Commissioners Present: Jodi French (Chair), Maggie Bartenhagen, Heath Boyer, Tom Buchanan, Tom Consolino, Jack Cunningham, Corky Elwell
Excused: Lew Sorenson, Carolyn Partridge, Norm Wright, Piet van Loon, Denis Pinkernell
Staff Present: Chris Campany, Ashley Collins
Convened: 7:00 p.m.

Administrative Reports:
Secretary’s Report: On a motion by T. Consolino, seconded by T. Buchanan the minutes from the January meeting were approved.
Treasurer’s Report: On a motion by T. Buchanan, seconded by C. Elwell the Finance Report was approved.

Regional Plan Update: Executive Director Chris Campany mentioned that with further changes being made to the proposed rural commercial/industrial area designation, and related mapping, the regional plan update schedule has been pushed back by one month. At issue is whether or not the title “rural commercial/industrial” truly captures these areas which were previously referred to as high-intensity mixed-use. In zoning parlance, many of these areas would be referred to as “rural commercial.” The details are important as it is these areas where we are likely to see redevelopment, and it is important that the description and identification of these areas will support appropriate and needed redevelopment of these areas. Chris walked the Board through other further edits in the Regional Plan Policies section, most of which related to the WRC’s position on state energy plans, and how to best address development in river and stream corridors. There was consensus on the changes and minor edits were made to language. When asked if the Board had any other major concerns with the current complete draft of the regional plan update, the only suggested change was a clarification of language related to the redevelopment and expansion of existing ski resort areas. That language was subsequently edited.

Public Service Board (PSB) Filing Concerning VT-Entergy MOU: T. Buchanan presented the Board with a revised filing for the PSB which stated the WRC’s position on the memorandum of understanding (MOU) developed between Entergy and state agencies, and about which the PSB held technical hearings. It was explained that there was vigorous discussion within the Vermont Yankee Study Committee about how detailed WRC concerns with the MOU should be in the brief, and whether or not the brief should oppose the MOU. Concerns ranged from informing the public about the shortcomings of the MOU and why; how opposition to the MOU would be perceived by WRC partners within the region and at the state level; and what real effect the Public Service Board could have on Entergy’s decisions. Ultimately the resulting draft brief presented to the Board borrowed from a much more extensive draft prepared by the VYSC Chair, and was approved by a unanimous
vote of the VYSC committee members. The Board had a similarly vigorous discussion, which involved many of the same issues voiced during the VYSC meeting. T. Consolino made a **motion** to give Executive Director Chris Campany the authority to sign and file the brief at his discretion with any edits necessary, the motion was seconded by T. Buchanan; motion was unanimously **approved**.

**Newfane Town Plan Recommendation:** The Town of Newfane recently submitted their town plan for regional approval. The panel ultimately agreed that the plan could not be approved due to missing and outdated data in parts of the plan. This led to an extended discussion about the WRC’s plan review and approval process. It was explained that the Planning Coordination Committee (PCC) has been discussing what, if anything, needs to be changed about the WRC review and approval process for approximately 4 years. The Board asked the Executive Director to convey to the PCC that if it could not finalize its process recommendations within two months that the Executive Director would be asked to present the Executive Board with a proposal at its April meeting.

**Executive Director’s Report:**
Executive Director Chris Campany explained that a meeting was organized for towns with TransCanada properties to discuss issues related to the valuation appeals process, associated costs, and what legislative solutions might mitigate the costs. The valuation methodology is developed by the State. The appeals group has scheduled a meeting with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) to discuss the issues and strategy.

**Committee Reports:**
**Natural Resources:** M. Bartenhagen mentioned that the Committee will be working on organizing more forums relating to agriculture and habitats for beavers, bats and bees.

**Project Review:** The Committee invited AT&T to speak at their most recent meeting. J. Cunningham noted that attendance is an ongoing issue, and he would like explore options to resolving this issue including changing the meeting time if needed.

**Public Policy & Legislative:** The Committee did not meet in January due to Representatives busy schedules. Senator Jeanette White served as guest speaker on February 3rd. On February 10th Representative Richard Marek spoke to the Committee about two proposed Bills being sponsored by “The Innocence Project,” one which would mandate police interrogations be videotaped, and a second which proposes live line-ups versus photo line-ups.

**Transportation:** Friends of the West River Trail presented their proposal to the Committee for a pedestrian bridge under the new I-91 Bridge over Route 30. They are looking at the range of issues that must be addressed for the pedestrian facility to prove feasible.

On a motion T. Buchanan, seconded by M. Bartenhagen, committee reports were accepted.

J. Cunningham moved adjournment.
Meeting Adjourned: 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ashley Collins