point, tools of the trade, fiber splicing trailer, bucket truck, etc.
Speakers/Demonstrators:
- Eric Haskin, President/CEO, Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom
 - Lee Cheney, Vice President of Network Operations, Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom
 - Roger Nishi, Vice President of Industry Relations, Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom
 - Todd Garthaffner, Network Manager at Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom
 - Marc Senecal, Installation and Maintenance Supervisor, Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom



- 6:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. **Bus to restaurant**
During the bus ride Kurt Gruending will answer questions about the equipment and technology that was demonstrated at the office.
- 6:15 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Dinner**
American Flatbread
46 Lareau Road
Waitsfield, VT 05673
- 9:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Bus to hotel for night

Wednesday, August 17, 2022

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast at the Sugarbush Inn
- 8:00 a.m. Board the Bus to travel to Vermont's Champlain Valley via the Appalachian Gap (Route 17).
- 8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. **Stop at the top of the Appalachian Gap and discussion about running fiber-optic cable** over the Appalachian Gap / Green Mountains with Kurt Gruending, VP of Marketing and Business Development for Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom.
- 8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Continue bus ride to Bristol, VT (56 Airport Dr, Bristol, VT 05443)
- 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. **Demonstration of the Virtual Living Room** at the American Legion Post 19. The FRS Virtual Living Room provides a way for veterans in the area to access the VA's Video Connect Service. Speaker will lead a discussion about the importance of telehealth services to address rural veterans' health care needs.
Speaker:
 - Tina Kebalka, Program Coordinator for the White River Junction VA Medical Center.
- 10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Bus to A Johnson Co. (106 Andrew Johnson Dr, Bristol)
- 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Tour A Johnson Co. Lumber Mill** to learn about the critical role that the mill plays in the Vermont economy and how broadband and technology are used to further the business.
Speaker:
 - Ken Johnson, General Manager at A Johnson Co.



- 11:30 a.m. -- Noon Bus to Basin Harbor Resort (4800 Basin Harbor Road, Vergennes, VT 05491)
- Noon – 2:30 p.m. **Lunch and tour of Basin Harbor Resort** with a discussion about the history of the area and the role of Lake Champlain in local economy.
Speaker:
 - Sarah Morris, Director of Sales and Fifth Generation Host, Basin Harbor Resort
- 2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Bus to Dakin Farm (5797 Route 7, Ferrisburgh, VT 05456)
- 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Welcome and tour of Dakin Farm.** Founded in 1960 on the site of the original Dakin Farm settled in 1792, the Farm now features Vermont specialty foods including maple syrup and ham using broadband in their distribution center that ships around the world.
Speakers:
 - Sam Cutting, Owner of Dakin Farm
 - Eric LeBeau, General Manager of Dakin Farm
- 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Bus to Mad River Glen Ski Area (35-1 Schuss Pass, Waitsfield, VT 05673)
- 5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. **Discussion and viewing of Broadband Field Electronics at WCVT remote cabinet location.** Remote cabinets and field electronics are critical to providing high-speed Internet service to customers. This stop will include a discussion of the technical design of a remote cabinet location.
Speaker:
 - Lee Cheney, Vice President of Network Operations, Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom
- 5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Welcome to Mad River Glen Ski Area.** Mad River Glen Ski Area is America's only skier-owned cooperative – also a business structure for many broadband providers. Broadband service is critical for the success of the resort.
Speaker:
 - Matt Lillard, General Manager, Mad River Glen Ski Cooperative
- 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Dinner at Mad River Glen's Base Box
- 8:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. Bus to hotel for the night



