Executive Board
November 14, 2017
WRC Conference Room

Commissioners Present: Jodi French (Chair), Piet van Loon, Tom Consolino, Carolyn Partridge, Greg Brown, Jack Cunningham, Lew Sorenson
Excused: Gabby Ciuffreda, Alan LaCombe, Norm Wright
Staff Present: Chris Campany, Mike Shaughnessy
Convened: 6:00PM

Administrative Reports:
Secretary’s Report: On a motion by P. van Loon, seconded by T. Consolino the minutes from the October meeting were approved.
Treasurer’s Report: Mike Shaughnessy was present to provide an oral financial report. He is currently preparing for the audit. Single audit is not needed as we fall below the federal threshold. This saves approximately $4,000. Finished FY 2017 even better than anticipated. Biggest issue is accounts receivable, with approximately $300,000 outstanding as we have fronted funds for pass through grant programs for which we are awaiting reimbursement. We have a line of credit with People’s Bank but we are trying not to use it. On a motion by L. Sorenson, seconded by J. Cunningham, the Treasurer’s Report was accepted.

Revisiting Public Policy and Legislative Committee (PPLC) Function and Process – Executive Director Chris Campany prepared a summary of the current state of PPLC engagement and participation, as well as a proposal that would give the legislative priority-setting responsibility to the Executive Board and the convening of legislators with Commissioners to the PPLC. He also prepared a summary of what Vermont’s other regional commissions do. There was considerable concern expressed that this division of responsibility would not improve engagement and participation. There was also concern that under the proposal overburdened the limited time available at each noontime meeting with legislators. Chris was directed to take the following course of action:

- Leave the PPLC intact.
- Bring VAPDA legislative priorities to Executive Board for consideration.
- Ask Committees to communicate through their Chairs any legislative interests at any time before or during the legislative session.
- Invite all Commissioners to all PPLC meetings with legislators.
- Invitations to legislators would include items of legislative interest to the WRC.

Chris also asked if the WRC would like to co-sponsor the legislative breakfasts sponsored by the Brattleboro Chamber of Commerce. There was agreement that this idea had merit. Tom volunteered to confer with the Deerfield Valley Chamber.

December Executive Board Meeting – Chris explained that the Executive Board would need to convene in December to consider approval and confirmation of the Townshend Town Plan. He
asked the Board if they would like to convene by phone or in person. Ultimately it was decided that a face to face meeting was warranted.

**Update on Regional Energy Plan Status and Commissioner and Public Engagement Process** – Chris distributed a handout that described a series of four public meetings to solicit comments on the current draft, a joint committee meeting that would deliberate upon any changes to the draft based upon public input, and consideration of a hearing draft at the January, 2018 Full Commission meeting. The Board agreed with this approach.

**New Committee Appointments** – Chair Jodi French appointed Rockingham Town Planner Charles Wise to the Transportation Committee. There was no objection.

**Executive Director's Report:** Chris distributed a sample of the report that will be sent to each town for inclusion in its Town Report.

**Committee Reports:** Lew provided a summary of the Transportation Committee meeting held at the Westminster State Police barracks, which was followed by a VTrans public hearing on the replacement of the I-91 bridge over the Saxtons River scheduled for 2021. The Exit 6 bridge should be completed before work on this bridge begins. Jack mentioned an article from the Wall Street Journal he sent to the Project Review Committee that presented a very upbeat picture of high-end second-home real estate investment in southern Vermont. The Committee Reports were accepted on a motion by Carolyn, seconded by Tom.

**Other Business:** It was noted that long-time former Commissioner Ted Friedman had died on November 3rd.

On a motion by Piet, seconded by Jack, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ashley Collins