Executive Board
May 10, 2011
WRC Conference Room

Commissioners Present: Melinda Bussino, Elaine Beckwith, John Kristensen, John Whitman, Fred Bullock, Norm Wright
Excused: Tom Buchanan, Carolyn Partridge, Jodi French, Corky Elwell
Staff Present: Chris Campany, Susan McMahon, Ashley Collins
Convened: 7:05pm

Administrative Reports:
Secretary's Report: On a motion by John W., seconded by Fred the April minutes were approved with two grammatical corrections.
Treasurer's Report: On a motion by Fred, seconded by John W. the Treasurer's Report was approved.

Executive Director's Report:

1) Executive Director Chris Campany and Associate Director Susan McMahon presented a public outreach strategy to support the update or revision of the Windham Regional Plan, which will need to be completed by October, 2014. The approach would include a public forum through which stakeholders and the general public would provide input on what they saw as the major planning issues for the next 10-20 years, and what role the WRC might play in those issues. Additionally, each WRC program committee would be asked to hold public forums on specific issues (i.e., energy, natural resources, community development, etc.). The Board provided substantial input including the suggestion that educational sessions be held before any public forums begin. Susan and Chris will amend the strategy based upon the Board input and present it at a future meeting (likely after the FY2012 budget discussion has concluded).

2) A proposal was submitted to the Jeffords Center to explore the coordination of services among a broad range of transportation service providers, including public transit, school buses, private operators such as taxis, non-profit organizations, and state and federal agencies. Coordinated services means basically means that everyone, including the young, the old, and members of the workforce, ride in the same vehicle. The goal is to improve mobility for all residents of the Windham Region. The grant would be for approximately $30,000, with approximately $25,000 of that amount going to consultants.

3) The Windham Farm and Food Network Target Food Project have submitted a proposal titled “Planning a Web-based Local Food Atlas for Windham County, VT." to UVM as part of their Food
Systems Initiative Funding Support Opportunity for $8500. If their effort is funded, the WRC would provide mapping support.

4) Larry Cassidy has been appointed by Governor Shumlin as the supervisor for Somerset.

5) The Board was consulted as to whether or not June should be a regular meeting or a picnic/family gathering meeting. It was agreed that the June meeting should be a regular meeting.

6) Chris explained that some Regional Planning Commissions are considering motions that recognize the change to state statute extending the readoption period for regional plans from 5 to 8 years, and which extend the effective date of regional plans to reflect the change in statute. Norm made a motion, seconded by Fred, that the Executive Board propose a resolution to be passed at the May Full Commission meeting that recognizes the change in statute, and extends the effective date of the Windham Regional Plan to October 24, 2014.

7) Susan McMahon explained that a discussion is underway between the WRC, BDCC, and the Town of Brattleboro, among others, about the merits of the creation of a redevelopment authority. This conversation is at the beginning stages, but could bring together a number of diverse stakeholders to facilitate the redevelopment of challenging properties.

8) Susan McMahon explained that a proposal to the U.S. EPA Re-Powering America site evaluation program was being developed in cooperation with the BDCC, the Town of Putney, Basketville, and Putney Paper. The “Baskets to Biomass” project proposes development of a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) facility utilizing biopower. The facility will be located on a brownfield, the Basketville Warehouse site, where baskets were once manufactured. This site sits across the street from the Town’s greatest consumer of No. 6 fuel oil, the Putney Paper Mill, which will benefit from the electricity and the heat generated by the plant. In addition, nearby buildings could benefit from the heat produced with the development of a district heating system. This proposal is not for a grant, but rather for technical support from the U.S. Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Laboratory to evaluate the renewable energy generation potential of the site.

**Committee Reports:**

**Brownfields:** Committee minutes were distributed for review. Norm mentioned that within the next two weeks the Committee should receive information as to whether or not proposals submitted to the U.S. EPA will be funded. He also gave a brief update on current projects and the status of funds.

**Community Development:** Committee minutes were distributed for review; there was some brief discussion on the need for coordination on the various economic development projects (i.e. SeVEDS, and Post VY Planning).

**Energy:** Committee minutes were distributed for review; there were no questions or discussion regarding the minutes. Tom was not present to discuss the meeting; Chris read an outline of events from Tom via email. The Roundtable Energy Event had a good turnout with around 40 people present. In lieu of the typical June meeting, the WRC is cooperating with the Department of Public Service, Vermont Natural Resource Council, and the Southern Windsor Regional Planning Commission in hosting a public forum to comment on the State Comprehensive Energy Plan Update.
The WRC is continuing to engage in Vermont Yankee issues; Chris' testimony at VSNAP Senate Hearing was well received, and the committee has filed a reply brief to Entergy VY's Comments on the Spent Fuel Management Plan.

LEPC: Committee minutes were distributed for review; there were no questions or discussion regarding the minutes. Chris mentioned that the FEMA drill was a success. He would like to organize a tour of the alternative Joint Information Center site, which is said to be at Landmark College in Putney.

Natural Resources: Committee minutes were distributed for review; after which John W. briefly outlined the main topics. Joan Weir from the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) served as guest speaker at the April 20th meeting. She discussed three primary topics: 1) General information about VLT; 2) The nuts and bolts of conservation easements; and 3) Possible ways to strengthen the regional plan. She also suggested the Conservation Land Maps Brochure be updated. John also mentioned that the Emerald Ash Beetle may be in Vermont Forests.

Project Review: The last meeting took place on April 5th. A Representative from Blue Heron Hydro served as guest speaker; however, the Representatives did not address or answer any key questions and concerns asked by the Committee in its filings to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Committee has decided not to take further action until after the Scoping Meeting.

Transportation: Committee minutes were distributed for review and the main topics were outlined. The Committee has started going over the Transportation Planning Initiative for 2012. There was an update on the Bike/Ped counts.

Finance:  
Nominating  
Planning Coordination:  
Public Policy & Leg:  

No Meetings

On a **motion** by Norm, seconded by Fred the committee reports were **accepted**.

**Other Business:** Chris mentioned that the June Executive Board meeting will focus primarily on the 2012 budget.

Norm **moved** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Fred.

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:03pm**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ashley Collins