Executive Board
October 13, 2015
WRC Conference Room

Commissioners Present: Jodi French (Chair), Maggie Bartenhagen, Carolyn Partridge, Jack Cunningham, Heath Boyer, Alan LaCombe, Tom Consolino, Norm Wright, Lew Sorenson, Piet van Loon
Excused: Denis Pinkernell
Staff Present: Chris Campany, Ashley Collins
Convened: 6:57PM

Administrative Reports:
Secretary’s Report: On a motion by T. Consolino, seconded by C. Partridge the minutes were approved with one correction.
Treasurer’s Report: On a motion by T. Consolino, seconded by J. Cunningham the September Treasurer’s Report was approved.

Recommendations for Commissioners: Executive Director Chris Campany distributed a list of recommended changes to improve Commission experiences based on discussions at several Commission meetings. Some of these changes include: reducing the number of Commission meetings per year, changing the start time, enabling commissioners to participate via video/teleconference, provide more training and orientations. The Board was in agreement on the majority of the proposed changes with slight amendments. There was agreement that, given its importance, the meeting start time should be presented to the Full Commission as a stand-alone discussion item. A motion was made by J. Cunningham to accept the revised draft recommendations and send to the Full Commission for a vote and approval, striking 8 meetings per year and leaving it at 6 meetings per year and striking bullet point #2 the start time; motion was seconded by N. Wright and approved. The Board will send the recommendations to the Commission for approval and will have the start time as an agenda item at the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Engagement with Town Officials: The Board discussed how WRC can be more effective when reaching out to town officials with important information. Several ideas were considered including: should WRC rely on Commissioners to get information to towns, WRC can inform Commissioners of various ways to reach the officials in their towns, keep lines of communication open and keep town officials updated with WRC activities and
projects, and include town officials on the communications with new commissioners and the orientation processes. The discussion will continue with the Full Commission.

**New Appointments:** Alan LaCombe is the new Chair for the Community Development Committee and Norm Wright will continue to serve as a member. On a motion by J. Cunningham seconded by M. Bartenhagen, the motion was approved to change the Committee Chair.

**Jack Cunningham’s Letter to Laura Sibilia:** Jack Cunningham had expressed interest in speaking with Representative Laura Sibilia about additional funding in support of project review by regional planning commissions. He explained that has all of the Act 250 application fees go to support the Natural Resources Board, and other organizations, with the difference made up from the General Fund. He was surprised to learn there were no Section 248 or 248a application fees. Unless there is further discussion he would like to withdraw his interest in light of this new information.

**Executive Director’s Report:**
- Executive Director Chris Campany discussed the possibility of a potential new office space in Brattleboro. WRC Finance Manager Mike Shaughnessy is reviewing the financial aspect to see if it is feasible. If pursuing the move is considered by WRC, Chris will bring more information to the Executive Board at that time.
- Chris mentioned that he submitted answers to the VY Discovery Questions.
- Annual Report Letters will be mailed and emailed to towns over the next month.
- Chris noted that the nuclear power plant in New York is closing.
- Chris discussed the water quality funding and mentioned that it will be pairing hazard mitigation work with town planning, flood planning, transportation planning, etc.
- VAPDA is continuing conversations with state officials about legislation that would enable regional planning commissions to form a council of governments should they choose to do so.

**Committee Reports:**
**Brownfields:** N. Wright mentioned that they met on September 11th and received a $500,000 grant for funding.

**Energy:** Jim Sullivan, from Bennington County RPC was present to talk about the work that the task force is doing with energy planning at the regional level. H. Boyer also discussed energy siting with no plans and would like to create a “toolkit” to send to the Executive Board to get ahead of energy planning. He also mentioned a representative for electrical bikes was present and discussed everything they had to offer.

**Natural Resources:** The Committee met on September 9th, where they continued discussion around the flow device initiative that has to do with beavers. Patty Smith from the Nature
Center is also involved with the discussion. M. Bartenhagen also mentioned that there is a Green Storm Water Infrastructure Workshop at the Brattleboro Food Co-op in October.

**Planning Coordination:** The Committee will be discussing town plans up for review.

**Project Review:** J. Cunningham mentioned that representatives from The Hermitage attended the most recent PRC meeting, where they were trying to get WRC to waive the policy regarding Master Plans because of economic development they are bringing to the region.

**Public Policy & Legislative:** Staff members will solicit topics from their respective Committees. PPLC will plan to meet in early December.

**Transportation:** VTrans was present at the most recent meeting for the West River Trail discussion.

**Community Development:**  
- Finance:  
- LEPC: No Meeting / Nothing To Report  
- Nominating:

C. Partridge moved adjournment.  
Meeting Adjourned: 8:35PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ashley Collins