Commissioners Present In Person: Gabby Ciuffreda (Chair), Gretchen Havreluk, Linda Hecker, Prudence MacKinney, Andy Toepfer, Elizabeth McLoughlin, Kevin Stine, Sarah Shippee, Lew Sorenson, Liisa Kissel, Everett Wilson, Stephan Chait, Andy Coyne, Joel Bluming, Denis Pinkernell, Edith Mas, Piet van Loon, John Whitman, Will Bissonnette, Andrew Snelling, Tim Arsenault, Jim Pinkerton, Jr., Jack Cunningham, Jenepher Burnell, Carolyn Partridge, Steve Lembke, Lisa Fortin, Greg Brown

Commissioners Participating via Conference Call: None.


Guest Speaker: Vermont Secretary of Natural Resources, Julie Moore

Guests: Gail Sorenson

Staff Present: Chris Campany, Susan McMahon, John Bennett, Alyssa Sabetto, Emily Davis, Marion Major, Lisa Donnelly

Introductions: There was a quorum of 17 towns present.

Convened: The meeting was called to order by Chair Gabby Ciuffreda at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Administrative Items & Reports:

Secretary’s Report: Commissioner Piet van Loon asked that the minutes be amended to reflect that the Londonderry town planning process was confirmed. The August 28, 2018 minutes were approved by a unanimous vote on a motion by Commissioner Tim Arsenault, seconded by Commissioner Jack Cunningham.

Treasurer’s Report: Executive Director Chris Campany explained that the end of year actual came in as expected, and that some of the surplus was used to purchase a new, more sophisticated bicycle and pedestrian counter. On a motion by Commissioner Lew Sorenson, seconded by Tim Arsenault, the Treasurer’s Report was approved by a unanimous vote.
**Program:** Chair Ciuffreda introduced Vermont Secretary of Natural Resources, Julie Moore, who was asked to speak about the roles regional commissions play in natural resource issues and policies in the state, and her vision for those roles going into the future. She noted that there are three divisions within the Agency, and that the WRC and the other regional planning commissions (RPCs) interact with all of them. She noted that RPCs serve as conduits to and from the agency and local governments; that RPCs and the agency work together on Act 174 energy mapping and that they review RPC energy plans and maps; and that the agency provides resources for local and regional planning through Biofinder and Conservation Design. She encouraged RPCs to contact the Office of Planning to make them aware of any initiatives we might pursue to see if we might benefit from added value and data. She noted RPC engagement in Act 250 and the value of our engagement in the Act 47/Act 250 at 50 review of the Act 250 process. The leadership of the WRC and Associate Director Susan McMahon in the area of Brownfields was acknowledged. The strong engagement of the WRC in tactical basin planning was discussed, as was our part in the creation of multi-town and multi-stakeholder collaboratives in the Saxtons River and Green River watersheds. Our role in the roll out of the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) to help towns comply with state requirements was acknowledged. Commissioner John Whitman asked the Secretary how citizens and others could help make the state’s data and mapping resources more accurate. Commissioner Carolyn Partridge engaged with the Secretary on permitting fees farmers have to bear related to water quality compliance. WRC Planner Emily Davis asked how silos between ANR and VTrans could be broken down to achieve more comprehensive results as the MRGP is being implemented by towns. Chris Campany made a pitch that it should be easier for towns to get grant funding to explore the impacts of the absence of community wastewater and water on villages, and the impacts of existing community system limitations.

**Recognition of Associate Director Susan McMahon’s Service to the WRC:** Chair Gabby Ciuffreda led the recognition of Susan’s 26 years of outstanding service as she leaves the WRC in mid-November to become Executive Director of the Landmark Trust. Susan was presented with a plaque and flowers. Executive Director Chris Campany thanked Susan for her help when he began his tenure and her partnership over the last 8 years. Commissioner and former WRC executive director Lew Sorenson noted the successes and professional development of Susan since he hired her. Susan commented on the value of her service to the WRC. She received a standing ovation for her work.

**Executive Director’s Report:** Executive Director Chris Campany mentioned that Erica Roper was no longer with the WRC and that he would be assuming transportation planning responsibilities for the time being. He described the hiring strategy that he was following to fill the positions that have been or will be vacated, expressing his desire to hire seasoned, generalist planners. He also noted that he’s been asked to serve on a federal multi-agency expert panel to examine the community impacts of nuclear plant closures.

**Other Business:** Executive Director Chris Campany asked if the Commissioners would like for their October meeting to be similar to those over the past few years, which provided time for Commissioners to better get to know one another followed by a guest speaker. They said yes.
On a motion by Commissioner Will Bissonnette, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley Collins