Commissioners Present: Jodi French (CH), Maggie Bartenhagen, Tom Buchanan, Jack Cunningham, Corky Elwell, Alan LaCombe, Carolyn Partridge, Piet van Loon, Norm Wright
Excused: Dora Bouboulis, Tom Consolino
Staff Present: Chris Campany, Cullen Meves, Ashley Collins
Convened: 7:07pm

Administrative Reports:
Secretary's Report: On a motion by Corky, seconded by Tom B., the minutes from the August meeting were approved.
Treasurer's Report: On a motion by Tom B., seconded by Carolyn, the Treasurer’s report was approved.

Regional Plan Update: WRC Planner Cullen Meves was present to discuss the proposed strategy and schedule for the regional plan update. Cullen gave an overview of a website that she has designed to facilitate plan review and solicit comments from the public. There was some discussion about the site, but the feedback was very positive. It was agreed that staff should go forward with the launch of the process and website.

Committee Appointments:
Chair: Dora Bouboulis, Energy; Jack Cunningham, Project Review; Tom Consolino, Public Policy and Legislative. There was some discussion regarding Chris Campany serving as liaison for the Regional Plan Update Committee. Chris will lead this effort and will coordinate the plan update through the Executive Board. This might change if a future Executive Board member would like to chair the plan update committee. Jodi asked for a motion to approve the new committee chairs, moved by Carolyn, and seconded by Norm. Committee chair appointments were approved.
Members: Commissioner appointments to all committees were proposed by Jodi. There was an extended discussion as to how the appointments are made for Committees. Specifically, appointments to the Vermont Yankee Study Committee were raised and how the public stance of any participant might possibly conflict with the WRC’s position of neutrality as to whether or not the plant should continue operations. It was decided to table the discussion on appointments to the VY Study Committee until the next meeting. Jodi asked for a motion to approve the remaining Commissioner requests for appointment to Committees; moved by Carolyn, and seconded by Corky; motion was approved. Appointments were made for Commissioners requesting appointment to new Committees; with no appointments made to the VY Study Committee.

Proposal to add another Executive Board member: The Board discussed the possibility of adding an additional member, which would require a change to the bylaws. The purpose would be to catch up
with the expansion of WRC committees, and to more equitably distribute the Executive Board member workload. Article VI.G of the bylaws would be amended to increase the membership of the Executive Board by 1 member. A vote on this proposed amendment would be held at the January meeting of the Full Commission. The bylaws would be amended as follows:

G. The Executive Board of the Commission shall consist of the officers of the Commission and six - seven Commissioners. No more than one Board member may be a Citizen Interest Commissioner.

On a motion made by Norm, seconded by Tom B., to amend the bylaws and bring the amendment to the Full Commission, the amendment was approved.

**Election of Officers from Among Board Members:** It was proposed that officers be elected from among sitting Board members. This had been common practice, but the bylaws allow the nomination of any town commissioner to be nominated to serve as an officer. Some questions were raised about the sequencing of election to the Board and nomination to serve as an officer. The Board agreed that they would like more time to review this proposal and would like to see this on the agenda of the next meeting.

**Authority of Executive Director in Relation to Committee Chairs:** The chain of command is understood by a general consensus that the Commissioners/Chairs bring thoughts, proposals, etc. to the Executive Director and defer to the Director to make decisions and take action. This led to discussion about expectations of Board members when they are sent information or documents about which comments are needed. Some assumed that no response signified approval, but that could also mean the Commissioner did not receive or had not yet reviewed the information they were sent. It was suggested that procedures be developed that would clarify what was expected. Chris stressed that Board decisions could not be made via email. It was agreed that if a decision must be made by the Board between regularly-scheduled meetings, an emergency meeting must be called per public meeting law. The Board asked Chris for a proposal to be discussed at the next meeting on how to handle short notice requests for review of documents, as well as Board decisions, in the future.

**Executive Director’s Report & Other Business:**

1. Chris announced that the Annual Dinner will be held on November 27th at the Bellows Falls Masonic Temple, with Nicholas Clifford serving as guest speaker. He also mentioned that he is hopeful that WRC will get author Jeremy David to serve as guest speaker at the Annual Dinner next year.
2. The next full Commission meeting is scheduled for October 30th in Wardsboro, with no meeting in December. In January our guest speaker will be County Forester Bill Geunther, who will speak about the future of forests and forestry in the Windham Region.
3. Chris mentioned that WRC is co-hosting a rivers conference for Southern Vermont on October 16th. All Town Officials, planners, road crews, and the general public are invited and encouraged to attend.
4. Chris has been asked to be part of a panel of regional planning commission directors at the annual meeting of the Natural Resources Board to discuss the overall role of RPCs in the Act 250 process and the manner in which each RPC represented on the panel participates.
5. A proposal for $400,000 to the EPA has been submitted for the evaluation of petroleum and hazardous sites.
6. The Agency of Natural Resources applied for two Ecosystem Recreation grants, and received both. Beginning in spring of 2013, river scientists in the Windham Region will begin the development of River Corridor Management Plans for the main stems of the Winhall River, Wardsboro Brook and the Green River.

7. Sue Minter and Ben Rose have asked RPC’s to engage in issues that have arisen between the FEMA Public Assistance program and the towns.

Committee Reports:

Brownfields: Norm announced that the committee is moving forward with applying for additional assessment funding.

Community Development: The Purpose and Objectives Statement was circulated, and the Board was asked to review and provide any feedback or edits that need to be made.

LEPC: Corky briefly outlined the highlights of the recent meeting. Vermont Emergency Management reported that the Vermont Yankee Drill was a success. Vermont 2-1-1 has reported over 1,800 calls from this region so far this year, with the largest percentage of calls being related to housing and shelter. The Vermont Department of Health Medical Reserve Core is in the process of developing a special needs home base. The WRC is serving as the fiscal agent for this effort.

Natural Resources: Maggie mentioned that the WRC Conservation Forum held on the 26th was well attended and they are working on the next steps. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Transportation: The Committee met on September 10th where they discussed the letter of support for Voltrek, the regional plan update, and transportation-related chapters and local projects for the future. Jodi also mentioned the upcoming Region Road Foreman meeting.

Emergency Planning:  
Energy:  
Finance:  
Nominating:  
Planning Coordination:  
Project Review:  
Public Policy & Legislative:  

No Meeting/Nothing to Report

Meeting Adjourned: 9:08pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ashley Collins