Commissioners Present: Maggie Bartenhagen, Elaine Beckwith, Tom Buchanan, Melinda Bussino, Corky Elwell, John Kristensen, Alan LaCombe, Excused: Tom Consolino, Jodi French, Carolyn Partridge, Norm Wright Staff Present: Chris Campany, Ashley Collins Convened: 7:07 pm

Administrative Reports:
Secretary’s Report: On a motion by Tom B., seconded by Maggie, the minutes from the January meeting were approved.
Treasurer’s Report: On a motion by Tom B., seconded by Alan the Treasurer’s report was approved.

Action Item: The Project Review Committee (PRC) Purpose and Objective Statement has been approved by the Committee and submitted to Executive Board for approval. Elaine outlined the revisions; there was no further discussion from the board. On a motion by Tom B., seconded by Corky, the PRC’s Purpose and Objectives Statement was approved.

Executive Director’s Report & Other Business:
1. Commission Bylaws: Chris presented the Board with the proposed revisions to the Commission Bylaws, followed by a short discussion and recommended changes. On a motion by Tom B., seconded by Corky, the amendments to the Commission Bylaws with recommended changes were approved.

2. Emergency Planning Committee Proposal: Chris presented the Board with a proposal for an Emergency Planning Committee, as a follow up to the request at the January Executive Board meeting. The idea of this committee is to take the planning message to the towns, and have more resources available for the next time there is a disaster in the region. Funding that is received from emergency management planning program is developed between the RPC’s and VEM but is not radiological; this committee would focus primarily on radiological planning aspects. Committee members would be designated from the towns, and not necessarily the EMD’s, in the event that an emergency happens in their town they may not be able to be present outside of their town. The frequency of meetings can be determined after a committee is formed. On a motion by Tom. B., seconded by Maggie, the establishment of the Emergency Planning Committee was approved.

3. Public Service Board Docket 7440: The State may have to start an entirely new docket in result of a series of appeals between the State and Entergy. The Status Conference is to be held in April, where all parties will be present. The deadline for appeals to the federal court case is February 21st, and WRC would like to submit a request for funding before this deadline so it can stand apart from the other issues set forth. There are a few concerns in regards to submitting this request;
such as what legal exposure and retaliation would come to light by submitting this request. John, made a motion, seconded by Corky to authorize Chris to edit and submit this request to the PSB at his discretion, motion was approved.

Committee Reports:

Brownfields: The Committee minutes were distributed for review, there was no discussion regarding these. There was a brief overview regarding the changes to the RLF Implementation Manual. The changes were made from “site” into “parcels” because that is how the EPA labels it.

Community Development: The Committee minutes were distributed for review, after which Melinda gave a brief overview of the highlights of the meeting. Connie Snow, from Windham & Windsor Housing Trust, served as guest speaker at the most recent meeting of the Community Development Committee, at which she highlighted projects in the community that they are involved in. The committee also sent a survey to towns on a broad range of topics, and will follow up after each town has submitted this back to the WRC.

Energy: The Committee minutes were distributed for review, after which Tom B., highlighted the main points. The committee reviewed the EECBG projects, which seem to be on track. Tom also mentioned they may have someone from the regional power authority serve as guest speaker at a future meeting.

LEPC: The Committee minutes were distributed for review; after which Corky briefly outlined the main topics. There will be a Vermont Yankee drill scheduled for March 14th, and a statewide exercise will be held on March 7th. The hospitals in the State are working with the Red Cross to plan for a Mass Care site in the event of an emergency. Corky also mentioned that the Committee discussed WRC’s idea of forming an Emergency Planning Committee.

Natural Resources: The Committee minutes were distributed for review. Maggie explained that a letter of outreach was drafted to act as a convener of conservation commissions, and the Committee will be inviting these and related individuals to come together to collaborate, network, and share ideas. There are two potential grant projects that are landscape and forest based. The next meeting is scheduled for February 15th.

Planning Coordination: The Committee minutes were distributed for review; there was not a quorum at the most recent meeting, however there was a good discussion held on enhanced consultation. The next meeting will be on February 21st.

Project Review: The Committee minutes were distributed for review, after which Elaine highlighted the main topics; including the finalization of the Purpose & Objectives Statement. Deerfield Wind: A response letter regarding the final environmental impact statement was drafted after a few items were not addressed; this letter was to re-address these issues. Elaine also noted that Windham Commissioner, Heath Boyer made the Committee aware of locating a wind farm in the town of Windham, which appears to be the same developer as that of the Deerfield Wind project. Act 250: A CVPS application was submitted in Jamaica for a long line extension on a town trail. The Committee has drafted a response letter to this application, specifically targeting the Committee’s objection to Statute 10 VSA § 6081(q) which states
lines and poles are not responsible for development. The letter also states that the Committee objects to this provision and it is not keeping up with the Vermont Planning Goals.

Public Policy & Legislative: Representative Mollie Burke served as guest speaker on January 30th. Representative Burke spoke about the Greyhound Bus system will be pulling their stops out of Brattleboro within the next few months. The State is supportive of ways to improve both bus and rail service throughout the state and the larger region. Transportation items under consideration include texting while driving, and increasing more bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Representative Sarah Edwards was present on February 6th to speak to the Committee about a renewable energy portfolio, and a Bill that would work on a statewide integrated solid waste plan. The Agency of Natural Resources needs legislation by 2013 that addresses the capping of landfills that are currently in use. A proposal is also being considered that would encourage composting and eliminate organic waste from the waste stream.

Representative John Moran served as guest speaker on February 13th. He discussed issues that the General Housing and Military Affairs Committee were working on. Affordable housing, education for returning veteran’s, and labor and livable wages were the main topics that were discussed.

Transportation: The Committee minutes were distributed for review, there was no discussion regarding these. Chris mentioned that Kendall has retired, and staff discussing long-term needs and goals before any decision is made about advertising to fill the vacated position.

Finance: No Meeting.
Nominating: No Meeting.

Tom B. moved to adjourn the meeting.
Meeting Adjourned: 9:09pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Ashley Collins