Full Commission Meeting
August 30, 2016
Union Hall, Newfane, VT

Commissioners Present: Jodi French (Chair), Elizabeth McLoughlin, Tim Arsenault, Carolyn Partridge, Renee Mulkey, Nicolas Wallaert, Stephen Dotson, Liisa Kissel, Charlie Goodwin, Bill Dunkel, Andy Toepfer, Stephan Chait, Everett Wilson, Norm Wright, Priscilla Margola, George Mora, John Whitman, Robin Howe, Kevin Stine, Eric Stevens, Alan LaCombe, Piet van Loon, Brad Horn, Jack Cunningham
Citizen Interest Commissioners Present: Prudence MacKinney, Greg Brown, Bob Anderson, David Deen, Wendy Harrison
Guests Present: Michelle Boomhower (VTrans), Kevin Marshia (VTrans), Sam Battaglino (Former Commissioner)
Staff Present: Chris Campany, Marion Major, Ashley Collins
Introductions: There was a quorum of 17 towns present.
Convened: 7:00PM

Administrative Items & Reports:
Secretary’s Report: On a motion by N. Wright, seconded by J. Cunningham the minutes from the May meeting were approved with one abstention.

VTrans: Michelle Boomhower, VTrans Director of Policy, Planning & Intermodal Development (Aviation, Rail, and Public Transit) and Kevin Marshia, Vtrans Highway Division Director and Chief Engineer, gave an overview of VTrans’ mission statement, budget history, and ways in which they are trying to improve effectiveness and efficiency. Michelle also discussed the Vermont Clean Water Act and how it relates to municipal transportation, and the web-based VTransparency as a public portal for information about projects, bridges and other road work which is updated on a daily basis. Kevin discussed highway safety and explained that the establishment of the VT Highway Safety Alliance between VTrans and law enforcement was an effort to make highway travel safer. He also explained the prioritization system for road and bridge projects.

Regional Energy Plan and Windham County Renewable Energy Project: WRC Planner Marion Major explained that regional planning commissions have received funding through Act 174 to create regional energy plans, which will be used as a tool when implementing the state’s Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP), and which will be used to inform future iterations of the CEP. Marion provided a
handout with the projected timeline over the next 18 months. She also explained that WRC has received $400,000 from the Clean Energy Development Fund for us to create the Windham County Renewable Energy Program which will provide grants to support renewable energy generation projects in Windham County. WRC is in the process of developing this program.

**FY2018 Town Assessment Increase:** Executive Director Chris Campany explained that there was a desire to have Commissioners offer final comments on the increase and the letter to towns explaining the rationale and need for the increase. On a motion by N. Wright, seconded by B. Horn the motion to confirm the ratification from May was approved with one abstention.

**FY2017 Work Program and Budget:** ED Chris Campany gave an overview of the FY2017 Work Program and Budget. On a motion made by C. Goodwin, seconded by P. van Loon to approve the FY2017 Work Program and Budget was approved with two abstentions.

**Elections for FY 2017 Nominating Committee:** Carolyn Partridge was present to announce the nominations slate for Executive Board, Officers and Citizen Interest Commissioners. Additional nominations were invited from the floor and there were none.

**Officers:** On a motion by N. Wright, seconded by J. Cunningham the slate of officers was approved with no changes.
- Chair: Jodi French, Newfane
- Vice Chair: Piet van Loon, Newfane
- Secretary: Tom Consolino, Wilmington
- Treasurer: Norm Wright, Westminster
- Council of Regional Commissions: Carolyn Partridge, Windham

**Executive Board:** The slate presented was the current Executive Board with one remaining vacancy. On a motion by R. Howe, seconded by B. Horn, the slate for the balance of the Executive Board was approved.

**Members:**
- Jack Cunningham, Wardsboro
- Denis Pinkernell, Londonderry
- Lew Sorenson, Dummerston
- Alan LaCombe, Rockingham
- Greg Brown, Citizen Interest: Housing

**Citizen Interest Commissioners:** On a motion made by G. Mora, seconded by J. Cunningham the slate of Citizen Interest Commissioners was approved with no changes.
- Agriculture: Lynette Hamilton
- Arts & Culture: Robert McBride
- Community Development: Wendy Harrison
- Conservation: Bob Anderson
- Economic Development: Laura Sibilia
- Healthy Communities: Prudence MacKinney
A motion that nominations be closed was **moved** by N. Wright and seconded by R. Howe; motion was **approved**.

**Dover Town Plan:** The WRC received a request from the Town of Dover to review its plan for approval. The panel reviewed the town plan and reported their findings back to the Planning Coordination Committee (PCC). The PCC recommended approval of the plan, and confirmation of the town plan and process. J. Whitman made a **motion** to approve the plan as presented, and was seconded by N. Wright; motion was **approved with two abstentions**. On the confirmation of the town plan and process B. Horn made a **motion**, seconded by S. Dotson; motion was **approved with two abstentions**.

**Rockingham Town Plan:** The WRC received a request from the Town of Rockingham to review its plan for approval. The panel reviewed the town plan and reported their findings back to the Planning Coordination Committee (PCC). The PCC recommended approval of the plan, and confirmation of the town plan and process. P. van Loon made a **motion** to approve the plan as presented, and was seconded by Liisa Kissel; motion was **approved with two abstentions**, with one minor spelling edit. On the confirmation of the town plan and process B. Horn made a **motion**, seconded by P. van Loon; motion was **approved with two abstentions**.

**Committee Chair Updates:**
Planning Coordination Committee: P. van Loon reminded Commissioners of the importance of serving on town plan review panels, and encouraged future participation when a panel is needed.

Brownfields: N. Wright mentioned that the program is continuing to grow and the Committee is currently working with several towns.

Natural Resources Committee: D. Deen mentioned that the NRC voted to begin serving as the advisory group to work with the State Basin Planner, Marie Caduto, on the prioritization of basin plan implementation projects. The Committee plans to extend the prioritization discussion to interested organizations related to water quality issues such as Trout Unlimited, the Southeast Vermont Watershed Alliance, and the Connecticut River Watershed Council.

**Executive Director's Report & Other Business:**
- ED Chris Campany informed Commissioners that Sarah Linn and Matt Mann are no longer with the WRC.
- Chris gave an overview of a tri state region collaboration working to mitigate the socioeconomic impacts of the Vermont Yankee closure. One of the work products of a U.S. Economic Development Administration-supported project is the development of a “lessons-learned” whitepaper. This will be released on October 14th and some anticipate national interest in the document.
Chris mentioned that the anniversary of Irene has just passed and communities are still dealing with issues relating to resilience planning and floodplain regulation.

Chris let Commissioners know that the October Commission meeting would also double as a Fall celebration gathering. Location to be determined.

N. Wright moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by C. Goodwin.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10PM

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley Collins