Executive Board  
January 11, 2011  
WRC Conference Room

Commissioners Present:  Melinda Bussino, Fred Bullock, Corky Elwell, John Whitman, Tom Buchanan, Jodi French  
Excused: Carolyn Partridge, Elaine Beckwith, John Kristensen, Matt Yakovleff, Norm Wright  
Staff Present: Chris Campany, Ashley Collins  
Convened: 7:06pm

Administrative Reports:  
Secretary’s Report: On a motion by Jodi, seconded by John W. the December 14th minutes were approved.  
Treasurers Report: On a motion by Fred, seconded by Jodi the Treasurer’s report was approved.

Committee Reports:  
Public Policy & Legislative: Met on January 10th, with Representative Richard Marek of Newfane serving as guest speaker. Mr. Marek has been appointed to the Judiciary Committee, and will likely to be reappointed to rules. He also hopes to be appointed to the state judicial nominating committee. He is a member of core leadership group, which is the Speaker’s “kitchen cabinet” that addresses rules, agendas, etc. He specifically noted that he was glad the role of the RPCs has been preserved in the last session.

Transportation: The last meeting was held on January 10th. Members discussed the loss of the pilot program related to heavy trucks (greater than 80,000 pounds, and less than 99, 0000) being allowed on federal Interstates in Vermont. The Committee wants to find ways to support the reinstatement of the federal program. A new draft of the “Complete Streets” bill was reviewed by the Committee. Interest was expressed in the bill, but they thought improvements could be made. The Committee will continue to track the bill and give comments.

Project Review: The Committee reviewed the Mt Snow Master Plan and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, both of which are ongoing projects with critical infrastructure issues. The PRC would like the WRC Executive Director to draft a letter to the Congressional Delegation to outline the problems they have been encountering concerning redactions in documents related to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) applications. In many cases documents are unreadable or provide no information. On a motion by Tom, seconded by John W. the motion was approved to have the Executive Director draft this letter. There was brief discussion among the board that it would be useful if draft minutes from one committee could be shared when issues arise that is
pertinent to other committees. The Board asked the Executive Director to ask staff to be alert to such issues and have them share draft minutes among committees as circumstances warrant. It was noted that staff should consult with the committee chair if there is a question about sharing information about a sensitive topic before it has been fully characterized, and that it should be understood by all that the sharing of draft minutes would be for informal internal use only.

**Natural Resources:** The last meeting was held on December 15th, at which time the Purpose and Objective (P&O) Statement revised draft was approved. The P&O statement will be submitted to the Executive Board for final approval next month. A Draft Work Plan for the year was discussed, as was forming a list of topics that may merit legislative attention.

**Community Development:** Brattleboro Community Television requested a letter demonstrating that Brattleboro is a regional hub, and that public access television was an important communications tool, per the Regional Plan. It was mentioned that the WRC received additional funds in support of Low Impact Development outreach, and that these funds are to be used by the Windham Regional Career Center (WRCC) to create and sell rain barrels as part of a public education and outreach effort. The Committee approved applications by municipalities for Community Development Block Grant funds. The Purpose and Objective Statements are currently being reviewed.

**Brownfields:**

**Energy:**

**LEPC:**

**Finance:**

**Nominating:**

**Planning Coordination:** No meeting – There was some discussion regarding the Brookline Town Plan. It is currently going through the findings process and there is a public hearing scheduled for January 12th.

On a motion by Jodi, seconded by Corky the committee reports were accepted.

**Executive Director’s Report & Other Business:** Chris presented his review of WRC procedures (e.g., bylaws, personnel manual, committee procedures, public participation, etc.) and processes. The discussion that followed was particularly focused on the sequencing of events required by the bylaws (appointment of new Commissioners, election of officers, formation of committees, appointment of committee members and chairs, etc.) and unclear requirements associated with the application for, and acceptance of, funding. The Board asked Chris to draft language to clarify relatively straightforward issues. More complex issues will be discussed at future Executive Board meetings. Chris offered for the Board’s consideration the suggestion that positions taken during the course of Committee business (such as filings with the Public Service Board or Environmental Commission) be considered for adoption as policy during the next revision of the Regional Plan. There seemed to be general support for this suggestion, and it will be discussed at future meetings. Chris informed the Board that the WRC’s assessment to support an evaluation required by the Commission’s contract with the state, and to fulfill a requirement related to the Challenges for Change process, would be approximately $1860. The Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies (VAPDA) have contracted with the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) to assist each Regional Planning Commission (RPC) with a self-assessment, and to perform an evaluation of the performance of all of the RPCs as a whole. Related to this self-assessment is a request by NADO that
as many Commissioners as complete an online self assessment form. To this end, Chris asked the Board if they would support the Commission having its February meeting at a facility with a computer lab so the Commissioners could complete the self-assessment at the same time with technical support. The Board agreed this would be useful. Chris also informed the Board that the WRC’s formation of a Regional Technology Team in support of broadband outreach among the municipalities would begin in February.

Jodi moved to adjourn the meeting, Fred seconded.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:14pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Ashley Collins