The meeting commenced with a moment of silence in honor of the memory of Melinda Bussino.

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

**Action Item:**
At the February Board meeting, Chris was given the discretionary authority to send a request to the Public Service Board (PSB) asking that Entergy reimburse the WRC for its work going forward on Docket 7440. Tom explained that the PSB has asked for input as to how it should proceed with Docket 7440, and that there seemed to be consensus among the parties that the opening of a new docket would be the most prudent course of action. Tom moved that the Executive Director have discretionary authority to send a reply to the Public Service Board, seconded by John; motion was approved.

**Executive Director’s Report & Other Business:**
1) Chris proposed that the WRC match up to $500 in donations from Commissioners and staff to the Brattleboro Area Drop-In Center in honor of Melinda Bussino. The general consensus was that this was a good approach. Chris said he would bring this to the attention of the Full Commission in March.
2) The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is expected to receive $61 Million for disaster relief for the northeast region. The BDCC has asked that the WRC be the primary applicant for a grant in the amount of $800,000. WRC would be responsible for program management, administration, and community development technical assistance. This would be a joint application among BDCC, Bennington Regional Commission, and Bennington County Industrial Corporation. Some Executive Board members expressed concern that to the effort might be biased towards bigger towns in the region. Chris did not think this would be the case, and would ask Associate Director Susan McMahon to discuss the application further with the Exec Board at their April 10th meeting. Susan has the lead on this effort for the WRC.
3) Chris mentioned that April Hensel, the District 2 Environmental Coordinator, will serve as guest speaker at the March Commission Meeting where she will speak about town, region and state roles in the Act 250 process, and proposed legislative changes to the appeals process.

4) Chris announced that VELCO would like to speak to the Commission about their 2012 Long-Range Transmission Plan. He arranged for them to be the guest speaker at the April meeting. Their initial report prior to the Commission meeting.

Committee Reports:

Brownfields: The Committee minutes were distributed for review. There was no discussion regarding these.

Energy: The Committee minutes were distributed for review, after which Tom B. explained that the committee heard John Wilmerding speak about a proposal to create a regional power authority. The committee offered feedback to his proposal.

LEPC: The committee minutes were distributed for review. There was no discussion regarding these.

Natural Resources: The next Committee meeting will be March 21st, at which time the committee will be discussing the gathering of the Conservation Commissions and other related groups in April.

Nominating: Carolyn proposed that the Board take some time to recruit new Board members, and then elect members and officers of the Board at the April Commission meeting. The Nominating Committee will be petitioning for two new Board members; one spot to fill the vacancy created by the passing of Melinda Bussino, and the second to fill the position held by the Board’s Secretary, John Kristensen, who announced he would like to resign at the end of April. This corresponds with the last meetings of the Public Policy and Legislative Committee. The Board expressed its surprise at John’s announcement, and its gratitude for his extensive public service since he first moved to Guilford in the 1950s. Chris proposed that the Board make a motion to keep the Council of Regional Commissions in the Commission Bylaws so that additional changes to the Board composition would not be necessary at this time. He had previously proposed that the Bylaws be amended to eliminate the position since it was understood that the CRC was no longer operational. On a motion by Tom B., seconded by John, that the representative to the CoRC be left in the Bylaws when they are amended was approved.

Planning Coordination: Chris and Alan gave an outline of the Enhanced Consultations that are required by contract to be completed with each town. ACCD and VAPDA agreed that consultations be completed for 1/3rd of each Commission’s towns by June 2012. Alan explained that he has worked with John Bennett to come up with a consultation schedule. This was determined by looking at expiration dates of town plans, as well as towns that the WRC is currently working with. Alan also explained that the PCC would review the WRC municipal planning process as a whole, and that the effective role of enhanced consultations within this process would be a part of that review. It was agreed that the active membership of the PCC must be expanded and must be a priority of the WRC.

Public Policy & Legislative: Representative Mike Hebert served as guest speaker on February 27th. Representative Hebert spoke about net metering bill that is being discussed. Net metering facilitates the sending back of power into the grid that is generated on a site. He also spoke about a renewable
power source bill, and carbon credits. There were questions as to why dams aren’t considered a source of renewable energy. Representative Hebert explained that the carbon is released due to the decay of organic matter. He also explained that solar power is the most acceptable form of renewable energy, and that the reduction of energy use is not discussed enough. Representative Hebert also discussed the issues related to phasing out the disposal of organic waste, and the benefits of composting.

Representative Carolyn Partridge was present on March 5th, at which time she spoke to the Committee about the working lands bill, and gave a brief overall summary of what was happening in the Legislature.

Representative Richard Marek, who serves on the Judiciary Committee and Rules Committee, was guest speaker on March 12th. He explained that it was crossover week and the House must vote on any bills they wish to adopt so they can go to the Senate for consideration. There was extensive discussion about taxes and school funding. Marek also discussed Governor Shumlin’s plan to have broadband available throughout the state by the 2013 deadline.

**Transportation:** The February minutes were distributed for review, after which Jodi explained that she would report to the board the specifics of the March and April Committee meetings at next month’s meeting because she was unable to be present at the most recent Committee meeting.

**Community Development:**
Finance:  
Project Review:  

Tom B. moved adjournment.  
Meeting Adjourned: 9:00PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ashley Collins