Commissioners Present: Jodi French (Chair), Sam Battaglino, Heath Boyer, Tom Buchanan, Jenepher Burnell, Tom Consolino, Jack Cunningham, Rod Francis, Emily Kunreuther, Alan LaCombe, Ray Mara, Priscilla Margola, Elizabeth McLoughlin, Jane Morano Purdy, James Olivier, Carolyn Partridge, Denis Pinkernell, Steve Skibniowsky, Lew Sorenson, Eric Stevens, Piet van Loon, Nicolas Wallaert, John Whitman, Norm Wright

Commissioners Present via Telephone: Craig Hunt, Bill Murray, Andy Toepfer

Citizen Interest Commissioners Present: Greg Brown, Lynette Hamilton, Gretchen Havreluk

Staff Present: Chris Campany, Ashley Collins

Guests Present: Georgianne Mora, Liisa Kissell

Introductions: There was a quorum of 20 towns represented; with 17 towns in person and 3 towns via telephone.

Convened: 7:03PM

Administrative Items & Reports:
Secretary’s Report: On a motion by J. Whitman, seconded by E. Stevens the minutes from the June meeting were approved; with two abstentions.

Financial Report: On a motion by S. Skibniowsky, seconded by J. Cunningham the Finance Report was approved.

FY2015 Work Plan & Budget: Executive Director Chris Campany presented the FY2015 Draft Work Plan and Budget. Chris explained the aspects of the plan and budget that had changed from the previous year. He also noted that a statement has been added to the introduction to the the work program explaining that the performance measures associated with our contract with the Agency of Commerce and Community Development are negotiated between the Vermont Regional Planning Commissions as a group. There is an expected surplus for the end of the fiscal year, and the budget for FY 2015 retains an assumed 4% reduction in State of Vermont funding to err on the side of conservative budget assumptions. On a motion by J. Cunningham, seconded by T. Consolino the FY2015 Work Plan was approved. On a motion by N. Wright seconded by C. Partridge the FY2015 Budget was approved.

Elections for FY 2015 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 J. Whitman, seconded by D. Pinkernell the slate of officers was approved.

**Executive Board:** Two members have resigned their positions on the Board; Tom Buchanan and Corky Elwell. This left two open slots available. The slate presented was the current Executive Board including nominations for Weston Commissioner Charles “Tim” Goodwin, and Rockingham Commissioner Alan LaCombe; both of whom have agreed to serve on the Board. On a motion by N. Wright, seconded by J. Cunningham, the slate for the balance of the executive board was approved.

**Citizen Interest Commissioners:** Several members have resigned their positions as Citizen Interest Commissioner; Corky Elwell, Margaret Newton, and Jolene Hamilton. This leaves five open slots available for Business & Industry, Conservation, Economic Development, Health Care, and Natural Resources with the following people expressing interest: Laura Sibilia, BDCC for Economic Development, and David Deen for Natural Resources, and Prudence McKinney for Health Care. C. Partridge mentioned that she has reached out to other members in the community to fill the remaining positions, and would also like to change the title from “Health Care” to “Healthy Communities”. The Commissioners were in agreement on the title change, no motion for this was needed. On a motion made by T. Consolino seconded by J. Cunningham for the proposed slate of Citizen Interest Commissioners; motion was approved.

A motion that nominations be closed was moved and seconded; motion was approved.

There was appreciation given to the resigning members of the Executive Board and Citizen Interest Commissioners, and many thanks to the Officers, Board, and Citizen Interest Commissioners who continue to serve.

**Regional Plan Update:** There was a unanimous vote by Commissioners through roll call in full support of the Regional Plan’s approval. The Commissioners expressed appreciation to WRC Staff and others with the updating of the Windham Regional Plan, and commended the process which was accessible and open to the public from the outset.

**Grafton Town Plan:** 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 ratification of the Grafton Town Plan from the June 26th Commission meeting where there was not a quorum; seconded by H. Boyer; motion was approved. N. Wright made a motion to ratify the approval of the planning process, seconded by J. Cunningham; motion was approved.

**Executive Director’s Report:**

1. Executive Director Chris Campany explained that plans and procedures to make available Windham County Economic Development Funding resulting from the settlement agreement between the state and Vermont Yankee are in place. The Windham County Economic Development Program funding will be used for loans and grants for businesses and non-profits; he provided some detail on the process and specific projects in the region, and what the funds will be utilized for. There were two workshops recently held in the Windham Region, attendance at which was required for applicants.
2. CEDF: The draft plan has been released and explains what some of the funds will be used for including: pellet boilers for schools, solar generation, and anaerobic digesters. There is an additional $400,000 designated for evolving needs and projects.

3. Act 199: The Legislature asked the Public Service Board (PSB) to define “good cause” and “substantial deference” in Section 248a. WRC and the state’s Regional Planning Commissions were not originally notified by the PSB of this process but the deadline for comments was eventually extended.

4. VTrans is in the process of promulgating regulations stipulating where trees can be planted within State of Vermont right of ways. State maintenance concerns are driving the discussion, but thus far there has been substantial concern raised about what has been proposed.

5. Chris informed Commissioners that WRC Associate Director Susan McMahon was currently in Denver, CO to receive a Planning Innovation award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) on behalf of WRC for the work related to the closure of Vermont Yankee.

6. Chris explained that there was a recent meeting held at WRC for Town Administrators and other Town Officials to discuss the possibility of shared services and shared roles among towns. He also mentioned that there are six towns applying for municipal planning grants. WRC will send a letter to all Planning Commissions and Select boards chairs to request that they think now about budgeting for planning needs in 2015.

**Other Business:**

J. Whitman informed Commissioners of his observation of the taxation of private solar installations is inconsistent through the State.

**N. Wright moved adjournment.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Collins