Executive Board
April 8, 2014
WRC Conference Room

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

Administrative Reports:
Secretary’s Report: On a motion by T. Buchanan seconded by T. Consolino the minutes from the March meeting were approved; with one abstention.
Treasurer’s Report: On a motion by P. van loon, seconded by J. Cunningham the Treasurer’s report was approved.
Annual Audit: On a motion by J. Cunningham, seconded by L. Sorenson the FY2013 Annual Audit was accepted. The Board expressed gratitude to Finance Manager Mike Shaughnessy for his work with the annual audit.

Commissioner Attendance: The Board discussed whether WRC should provide the towns with attendance records with the annual re-appointment letter for each Commissioner, including attendance associated with their specific committees and/or the monthly Commission meetings. Executive Director Chris Campany explained that there had been requests for this information within the past year, Commissioners began addressing Chris with their thoughts and concerns. He explained that the matter should be approached as a policy established by Commissioners for Commissioners. There was some concern as to how the information would be presented to the town and if it would discourage Commissioners from this volunteer position. There were several suggestions such as to try reaching out to Commissioners instead of the towns regarding attendance before getting the towns involved, informing the towns but report the information in a positive manner L. Sorenson made a motion that the Executive Board propose to the Commission to vote on whether appointment letters should include attendance records, starting for the 2015 term; the motion was seconded by J. Cunningham. Motion was approved, with one abstention and one opposed. There was some discussion among the board members whether to amend the motion to include that the Board review the attendance records before presenting the proposal to the Commission; it was agreed no amendment was needed as there was no timeline set forth in the motion. The Board has requested to review the attendance record numbers before bringing the issue to the Commission. It was also suggested that WRC encourage Selectboards to seek information from their Commissioners.

Mid-Year Financial Status: Executive Director Chris Campany explained that staff vacancies were creating a challenge to draw down billable work and that the regional plan update had consumed more time than anticipated. N. Wright gave a brief review of the current standing of the budget and
that the current forecast suggests the Commission will break even financially at the end of the fiscal year, and mentioned that the Finance Committee is working on the FY2015 Budget. The Committee will plan to meet a few more times before the end of the fiscal year.

**Public Service Board (PSB):** The PSB has issued an order primarily to address the issues raised in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Entergy and the state. Though the order ignores many issues raised that wouldn’t otherwise affect the MOU, it does recognize the participating parties such as WRC. T. Buchanan recommended the WRC not respond unless requested by the PSB. The general consensus with the Board is that Executive Director Chris Campany has the authority to respond as he feels necessary. T. Buchanan also provided the Board with a brief update on Docket 7600, the leak investigation which remains open. T. Buchanan suggested that WRC reduce participation with the PSB process and focus on negotiations with applicant early in the project but engage fully with regard to Entergy and VT Yankee closure and post-closure discussions.

**Executive Director’s Report:**
- Executive Director Chris Campany noted that the big issue with towns not completing hazard mitigation plans is that they will not be eligible for the full matching funding from ERAF.
- Chris gave a brief update on the personnel search. They conducted thirty minute screening interviews with six candidates, of which two are being considered for second interviews.
- Jim Matteau has agreed to continue helping with the hazard mitigation plans in the region. Chris is currently staffing the LEPC, and they will be developing a disaster response plan. Chris summarized the meeting at Landmark College and mentioned that he tried to explain to the group that decommissioning and socioeconomics go hand in hand.
- Chris mentioned that the April Full Commission meeting will also serve as the first public hearing for the regional plan, to be followed by a second public hearing on May 6th.
- Chris suggested that a future conversation could be beneficial to discuss amending the bylaws on how decisions are made. This is a result of 3 months with no quorum at the Commission meetings which has delayed the approval of the Marlboro Town Plan.

**Committee Reports:**

**Energy:** There was nothing to report, but a question was raised as to what role the Commission should play in helping towns to understand solar power and other energy sources. There remains support for the position that the Commission distance itself from private businesses that wish to promote their business and/or service through WRC committee activities.

**Natural Resources:** The last meeting was a presentation by Integrated Solar on Geothermal Energy.

**Planning Coordination:** The Committee is working on getting a forum for Planning Commissions and Development Review Boards, to address cell towers.

**Public Policy & Legislative:** T. Consolino provided the Board with a brief summary of the Representatives who recently spoke to the Committee. Those included: Tristan Toleno, Mike Mrowicki, Mollie Burke, and Charlie Goodwin. He explained that the Committee has been asking Representatives to address several different areas of interest in addition to their specific committees, Those areas of interest are healthcare, education, Entergy/Vermont Yankee closure and decommissioning, and property taxes.
Regional Plan Update: The first draft of the Regional Plan has been released to the public and the public hearings are set for April 29th and May 6th.

VY Study: There was no recent meeting of the Committee but it was suggested that the Board consider the future of this Committee.

Brownfields: No Meeting / Nothing to Report
Community Development:
Emergency Planning:
Finance:
LEPC:
Nominating:
Project Review:
Transportation:

P. van loon moved to accept the reports, seconded by L. Sorenson. Committee reports were accepted. J. Cunningham moved adjournment.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:00PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Ashley Collins