The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

ATTENDANCE
Lou Bruso | Jack Cunningham | Mollie Burke
Matt Mann (staff) | Alice Maes | Priscilla Margola
Dora Bouboulis | J.B. Mack – SWRPC | Tim Murphy – SWRPC
Chris Campany | Susan Clark | Gary Fox

MINUTES APPROVAL
A motion to accept as submitted the minutes of the June 11, 2012 passed on a unanimous voice vote.

BUSINESS

Hinsdale Bridge
Matt introduced J.B. Mack, Senior Planner and Tim Murphy, Executive Director, Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC). They discussed the current status of the Hinsdale Bridge project. The project has been “deferred”, meaning it has been removed from the state’s construction schedule. They discussed the need to gage support for the project on the state level; but especially from the regional and local levels. The existing condition of the bridge is poor, with a sufficiency rating between 20-30. This bridge is a major bi-state connector, with over 50% of the Hinsdale labor market working in Brattleboro. The estimated cost for a new bridge is $35 million.

A motion was made and was seconded to advocate and work with SWRPC staff, VTrans, NHDOT, Town of Brattleboro and Town of Hinsdale to support moving this project forward.

Vilas Bridge and I-91 Bridge #9
Chris Campany requested based on the most recent Vilas Bridge public meeting that the Committee put this topic on the September agenda to discuss next steps. He also discussed the I-91 bridge #9 project. Matt provided some background and summarized the two I-91 bridge #9 public meetings. After discussing the importance and relationship of this bridge to
the existing landscape and it acting as the “gateway” to the West River Valley, the Committee requested WRC staff to draft a letter to VTrans, emphasizing the importance of the design, aesthetics and overall character of the bridge.

High Risk Rural Roads (HRRR)
Matt described the HRRR Program and some of the past HRRR locations. The HRRR Program is tasked with helping implement low cost safety improvements targeted at reducing major crashes on Vermont’s rural major and minor collector highways and local rural roads. For FY12, the HRRR locations for the region are Higley Hill Rd., from Lake Raponda Rd to VT100 and the entire length of Handle Rd./Cold Brook Rd. The High Hazard location is the intersection of South Access Rd and Cold Brook Rd., in Dover.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

Next Meeting Date: September 10th