Executive Board
July 10, 2012
WRC Conference Room

Commissioners Present: Jodi French (Chair), Norm Wright, Tom Consolino, Tom Buchanan, Maggie Bartenhagen, Alan LaCombe, Piet van Loon, Dora Bouboulis
Excused: Corky Elwell, Elaine Beckwith
Staff Present: Chris Campany, Ashley Collins
Convened: 7:02pm

Administrative Reports:
Secretary’s Report: On a motion by Piet, seconded by Norm, the minutes from the June meeting were approved.
Treasurer’s Report: On a motion by Tom B., seconded by Tom C., the Treasurer’s Report was approved.

Executive Director’s Report:
1. Chris proposed that the July Full Commission meeting be cancelled, due to the fact that there are no business items requiring Commission action at this time. The next scheduled meeting will be Annual Business meeting on August 28th, and will take place at the Wilmington Town Office.
2. Chris discussed strategies to inform towns and residents about the science and physics of stream and river behavior, the risks of development within floodplains and fluvial erosion hazard areas, and what development in these areas town plans and ordinances allow. He explained that he recognized the political challenge of restricting development in these areas, but thought it would be useful for towns to understand what their policies allow. He also explained that it was important to inform the general public about the risks so individuals and households could make informed decisions regardless of municipal policies. He proposed that WRC conduct a review of each town’s plan and ordinances/bylaws (where applicable) and report to the town what, if any, development they allow in the floodplains. There were suggestions offered from the Board on how best to approach the towns. There were concerns that a review of plans and ordinances without being asked would be perceived as the WRC intervening when not asked to do so, and would therefore be counterproductive. It was suggested that providing education about flood and erosion hazards, instead of reviewing municipal policies, would be more effective. Another suggestion made was to make the general public more aware of WRC meetings, guest speakers, topics of our Commission meetings, as well as any other workshop that WRC may offer, through local media outlets.
3. Chris presented a Facebook strategy to the board, explaining that the outreach on the page would supplement other means of communication to the public. He suggested it would primarily be used for announcements of meetings, cancellations, and updates on the work of the WRC. There was some discussion regarding privacy concerns, and whether or not public
comments should be allowed on the WRC page. There was agreement that the WRC should proceed with the creation of a Facebook page, and that posts and comments should not be allowed on the WRC page. It was also emphasized that maintenance of the page should not consume much staff time.

4. Chris explained that the Section 248 Training on July 26th was relevant not only to present concerns about industrial wind energy development in the region, but the development of other alternative energy solutions as well including solar. He felt it was important for towns to understand the Section 248 process and its challenges, and he was glad that it was an example of another collaborative effort between the WRC and Bennington County Regional Planning Commission.

5. Chris presented a draft of the WRC Reply to Entergy VY Motion for Declaratory Ruling Prescribing Scope of Proceeding. After a short discussion, Norm made a motion to approve the draft Reply, seconded by Maggie; motion was approved with minor grammatical changes to be made.

6. Tom and Chris presented a final draft of the Purpose and Objective Statement for the new Vermont Yankee Study Committee to the Board for approval. Tom C., made a motion to approve the P and O Statement as amended, seconded by Norm; motion was approved.

Committee Reports:

Community Development: The latest meeting was held on June 21st where two major topics that were discussed were how to broaden and encourage agricultural interest, the Response to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and the issues relating to the EDA Application. The Committee changed the regular meeting time to the 2nd Thursday of the month at 4:00pm.

Planning Coordination: The Committee’s most recent meeting was held on June 18th, where the possibility of cross town talks in the immediate future was discussed.

Project Review: There was no recent meeting of the Project Review Committee, however, Tom B., mentioned that there were recess letters on the Vermont Mulch Company Project in Vernon.

Transportation: The majority of the meeting was based around the presentation for the Hinsdale bridge construction. WRC will be working together with Southwest Regional Planning Commission in New Hampshire to build support to replace the bridge in the proposed alternative location. Support will be needed from both regions and states. Also discussed was the need for public participation in the design of the new bridge to replace the West River bridge on I-91 (bridge 9).

VY Study: There was a new petition that was filed Entergy and there will be two opportunities to submit discoveries on or before July 28th. The VY Study Committee will draft discovery questions on behalf of the WRC.

Brownfields:
Emergency Planning:
Energy:
Finance:
LEPC:
Natural Resources:
Nominating:  
No Meeting/Nothing to Report
Public Policy & Legislative:

Other Business:
- Tom B. mentioned that Committee minutes do not consistently list who the Chair of the Committee is, and whether they were present at the meeting. It was agreed by general consensus to have Committee minutes reflect the Chair of the Committee, and if said person is absent from the meeting please indicate who chaired the meeting in their absence.
- Chris announced that he is trying to line up Ken Burns as the guest speaker for the Annual Dinner to be held this October.

Tom Consolino moved to adjournment.
Meeting Adjourned: 8:35pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Ashley Collins