Commissioners Present: Jodi French (Chair), Maggie Bartenhagen, Nick Bartenhagen, Sam Battaglino, Heath Boyer, Tom Buchanan, Emily Kunreuther, Alan LaCombe, Alice Maes, Priscilla Margola, Edith Mas, Steve Skibniowsky, Lew Sorenson, Roger Turner, Piet van Loon, John Whitman, Norm Wright
Citizen Interest Commissioners Present: Lynette Hamilton, Gretchen Havreluk, Margaret Newton
Guests Present: Joe DeFelice, Riverbank Media; Herb Meyer, Guilford; Liisa Kissel, Grafton; Mary Boyer, Windham; Mary Cain, Brattleboro;
Staff Present: Chris Campany, Susan McMahon, Jeff Nugent
Introductions: There was a not a quorum with only 12 towns present.
Convened: 7:00PM

Administrative Items & Reports:
Secretary’s Report: On a motion by P. van Loon, seconded by S. Battaglino the February minutes were approved; subject to ratification.
Financial Report: On a motion by L. Sorenson, seconded by J. Whitman the Finance Report was approved; subject to ratification.

After the Flood: Vermont’s Rivers and the Legacy of Irene
WRC Associate Director Susan McMahon introduced Rick Baron with the New England Youth Theater (NEYT). He explained the mission of the NEYT and discussed their experience with Tropical Storm Irene. Jerry Stockman, also with the NEYT, brought an example of a flood gate.

The Commissioners viewed a documentary titled After the Flood: Vermont’s Rivers and the Legacy of Irene. It was introduced by producer Joe DeFelice with Riverbank Media. The film explored both success stories and potential problem areas regarding river management in the context of the catastrophic floods. It began by explaining how rivers work, stressing
the importance of floodplains and wetlands in flood control, as well as the significance of culvert upgrades. River corridor maps and how they can help guide town planning and zoning discussions were presented. The film also highlighted negative consequences of river modification efforts upon wildlife and development. These include the effects of berms, bank armoring, stream channelization, and gravel extraction. The film concluded with an examination of the present and future state of our fisheries. Mr. DeFelice and Executive Director Chris Campany fielded a number of questions about how towns responded to Irene, what lessons have been learned, and what changes have been put in place. It was noted that it is politically difficult for towns and the state to implement restrictions against development within river corridors, and that towns have asked the WRC to continue to support education efforts about the issues.

**Executive Director’s Report:**

1. Executive Director Chris Campany mentioned that Dinah Reed has accepted a position in Yakima, Washington. Chris explained that Dinah’s responsibilities will be split up among staff until a replacement is hired.
2. Chris explained that the next Commission meeting will take place on April 29th and will also serve as a public hearing for the Regional Plan Update. There will be a second public hearing the following week.

WRC Associate Director, Susan McMahon provided the Commissioners with a brief update on the outcomes of the U.S. Economic Development Administration grant, the Southern Vermont Sustainable Market Program, and village revitalization plans.

J. French thanked the staff for all of their efforts and continued work within the region. She also mentioned that attendance is an ongoing issue and the Board will be discussing ways to increase attendance at their next meeting on April 8th.

**P. van Loon moved adjournment.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:55PM

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley Collins