Full Commission Meeting
January 30, 2018
Townshend Town Hall

Commissioners Present: Jodi French (Chair), Stephan Chait, Everett Wilson, Eric Stevens, Tim Arsenault, George Mora, Stephen Dotson, Charles Goodwin, Bill Dunkel, Lew Sorenson, Roger Turner, John Whitman, Gabrielle Ciuffreda, Jack Cunningham, Rod Francis, Joel Bluming, Piet van Loon, Tom Consolino

Citizen Interest Commissioners Present: N/A

Staff Present: Chris Campany, Emily Davis

Introductions: There was a quorum of 14 towns present.

Convened: 6:00PM

Administrative Items & Reports:

Secretary’s Report: The minutes from the October meeting were approved by a unanimous vote with five abstentions.

Financial Report: The December Finance report was approved by a unanimous vote.

Program:

1) Creation and Role of the New Windham Regional Commission Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) – WRC Natural Resource Planner Emily Davis reviewed the purpose and charge of the CWAC, which is to advise the Commission on matters related to basin planning and basin plan implementation. The Executive Board approved the creation of the CWAC at its January meeting.

2) Overview of WRC Clean Water Initiative Activities in 2017 and the Outlook for 2018 – Emily noted the formation of the preliminary CWAC and the development of a basin plan implementation prioritization process. Work on Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) Grants on Adams Brook in Newfane and the Green River continued. New ERP
applications were submitted for a study in Grafton and implementation of the Adams Brook project in Newfane. The Adams Brook project was funded. A river corridor plan for the East Branch of the North River was completed in Halifax and Whitingham. Funding was received from the High Meadows Fund to support the organizing of the Green River Watershed Alliance, which is modeled somewhat on the successful Saxtons River Collaborative. These projects were developed in collaboration with the Windham County Natural Resource Conservation District and other partners. This work will continue into 2018, with the addition of a pilot project with the Rich Earth Institute, and assisting with a community conversation about the future of the historic timber crib dam on the Green River in Guilford. Emily also reviewed work associated with the pending Municipal Roads General Permit, including assistance to towns with the creation of road erosion inventories, multiple road foreman meetings, and the Grants in Aid project. Commissioner Burnell of Whitingham asked how the WRC selected which towns received assistance, and it was explained that the towns had been informed of grant opportunities and we supported those who chose to participate. Executive Director Chris Campany reiterated that he hoped Commissioners would check in with their towns as they receive grant opportunity announcements as some towns seem to be delaying action.

3) **Executive Board Vacancies** – Commissioner Goodwin of Weston, member of the Nominating Committee, explained that there were two vacancies on the Executive Board, and the position of Treasurer, that needed to be filled for the remainder of the term (the fiscal year). He further explained that Alan LaCombe and Norm Wright had resigned as Commissioners. Commissioners expressed their appreciation for Alan and Norm’s service, and noted the particularly long tenure of Norm. Charlie explained that a call went out to all Commissioners seeking those interested in serving on the Executive Board. Chair Jodi French received inquiries from four commissioners, and two, Rod Francis (Brattleboro) and Tim Arsenault (Vernon) asked to be nominated. Charlie solicited additional nominations from the floor, but there were none. On a motion by Stephen Dotson, seconded by Stephen Chait, Rod and Tim were elected to serve out the remaining term on the Executive Board by a unanimous vote. Charlie then explained that Commissioner Lew Sorenson (Dummerston) had volunteered to serve as Treasurer for the remainder of the term. John Whitman made a motion to elect Lew as Treasurer, seconded by Piet. Lew was elected Treasurer by a unanimous vote.
**Executive Director's Report:** Chris provided an update on the status of the Vermont Yankee Docket, and that negotiations were ongoing among the parties on a possible settlement agreement.

**Other Business:** Energy Committee Chair Greg Brown explained that a substantial amendment had been proposed for the draft regional energy plan at a joint meeting of the Energy, Natural Resources and Project Review Committee, and that the revised draft would be taken to the Executive Board for consideration and recommendation. He further explained that a vote would be held at the February Full Commission meeting to move the draft forward to public hearing.

**On a motion by Charlie, seconded by Piet, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley Collins