Commissioners Present: Maggie Bartenhagen, Tom Buchanan, Tom Consolino, Jodi French, John Kristensen, Alan LaCombe,
Excused: Elaine Beckwith, Corky Elwell, Carolyn Partridge
Staff Present: Chris Campany, Susan McMahon, Ashley Collins
Convened: 7:03pm

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

Executive Director’s Report & Other Business:
1. EDA Grant Proposal: Susan McMahon explained that the disaster declaration allows affected areas of Vermont to apply for funding made available through the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). EDA funds are specifically for disaster recovery and revitalization. This grant would be used to support regional capacity to address disaster recovery and revitalization in all of the towns that are members of the WRC through direct outreach to businesses and town governments. Workforce development would also be supported through Workforce Investment Boards in Windham and Bennington Counties. Though much of the focus would be on towns that experienced damage as a result of the storm, all towns would qualify as the region has been in a general economic downturn for some time. The Windham Regional Commission would be the principal applicant, and Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) would be a co-applicant. The WRC has worked closely with the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation on this application, as well as BCRC and their regional development corporation. On a motion by Tom B., seconded by Tom C., to move forward with granting Susan and Chris the discretion to pursue the grant to work with Bennington RPC was approved.

2. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Windham Natural Resources Conservation District: In past years the WRC had entered into an MOU with the conservation district, the purpose of which was to describe the nature of the collaboration between the two organizations and their respective roles. Chris asked the NRC to review the MOU that was in effect until last year for advice as to whether or not it should be reviewed. The Committee had some concerns about the capacity of the WRC to address issues related to soils, and the extent to which the WRC was to compel action in the town because of the use of strong words such as “urge” in the MOU. Chris explained that soils are typically addressed in most
town plans, and are referenced in the regional plan. He also explained that the MOU does not cause the WRC to compel towns to act, and that we do ask towns to support the policies and objectives of the Windham Regional Plan. On a motion by Tom B., seconded by Maggie, renewing the MOU with the Natural Resources Conservation District was approved.

3. **Proposal: Stand Alone Vermont Yankee Committee:** At the February meeting the Executive Board approved Chris to send the Request for Reimbursement at his discretion after he raised some concerns that Entergy’s response might be aggressive. The Status Conference on March 9th during, and subsequent conversations about the document, assuaged Chris’ concerns. The WRC, along with all other parties, has advocated that a new docket be opened. This is the course of action the PSB has opted to take. Tom and Chris suggested there is a need to form a new committee to address issues related to Vermont Yankee, as the Energy Committee would like to move forward on other priorities. The new Vermont Yankee committee would address any issues related to the Public Service Board, as well as decommissioning.
   
   a. There was discussion on the best way to form this Committee, how many members it should include, whether people can serve on the Committee if they are not Commissioners, whether it would be a subcommittee of another Standing Committee. The consensus in the room was that Chris can look at staffing and populating the new committee and report back to the Board next month’s meeting.
   
   b. Tom B. gave an update on the changes regarding the request for reimbursement, and has asked the board for restatement of the authority of Chris to file the request. There was a no motion needed.
   
   c. Tom B. explained that WRC intends to ask that Docket 7600 concerning the leaks be discussed at the Docket 7440 status conference.
   
   d. There was a motion by Tom B., seconded by Maggie, to form a new committee that would address issues related to Vermont Yankee. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

4. Chris announced that WRC has a new staff member Sarah Linn. Though her hiring was made possible by Kendall’s retirement, she has been hired as a planning assistant and will be doing more technical work associated with transportation (i.e., traffic counts, bridge and culvert inventories) and GIS.

5. Chris mentioned that VELCO will be present at the April Commission meeting. He is hoping to have staff from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission speak at a future Commission meeting about what the region should expect from the NRC’s decommissioning process. He is also hoping that the Army Corps of Engineers will be available to speak at a future Commission meeting about the status of the Ball Mountain Dam and related emergency planning.

**Committee Reports:**

**Energy:** There was no recent meeting of the Energy Committee. Tom B. mentioned that he has asked the committee members to attend the VELCO open house to be held in Wilmington on April 26th, where they will be discussing their long range transmission plan.

**LEPC:** The Committee minutes were distributed for review; there was no discussion regarding these. Chris announced that that there will be a VEM Irene after action review. The draft report was released on Monday April 9th. Chris explained that he hoped the RPC role in future disaster response and recovery efforts will be better defined.
Natural Resources: The Committee minutes were distributed for review, there was no discussion regarding these. Maggie explained that most of the meeting was spent planning for the roundtable gathering of natural resource-related organizations and Conservation Commissions from around the region. This will take place on April 25th.

Planning Coordination: There was no recent Committee meeting. Alan explained that John Bennett had a well-attended consultation meeting with the Town of Guilford. The Committee is currently working on other towns which consultations are due by the end of June 2012.

Project Review: The Committee minutes were distributed for review, there was no discussion regarding these. The last meeting was spent discussing the regional plan update, and focusing on the Transportation part of the plan.

Public Policy & Legislative: Representative David Deen served as guest speaker on March 19th, where he discussed the Lakes Bill. There is a new plan that still remains to be approved by the EPA because of agricultural issues.

Representative Michael Mrowicki was present on March 26th where he discussed care delivery systems for mental illness. One of the problems is long-term care, and the state is trying to address this concern. Representative Mrowicki also explained that the prison system is receiving more funding from the State than the education system. He explained that treating non-violent offenders would be less costly to the State than paying for incarceration.

Transportation: Jodi explained that the Committee has been giving feedback to local priority projects, such as bridges, culverts, and roads, and is working to prioritize projects for funding purposes.

Brownfields:  
Community Development:  
Finance:  
Nominating:  

No Meetings

Tom Consolino moved adjournment.  
Meeting Adjourned: 9:08pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ashley Collins