Joint Committee Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 23 2018, 6:00pm  
WRC Conference Room

Members present: Greg Brown (Chair), Liisa Kissel, Denis Pinkernell, Andy Toepfer, Eric Stevens, Tad Montgomery, John Whitman, Rod Francis, Kevin Stine,

Staff present: Marion Major

Called to order at 6:05pm with a quorum present and chaired by Greg Brown.

1. Minutes
   a. Committee approved November 15 minutes.

2. Public Meetings and Comments Report
   a. Greg and Marion gave a report back to the committee on the four public meetings in December and January. The meetings had a combined 30 attendees and WRC received comments from 17 members of the public. A majority of the feedback requested a modification to the proposed utility scale wind policy.

3. Updates to Draft Energy Plan
   a. The updates to the text of the draft were reviewed
      i. Pg 28 language on impacts of conventional energy extraction was added
      ii. Pg 33 an analysis of wind energy generation capacity was added
      iii. Policy encouraging energy generation development added to Renewable Energy Generation Policy section (pg 45)
      iv. “community-serving” was removed from the utility scale policy section and added and defined within general generation policy section (pg37)
         1. Utility Scale Wind definition was changed from “hub height above 75 meters and 2 megawatt capacity” to “hub height above 70 meters”. This is consistent with the GIS analysis of the resource availability.
   b. The committee discussed and approved the following additional updates:
      i. Pg 8 footnote correction
      ii. Pg 37 text added: “As a matter of policy, utility-scale energy generation projects are considered regionally-significant and therefore are subject to the review of the WRC Project Review Committee.”
      iii. Pg 37 text added: “Additionally, the WRC recognizes the need to update the Proposed Land Use map as is currently appears in the 2014 Regional Plan. In consultation with its member-towns, the WRC will prioritize the update of the Proposed Land Use map and policies with the next update of the Windham Regional Plan.”
iv. Pg 48 added implementation step: “Increase and improve public transit and amenities.”

v. Approved action: the following policy modification.

POLICY MODIFICATION: “as will be discussed below, the Windham Regional Commission is adopting a policy that restricts additional utility-scale wind energy generation in Resource Lands (see land use policy definition on page 34), and that the new capacity be developed through primarily solar generation and appropriately scaled biomass generation (digesters and combined heat-power generators as well as wood fuel production), small hydro (run of river facilities on existing safe and stable dams), and residential- or community-serving (owned by municipality with generated credits allocated to community buildings) wind.”

c. Marion discussed the timeline for adoption: the hearings will take place during April with a final full commission vote at the end of April.

4. Other Business

a. None

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted, Marion Major, Staff