**Please note the earlier start time for the meeting. It is our intent to have the meeting finish by 5:30 p.m.**

**Agenda:**

1. **Introductions/Minutes Approval**
   - Accept/approve minutes of 9 February 2012 and 17 May 2012 minutes
   - Called to order 4:00pm. Introductions.
   - Meeting in May, no quorum, no minutes
   - Moved, Dora 2nd, Jane abstain, unanimous approval

2. **Community Development – Tropical Storm Irene**
   - *Economic Development Administration (EDA) Disaster Recovery Grant application*
     - Staff: Usually need a comprehensive economic development (CEDS) plan to apply for funds, except when there is a disaster. Accept applications on a rolling basis, application opened in March. We were told that the larger the area the more competitive the grant. We applied with Bennington County Regional Commission for a Southern Vermont application (41 towns). Funding is for resiliency, which translates into stronger economic base. WRC (primary) will manage grant if granted. The grant will result in two full time equivalent staff for flood recovery. The tasks include business resource services and assisting with downtown and village revitalization.

   - *CDBG Disaster Recovery:*
     - *Public Hearing was held on June 5, 2012 for the state of Vermont’s Plan for the 22 million dollars of CDBG Disaster Recovery fund. The state’s comment period closes on June 29, 2012. We will discuss a draft comment letter from the Committee.*
     - Chris: 80% goes to Washington and Windsor counties. 20% for 9 other counties. Asking for 4.5 million to be allocated specifically for Windham. May need an act of Congress to change it. State and congressionally delegation are fighting the allocation. WRC wants more information. Fight is taking place in D.C. Basic math- ACC will take 5% of what’s left for other 9 counties. Take out money for buy-outs. $500,000 left for 9 other counties. 25% match may come from Vermont Housing Conservation Board. CDB-DR may not be the best source for 25% match.

WRC surveyed towns to find out priority needs because at that time it was expected that regions would develop plans to manage aggregate needs. This led to presumption that the funds would be large enough to be applied region wide Region wide application for the funds does not make sense at this time. We were also given direction that buyout properties would be converted to parks, and to develop real world estimates.
The Committee discussed the draft letter and moved to approve, 2nd. Unanimous.

3. **The possibility of organizing a meeting with Agricultural/Economic Development Interests**
   - Chris: Strengthen community development. Creating infrastructure in our communities to build economic strength. Done in other committees. Bring together to groups for common needs. Help pursue grants on their behalf. One idea: equestrian- rural business development grant. Marketing strategy to add value to what is already here. Larger grant for Region wide Ag/Economic development strategy, and forestry sector.
   - Norm: Forestry easier, others more difficult.
   - Dora: Likes the idea, it’s missing. Possibility to create another sub-committee. Cross-town talk based on this.
   - Jane: Conservation groups overlap with ag.
   - Jane: Supports the concept.
   - Discussion about Farmer’s Market.

4. **Update and Announcements in Topic Areas**
   - Brownfields - About to use up hazardous funds, but still have petroleum and RLF
   - Housing – Friends of Algiers just finished clean-up $170,00, about to close, 17 units of housing
   - Cultural and Historic:
   - Infrastructure
   - Recreation
   - Economic/Community Development
   - Education
   - Human Services

5. **Other Business/Next Meeting**
   - Meeting Date, 9th of Aug
     1. Norm: put it out by email
     2. Moved to adjourn, 5:40