Executive Board
February 14, 2017
WRC Conference Room

Commissioners Present: Jodi French (Chair), Piet van Loon, Jack Cunningham, Tom Consolino, Greg Brown
Commissioners via Teleconference: Denis Pinkernell, Carolyn Partridge, Norm Wright
Excused: Lew Sorenson, Alan LaCombe
Staff Present: Chris Campany
Convened: 7:00PM

NOTE: All votes were by roll call.

Administrative Reports:
Secretary's Report: On a motion by J. Cunningham, seconded by T. Consolino all outstanding minutes (June, Aug, and Sept) were approved with one abstention.
Treasurer's Report: On a motion by J. Cunningham, seconded by T. Consolino all outstanding Treasurer Reports were approved by a unanimous vote.

Winhall Town Plan: The WRC received a request from the Town of Winhall to review its plan for approval. The panel reviewed the town plan and reported their findings back to the Planning Coordination Committee (PCC). The PCC recommended approval of the plan, and confirmation of the town plan and process. J. Cunningham made a motion to approve the plan as presented, and was seconded by T. Consolino; motion was approved with one abstention. On the confirmation of the town plan and process J. Cunningham made a motion, seconded by T. Consolino; motion was approved with one abstention.

Westminster Town Plan: The WRC received a request from the Town of Westminster to review its plan for approval. The panel reviewed the town plan and reported their findings back to the Planning Coordination Committee (PCC). The PCC recommended approval of the plan, and confirmation of the town plan and process. P. van Loon made a motion to approve the plan as presented, and was seconded by T. Consolino; motion was approved with one abstention. On the confirmation of the town plan and process P. van Loon made a motion, seconded by T. Consolino; motion was approved with one abstention.

Formation of Regional Energy Plan Subcommittee: Chris presented his suggestion that a Regional Energy Plan Subcommittee be created to guide the development of the Regional Energy Plan. Subcommittee would consist of chairs of the Energy, Natural Resources and Project Review Committees, as well as Greg Brown as chair of the Regional Plan Update Committee. On motion by Piet, seconded by Greg, unanimous vote in favor.
Quorum Discussion: Jodi explained that the Exec Board has had difficulty forming a quorum due to member absences caused by a variety of reasons including personal medical issues, vacations, and other family matters. Making it easy for members to call in was suggested as a solution. There was general agreement that this could help though it was noted that open meeting rules must be followed including making it easy for members of the public to attend in person. Moving the start time to 6 p.m. was also suggested. On a motion by Jack, seconded by Piet, there was a unanimous vote in favor of having future meetings of the Exec Board at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Jodi asked that Quorum Issues be included on the next Exec Board agenda to facilitate discussion with Lew and Alan, who were absent for tonight’s discussion. It was also agreed that quorum issues be discussed at upcoming Full Commission meetings.

CRWC contribution: There was discussion about making a contribution to the Connecticut River Watershed Council in support of its expert review related to the FERC relicensing of hydropower facilities on the Connecticut River. This was discussed at the previous Exec Board meeting. Chris suggested a contribution of $300. Jack suggested that amount be raised to $500. Tom inquired about who constituted the membership of the CRWC. On a motion by Jack, seconded by Greg, there was a unanimous vote in favor of contributing $500 to the CRWC.

Audit: The audit for FY 2016 was completed with no findings. On a motion by Norm, seconded by Jack, there was a unanimous vote in favor of acknowledging and accepting the audit.

WSWMD: Chris suggested that Bob Spencer, Executive Director of the Windham Solid Waste Management District, be invited to be the guest speaker at the March Full Commission meeting to explain what responsibilities towns have under the state’s solid waste laws, and what role solid waste management districts can play. Chris also suggested that Commissioners be asked to bring a member of their town’s Selectboard with them. The goal is not to promote the WSWMD but rather to provide an opportunity for discussion about town responsibilities and the benefits of sharing those responsibilities. It was suggested that Bob be invited to bring anyone else with him who might aid in his presentation. Chris said he would also inquire as to whether or not someone from the Bennington Region should participate as well.

Executive Director’s Report & Other Business:
VAPDA position on water quality funding: Chris presented the position of the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies on the State Treasurer’s proposed water quality funding initiative. He explained that because there had not been much discussion about this within the WRC that he abstained from the vote. Chris suggested that the State Treasurer might be willing to participate in a public meeting in the region.

Vermont Yankee Sale: Chris explained that he submitted a petition to intervene on behalf of the WRC in the Public Service Board (PSB) sale and site restoration docket, that he had participated in the pre-hearing conference, and that he had requested that two public hearings be held in the region as part of the docket and that request was granted and supported by the other parties. He also explained that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission would concurrently review the license transfer request but that he did not recommend the WRC join that petition as a party. The Project Review Committee will provide advice on the WRCs intervention in the PSB docket.

Committee Reports:
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Norm provided an update on the most recent Brownfields meeting. Denis reviewed the most recent Energy Committee meeting, including discussion about energy use data and resource maps. Piet reviewed the work of the most recent town plan review panels. It was noted that having the panels provide comments in person was superior to doing so by email, but the latter was necessitated due to a tight turnaround time and panel member schedules. Jack reviewed the latest filing by Hermitage and the hearing concerning the Snow Vidda helipad. Tom reviewed the recent PPLC meetings which had been held to date with Jeanette White and David Deen. On a motion by Piet, seconded by Jack, the Committee Reports were accepted.

On a motion by J. Cunningham, seconded by T. Consolino the meeting was adjourned: 8:40PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Ashley Collins