Thursday, August 18, 2022

- 7:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast at the Sugarbush Inn
- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Bus and drive to Bolton Valley Ski Area (4302 Bolton Access Rd, Richmond, VT 05477)
- 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. **Welcome to Bolton Valley.** Bolton Valley sits high in the Green Mountains of Vermont and boasts the highest base elevation of any ski area in the state. Bolton Valley is owned by the DesLauriers family and a small group of investors.
Speaker:
 - Lindsay DesLauriers, President of Bolton Valley Resort
- 9 :30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Town of Bolton Fiber Project.** Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT) plans to convert all remaining Bolton residents in its service area to fiber-optics in 2022. This was made possible in part by the Town of Bolton which has committed more than half of their American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to help expand fiber-optic broadband to more residents through a public-private partnership with WCVT. Approximately \$200,000 in town ARPA funds are being committed to this project as well as a request of matching grant funds from the State of Vermont to build fiber-optics to approximately 440 additional homes. WCVT will also invest its own capital in the project and is requesting an additional grant from the State of Vermont based on the amount of unserved road miles to help fund a portion of this project.
Speakers:
 - Deb Shelby, Bolton resident and web developer, former head of economic development committee
 - Kurt Gruendling, Vice President of Marketing and Business Development, Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom
 - Roger Nishi, Vice President of Industry Relations, Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Vermont's Independent Telephone Companies** – discussion about Vermont's unique independent telephone companies.
Speakers:
 - Kim Gates, President, Franklin Telephone
 - Mike Reed, Executive Vice President, Technology Association of New England



- 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Broadband Public-Private Partnership Discussion with Vermont Community Broadband Board, Operating Partners, and Vermont’s Communications Union Districts (CUD).** Discussion about the CUD model in Vermont and public-private partnerships to expand broadband access.
Speakers:
- Mike Reed, Executive Vice President, Telephone Association of New England
 - Ellie de Villiers, Vice Chair, Maple Broadband
 - Christa Shute, Executive Director, NEK Broadband
 - Jennille Smith, Executive Director, CVFiber (invited)
 - Christine Hallquist, Executive Director, Vermont Community Broadband Board
- 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Lunch and discussion about **Broadband as a Catalyst for Economic Development** with information about the Center on Rural Innovation (CORI).
Speaker:
- Matt Dunne, Executive Director of Center on Rural Innovation (CORI)
- 2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Bus to Smilie Memorial Elementary School (2712 Theodore Roosevelt Hwy, Bolton, VT 05676)
- 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. **The Importance of Broadband in Rural Education** How an extremely rural school district responded to Covid and uses broadband to provide educational resources for its eight schools and 2,400 students.
Speaker:
- John Alberghini, Superintendent of Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District
- 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Bus to Lawson’s Finest Liquids (155 Carroll Rd, Waitsfield, VT 05673)



- 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Tour Lawson’s Finest Liquids taproom.** Founded in 2008 in Warren, Vermont as a home-based brewery, the business now has 50 employees and contributes to the year-round commercial viability of the region. Lawson’s was named Small Business of the Year by the Central VT Economic Development Corporation and is the recipient of the Brewbound Rising Star award. The company has an advanced fiber-optic and Wi-Fi network connecting its entire production facility as well as for communications and distribution to its national customer base. *(Note: no alcohol will be consumed during the tour)*
Speakers:
- Scott Shirley, Director of Brewery Operations, Lawson’s
 - TJ Greenwood, Director of Operations, Lawson’s
- 5:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Bus to Castlerock Pub (66 Gate House Ln, Warren, VT 05674)
- 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. **Dinner at Castlerock Pub (at Sugarbush Resort)**
Sugarbush Resort is a ski resort located in the Mad River valley in Warren, Vermont and is one of the largest ski resorts in New England. The resort encompasses more than 4000 acres total, 484 trail acres skiable, 53 miles of trails, and 16 ski lifts. Despite its steep terrain, Sugarbush Resort has a campus wide fiber-optic and Wi-Fi network that integrates into their guest management and point of sale systems.
Speakers:
- John Hammond, President of Sugarbush Resort
 - Jim Westhelle, Vice President of Real Estate Development, Base Operations and Lodging at Sugarbush Resort
- 8:00 p.m. Bus to hotel for night

Friday, August 19, 2022

- 4:00 a.m. – 5:00 a.m. Bus to Burlington Airport
- 6:04 a.m. – 7:45 a.m. American Airlines #4697 to DCA