Executive Board
April 9, 2013
WRC Conference Room

Commissioners Present: Jodi French (Chair), Maggie Bartenhagen, Dora Bouboulis, Tom Buchanan, Tom Consolino, Jack Cunningham, Corky Elwell, Piet Van Loon, Norm Wright
Excused: Alan LaCombe, Carolyn Partridge
Staff Present: Chris Campany, Susan McMahon, Ashley Collins
Convoked: 7:00PM

Administrative Reports:
Secretary’s Report: A motion was made by Tom C., and seconded by Tom B., to approve the March minutes with proposed changes to one sentence.
Treasurer’s Report: On a motion by Tom C., seconded by Tom B., the Treasurer’s Report was approved.

Revolving Loan Fund Projects: WRC Associate Director, Susan McMahon, was present to discuss two new requests for funding through the RLF Program: The Bellows Falls Historical Society and Main Street Arts, Saxtons River. Susan provided some background information regarding the contaminants and other details of the project sites and uses, and explained that the BF Historical Society is asking for $67,000 in grant funding and Main Street Arts is seeking $55,000 in grant funding. The Sub-committee met and submitted its recommendation for approval to the Executive Board for grant funding. Norm made a motion to approve the $67,000 in grant funding for the BF Historical Society project, seconded by Maggie; motion was approved. Tom B., made a motion to approve $55,000 in grant funding for the Main Street Arts project, seconded by Corky; motion was approved.

Executive Director’s Report & Other Business:
1. Executive Director, Chris Campany gave an update on the Energy Generation Siting Commission’s progress. He also mentioned that he will be continue to serve as a Commissioner of the CT River Joint Commissions, as regional commission directors hold such positions per statute, but he is not going to volunteer to remain an officer. He has served as the Vermont Chair, and the CRJC President and Vice President, over the last two years.
2. Auditor’s Report: Norm gave a brief overview of the Auditor’s Report, and it was suggested that Mike attend a Board meeting to explain how to read the finance reports. Tom B., moved to accept the the Audit Report, seconded by Jack; audit report was accepted. There was some discussion about eventually switching accounting software in the future to reduce the need to generate multiple reports.
3. VY Docket: Tom B. and Chris met with the Public Service Department and the Agency of Natural Resources to discuss their perspective on how Public Service Board Docket 7862 might proceed, and what positions might be held in common. Tom B., asked for the Board to
approve WRC’s draft motion to have VY file an updated spent fuel management plan, with
any changes made at Executive Director, Chris Campany’s discretion, Maggie moved to
support WRC’s draft motion, seconded by Norm; motion was approved.

4. **Commissioner Survey:** Chris suggested some follow up items based upon the results of the
Commissioner Survey. 16 surveys were received. Chris suggested that at least 4 of the
Commission’s regular 10 annual meetings be held in a central location, likely Newfane or
Townshend as they are relatively central to the region and we tend to have good attendance
when Full Commission meetings are held in those locations. There was consensus that
having 6 of the 10 regular meetings in a year in a central location would be preferable. Chris
also suggested that the annual dinner and picnic be replaced by social networking time ahead
of Full Commission meetings, and that this be revisited in a year or two; and that an
orientation be held for Commissioners prior to the Full Commission meeting in June,
provided at least 2 Commissioners sign up to participate. There was consensus support for
these ideas as well.

5. **Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies:** A Program of Brattleboro
Development Credit Corporation (BDCC), which received funding from the EDA to do a
comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS) for the region. They are trying to
build a region-wide constituency, and have meetings coming up around the region which
have been included in the WRC Newsletter and which have been posted to Facebook. There
was some discussion regarding WRC’s role with SeVEDS and how broad the SeVEDS
perspective is.

6. **Community Development Block Grants:** The BDCC is managing funds for businesses. Despite
considerable outreach by the WRC to municipalities, including a grant writing workshop,
few towns have applied for CDBG-Disaster Recovery funds.

7. **EDA Disaster Recovery:** The WRC and the Bennington County Regional Planning
Commission were awarded $472,000 in funding for a resiliency planning effort for businesses
and municipalities. The funding will also support a sustainable regional marketing initiative.

**Committee Reports:**

**Brownfields:** In addition to Susan’s RLF proposal, Norm noted that the funds for petroleum are gone,
but there is still money left for hazardous material clean up. The Committee is also reviewing
Regional Plan chapters.

**Natural Resources:** The Forestry Forum will be held on April 18th in place of the regular Committee
meeting. The Conway School Students will make a presentation on their study of forestry in the
Windham Region.

**Nominating:** There was no recent meeting of the Committee, however it was noted that they will
need to convene to accept nomination for two fill two Executive Board vacancies including that of
Vice Chair. Commissioner and outgoing Vice Chair Dora Bouboulis was thanked for her service to
the Commission and the Town of Brattleboro.

**Project Review:** The Committee is looking at Land Use Characterization definitions in the Land Use
Chapters in the Regional Plan. It was suggested that notices get sent out to more towns, officials, and
Commissioners when an issue concerns that specific town.
Public Policy & Legislative: The most recent meeting was held on March 18th with Mollie Burke serving as guest speaker. She serves on the House Transportation Committee and discussed budget cuts, gasoline tax increases, and other important topics being deliberated at the State level.

Regional Plan Update: The Committee minutes were distributed for review. Chris provided a brief overview of the meeting highlights; affordable housing policy, policy on development and flood plain and fluvial erosion hazard areas, infrastructure development, residential development beyond downtowns and village centers, and educating the public on certain policies. There was discussion about the challenges associated with even discussing limiting development in floodplains and fluvial erosion hazard zones.

Transportation: The Committee’s most recent meeting was on April 8th, where they provided a letter of support to Connecticut River Transit (CRT) for their grant funding request; 90% of their budget comes from this grant. The Committee has also been working on prioritizing bridges for the capital project plan.

Community Development:
Emergency Planning:
Energy Committee
Finance:
LEPC:
Planning Coordination:
VY Study Committee:

No Meeting/Nothing to Report

Tom C., moved to accept the reports, seconded by Norm. Committee reports accepted.

Maggie moved adjournment, seconded by Jack.
Meeting Adjourned: 9:14PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Ashley Collins