Members Present: Gabby Ciuffreda, Chair; Piet van Loon, Tim Arsenault, Greg Brown, Steven Lembke, Jack Cunningham
Members Participating by Phone: None.
Absent: Bobbi Kilburn, Carolyn Partridge
Staff present: Chris Campany, Executive Director; Mike Shaughnessy, Finance Manager
Public: None
Presenter: None
Call to Order: Commissioner Gabby Ciuffreda, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
Additions/Changes to Agenda: None

Administrative Reports:
Secretary’s Report: The minutes of the April 9, 2019 meeting of the Executive Board were approved on a motion by Commissioner Cunningham, seconded by Commissioner Lembke.

Treasurer’s Report: Finance Manager Mike Shaughnessy provided an update on the budget and finances. The process for developing the FY 2020 budget was outlined. On a motion by Commissioner Arsenault, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, the Treasurer’s Report was approved.

Program:
Looking Ahead: Nominations for August: Chair Ciuffreda explained that she had been in conversation with Nominating Committee Chair, Carolyn Partridge. She reminded the Board of known vacancies (Lew Sorenson, Greg Brown), and encouraged them to forward nominees to the committee.

Review and Approval of WRC Committee Purpose and Objectives Statements: Commissioner Arsenault moved the slate for approval, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham. It was noted that reference to the Public Service Board should be replaced with Public Utility Commission in the Energy Committee statement. Chair Ciuffreda asked that any typos be forwarded to Executive Director Campany. There was discussion about the varied nature of the different statements, and whether or not they should have a more standardized format in the future. Guidance from the Executive Board was suggested for future iterations, and it was agreed this should be added to the October Executive Board agenda. Executive Director Campany will review the statements for consistency with the recently-adopted Rules of Procedure. The slate was approved by a unanimous vote.
New Appointments: On a motion by Commissioner Cunningham, seconded by Commissioner Brown, the following committee appointments were approved:

- Kathy Urffer (Citizens Interest Commissioner for Natural Resources): Natural Resources
- Tom Mosakowski (Brattleboro): Planning Coordination & Project Review
- Bonnie North (Rockingham): Community Development & Project Review. Commissioner North had requested appointment to three committees, but the Executive Board felt like that might be overwhelming. Chair Ciuffreda said she would write a note on the appointment letter explaining the Board’s reasoning while also explaining that Commissioners can attend and be on the distribution list for any committee they like.

Executive Director Report:
Executive Director Campany summarized his experience attending the recent meeting of the Staying Connected Initiative, held in Orford, Quebec. Based on that experience and ongoing work of the Commission, he is going to prepare a three pronged approach to the regional plan update that will build upon the existing policy structure and focus on implementation of region-wide habitat connectivity, achieving compact settlement patterns, and improving economic and community resilience in the face of climate change. He will bring this proposal to a future Executive Board meeting. He complimented staff on the excellent quality of their work and their commitment to the mission of the Commission and the communities it serves. Regarding the number of statewide committees, he’s been asked to chair, he noted that his term as chair of the Vermont Disaster Recovery Fund will conclude in June, and that his term as chair of the Nuclear Decommissioning Advisory Panel would conclude in September. He will continue chairing the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies for one more year. While he’ll continue to serve in a supporting role to the new chairs of these committees because of their importance to the region, he wants to dedicate more focus to specific regional needs.

Committee Chair Updates:
Project Review Committee Chair Cunningham noted that Project Review Committee is not seeing many development applications, and raised concerns about what that may indicate for the region’s economy. Planning Coordination Committee Chair van Loon said the committee would be exploring what “coordination” means.

Review of Action Items from Meeting: No actions were reviewed.

Adjournment: On a motion by Commissioner Arsenault, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ashley Collins