Executive Board  
May 13, 2014  
WRC Conference Room

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

Administrative Reports:  
Secretary’s Report: On a motion by T. Consolino seconded by J. Cunningham the minutes from the April meeting were approved.  
Treasurer’s Report: On a motion by T. Consolino seconded by D. Pinkernell the Treasurer’s Report was approved.

Regional Plan Update: Executive Director Chris Campany mentioned that there was good feedback and comments received on the draft Regional Plan Update (RPU). In order to address the feedback and incorporate comments into the plan the RPU Committee suggests that the public hearing process start again in June and that the plan be presented to the Full Commission for approval at the August business meeting. There was a consensus agreement among Board members that this strategy be pursued.

Bylaw Elements: Executive Director Chris Campany presented the Board with a proposed amendment to the bylaws regarding Commissioners and quorums at the monthly Commission meetings. The amendment to Article IX-F suggests adding language to exclude towns from counting towards a quorum if that town has not appointed at least one Commissioner to the Commission. There was some discussion; overall the Board was in agreement with the proposed amendment with a suggestion to change the language. Tom Buchanan held a dissenting opinion that towns may purposefully choose to not appoint a Commissioner and that non-appointment of a Commissioner should count against a quorum. On a motion by J. Cunningham, seconded by D. Pinkernell, the motion to approve the proposed amendment to the Bylaws was approved, with one abstention. T. Buchanan moved to amend the sentence to add “Towns that have not appointed at least one Commissioner are excluded from the number of towns necessary to constitute a quorum.” The motion to amend the sentence was approved.

The Board discussed the issue of how town plans have had to wait for regional approval due to lack of a quorum at successive Full Commission meetings. This can have real impacts, and in one case could have resulted in a delay in town application for village center designation. There was extended discussion on whether the Executive Board had the authority to act on behalf of the Commission if timeliness is an issue, as is stated in the bylaws. There was an argument that towns should have the
right to specifically not send the appointed Commissioner to a meeting to purposely affect a business decision. It was also argued that allowing the Executive Board to ratify decisions from a Commission meeting takes the power away from the Full Commission. It was agreed that while the Bylaw clearly states the Board has authority, it could be interpreted several different ways. L. Sorenson moved that the Board does not recommend any changes to Subsection H in the Bylaws and no change is needed as written; the motion was seconded by N. Wright, motion approved. There was a suggestion to put it on the agenda at a future Commission meeting to discuss town plan approval deadlines and the authority given the Executive Board in cases where town plans cannot be approved due to the absence of a quorum.

**WRC 50th Anniversary Celebration:** Executive Director Chris Campany proposed that an informal Committee be formed to plan events throughout 2015 to commemorate WRC’s 50 years of service; it was moved by C. Partridge, seconded by J. Cunningham; motion was approved.

**Executive Director’s Report & Other Business:**
- Executive Director Chris Campany reviewed exchanges between him and high-level state agency leaders and the Governor’s office concerning poor communication between the state and the region on matters related to Vermont Yankee. C. Partridge gave an update on the Legislators meeting where they discussed how to award the $10 Million over 5 years within Windham County. Commissioners will be receiving an invitation from ACCD to go over the process and evaluation criteria will look like.
- Chris presented the Board with proposed testimony to be delivered before a Clean Energy Development Fund hearing to be held on May 14th which would propose that the Public Service Department collaborate with the WRC in the development of a plan that would allow for the most effective and impactful use of approximately $2.6 million that is to be spent within Windham County per the settlement agreement between Entergy and the state. This position was arrived during a joint meeting of the WRC’s Natural Resources, Project Review and Energy Committees. T. Buchanan made a motion that Chris be authorized to file the testimony at his own discretion with any necessary edits, seconded by N. Wright; motion was approved.
- Chris mentioned that he met with Secretary of Commerce Lawrence Miller on April 14th to discuss the appropriate reimbursement amount for work related to Vermont Yankee. He met with the Governor’s Chief of Staff, Elizabeth Miller, for approximately one hour on May 15th on this and a number of other matters related to agency communication with the region on matters related to Vermont Yankee.
- Chris informed the Board that Alyssa Sabetto will begin working with WRC as a Planner on June 2nd. He also mentioned there are two part-time employees working with Susan McMahon and Kim Smith on economic development projects.

**Committee Reports:**

**Brownfields:** N. Wright mentioned that the Saxtons River Main Street Arts project was issued a contract for $100,000.

**Nominating:** C. Partridge mentioned that she will be asking Commissioners for their interest in renewing their spot on the Executive Board.
Public Policy & Legislative: The last two meetings were held in mid-April, concluding the 2014 Legislative Session. The Committee will meet to review this session’s meetings and offer suggestions for the 2015 Legislative sessions.

Transportation: The April meeting was spent prioritizing and ranking projects. The meeting in May was held in Bellows Falls immediately following the Regional Safety Forum. The Transportation Work Program was approved.

VY Study: The last meeting the Committee discussed the MOU which included provisions stating that the State of Vermont was going to request to drop the leak investigation. WRC is not going to participate in this process unless specifically asked by the Public Service Board.


L. Sorenson moved to accept the Committee Reports, seconded by C. Partridge; Committee Reports were accepted.

J. Cunningham moved adjournment.
Meeting Adjourned: 9:00PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Ashley Collins