Executive Board  
January 8, 2013  
WRC Conference Room

Commissioners Present: Jodi French (Chair), Maggie Bartenhagen, Dora Bouboulis, Tom Buchanan, Jack Cunningham, Corky Elwell, Piet van Loon  
Excused: Tom Consolino, Alan LaCombe, Carolyn Partridge, Norm Wright  
Staff Present: Chris Campany, Ashley Collins, Dinah Reed  
Convened: 7:01pm

Administrative Reports:  
Secretary’s Report: On a motion by Tom B., seconded by Piet, the minutes from the December meeting were approved.  
Treasurer’s Report: On a motion by Jack, seconded by Tom B., the Treasurer’s Report was approved.  
Committee Appointments: On a motion by Jack seconded by Tom B., the Commissioner appointments to selected committees were approved.

WRC Broadband Plan: RPC’s around the State received funding to develop regional broadband adoption strategies that together would comprise a state broadband adoption strategy, or plan. These strategies were to be built on the assumption that the broadband infrastructure would be in place by December 31, 2013, with the goal of the effort being the development of a plan that would encourage use of broadband by a variety of sectors. WRC Assistant Planner, Dinah Reed presented the Board with the WRC’s Regional Broadband Adoption Strategy. Over the past two years, Dinah has interviewed different sectors in the region to get a better sense of connectivity needs, and how broadband can have a positive effect on business, industry and public institutions. Tom B., made a motion, seconded by Jack to adopt the WRC and state Broadband Adoption Plan; motion was approved to adopt the plan.

Executive Director’s Report & Other Business:  
Letter to Grafton: An attorney representing the Town of Grafton asked Chris to explain what statutory basis would allow a town such as Windham to include provisions in their town plan that would preclude the development of a specific type of energy generation. Chris presented the draft to the Executive Board for their review. On a motion by Tom B., seconded by Jack to send the letter to the Town of Grafton was approved.

Commissioner Survey: Chris presented the board with the revised Commissioner survey that will be sent to Commissioners prior to the Full Commission meeting this month. This survey is being distributed to get a better sense of where they stand on procedures, meetings, and other topics related to their responsibilities as a Commissioner, what is important to them, and what might be done to
encourage and facilitate greater participation. The Board provided positive feedback on the revisions made. Jack moved to approve the survey and send to Commissioners, seconded by Maggie; motion was approved.

**Vernon Request:** Chris explained that he met with the Town of Vernon in regards to the VY Study Committee. Vernon Commissioner and Committee Chair, Bob Spencer asked for approval to share draft documents with fellow Vernon Commissioner Steve Skibniowsky, or add him as a member to the Committee. There was some extended discussion surrounding open meeting laws, and public meeting laws on documents. Chris will advise that Bob is a member, and is able to share drafts with fellow Commissioner, Steve Skibniowsky. It was also suggested that the need for the Committee be discussed at a future Executive Board meeting.

**Connecticut River Joint Commission:** The Commission is the only bi-state entity created to address common issues on the Connecticut River. Chris is Chair of the Vermont Commission and Vice President of the CRJC, and he expressed his hope that the CRJC might be able to facilitate activity associated with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing of 5 dams on the Connecticut River among municipalities, regional commissions, and the states.

**Municipal Workshop to Develop Grant Applications:** Chris mentioned that there will be 4 grant proposal workshops held by the Vermont Community Foundation for municipal officials held at 4 locations throughout the state. He helped organize these workshops on behalf of VAPDA. The first workshop will be held at Mt. Snow on January 23rd.

**Transportation Funding Committee:** Chris mentioned that he participated in the state’s Transportation Funding on behalf of VAPDA. The Committee was created by the legislature to explore different revenue options to address a $240 million annual funding shortfall from 2014 through 2018. The RPC’s may help organize public forums to discuss why the gap exists and what the options are to fill it.

**Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation:** Chris announced that Jeff Lewis will be retiring and that Pat Moulten-Powden will take over as Executive Director at the BDCC by the end of 2013. Chris explained that collaboration between the WRC and BDCC has grown substantially, that he appreciated the efforts of Jeff Lewis, and looked forward to working with Pat in her new capacity.

**VAPDA Meeting Summary by Piet Van Loon** - RPC Executive Directors meet on a monthly basis, and each Commission has the option to send one citizen or Commission member to the quarterly meetings. Commission member participation is irregular, though Chris noted that Piet has been outstanding in his regular participation. Piet explained that each RPC is organized and functions differently, and this is reflected in how each addresses functions such as Act 250 reviews, town plan approvals, and town consultations. The last regular meeting was in December and guest Shap Smith, Speaker of the House, explained the different areas of legislation that will be covered this session. Jodi suggested that VAPDA reports be added to our Committee Reports each month.

**Committee Reports:** The following is a summary of issues not reflected in Committee Minutes that were raised by Committee Chairs.
Community Development: Committee minutes were distributed for review. Chris mentioned that WRC is working on a forestry project with three graduate students from the Conway School to help raise awareness of the industry in the Windham region.

LEPC: Committee minutes were distributed for review. The Annual meeting was held in December and there were some noted changes in membership, including a new chair. It was determined that all those in attendance at the December meeting were identified as official voting members of the Committee.

Project Review: Jack mentioned that Stratton is due for a Master Plan update, and they were present at the most recent Committee meeting where they discussed some areas of concern. The Committee will plan to take action after the plan’s deadline.

Regional Plan Update: There has been no recent meeting of the Committee; however they will plan to meet at the end of January. Chris mentioned that the public comment period is now closed, and that in spite of the fact that there were many visitors to the plan update website, the WRC received little feedback regarding the current plan. Many of the comments were among Natural Resource Committee members, and it could be that the website would provide a means of transparency for committee deliberations about the plan.

Transportation: There was no recent meeting of the Committee. Committee members will be reviewing proposals for the bridge replacement over the next few weeks and meet again to do the final scoring.

VY Study: There was no recent meeting of the Committee. Tom noted that they discussed submitting discovery questions, so that it is on the record.

Brownfields:  
Emergency Planning:  
Energy:  
Finance:  
Natural Resources:  
Nominating:  
Planning Coordination:  
Public Policy & Legislative:  

No Meeting / Nothing to Report

Tom B. moved to accept committee reports, seconded by Corky; committee reports accepted.

Tom B. moved adjournment seconded by Jack.
Meeting Adjourned: 8:52PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Ashley Collins