Full Commission Meeting  
January 31, 2012  
Southeast Vermont Learning Collaborative, Dummerston, VT

Commissioners Present: Maggie Bartenhagen, Nick Bartenhagen, Elaine Beckwith, Dora Bouboulis, Heath Boyer, Tom Buchanan, Jenepher Burnell, Melinda Bussino, Jodi French, Charlie Goodwin, John Kristensen, Emily Kunreuther, Alice Maes, Edie Mas, Priscilla Margola, Bill Murray, Bob Spencer, Nicki Steel, Eric Stevens, Andy Toepfer, Roger Turner, Piet van Loon, John Whitman,  
Citizen Interest Commissioners Present: Lynn Barrett, Corky Elwell, Lynette Hamilton  
Guest Present: Brian Keefe, CVPS, Robert Dostis, GMP  
Staff Present: Chris Campany, Cullen Meves, Ashley Collins  
Introductions: There was a quorum of 18 towns present.  
Convened: 7:30 p.m.

Administrative Items & Reports:  
Secretary’s Report: On a motion by John Whitman, seconded by Jodi French, the minutes from the November meeting were approved, with small grammatical changes. There was one abstention.  
Financial Report: On a motion by Jodi French, seconded by Edie Mas the December Finance report was approved.

Green Mountain Power (GMP) & Central Vermont Public Service (CVPS)  
- Brian Keefe from CVPS was present to discuss the implications of the proposed merger between GMP and CVPS, and also to discuss the new smart meters and how they will be used. He used a slideshow to display the smart meter project as a whole, detailing how customers will benefit, environmental benefits, and the cost savings from this project. Anticipated benefits include improvements to power outage response, load management during periods of peak power usage, and the opportunity for consumers to have more control over the management of their power usage. The website will allow consumers to access their accounts to view usage, rates, and billing. Manual meter reading will be phased out as meters will be read remotely from Rutland. Concerns were raised about the safety of the signals/frequencies sent from the smart meters. Information about research on the safety of these devices was distributed by CVPS. The new smart meters will be located in the same place that current meters are; there is nothing required in the home for the meters to operate. Customers do have the option of opting out, though there is a monthly charge for doing so.
Robert Dostis from GMP discussed the benefits of the merger between GMP and CVPS. He explained there would be organizational efficiencies, but that there would be no layoffs or forced relocations of any staff due to the merger. There may be a staff reduction over time due to normal attrition. Some concern was raised by Commissioners about the control of VELCO and Vermont’s powerline infrastructure as a result of the merger.

**Executive Director’s Report & Other Business:**
- Chris gave a brief overview of the new staff assignments, adding that transitions have gone smoothly among committee chairs, staff and committee members.
- Towns and Transportation Mitigation Requests: Chris explained that towns have the right to ask FEMA Project Specialists to include measures in the project worksheets that would mitigate against future damage to infrastructure repaired as a result of damage caused by Tropical Storm Irene. WRC has been working with towns to reconcile problems they are having with the FEMA Public Assistance process.
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Applications: The deadline for the submission of applications has been extended to February 17, 2012. The deadline for letters of intent was December 30, 2011. If towns are interested in applying for this, they are encouraged to contact WRC immediately. Chris explained that WRC does not have the capacity to write the grants for the towns, but has been actively helping towns with their applications and resolving questions with Vermont Emergency Management.
- Community Development Block Grants: Chris explained that 80% of the emergency Community Development Block Grant funds to be received by the state are to be used in Windsor and Washington Counties. 20% of the remaining funds can be used elsewhere in the State. The Vermont Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development are working with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to maximize the state’s flexibility in the use of the funds.
- Chris mentioned that the WRC is considering a petition to the Public Service Board (PSB) to have Entergy reimburse the WRC for costs associated with continued engagement in Docket 7440.
- Chris reminded Commissioners to check the WRC Website, and phone cancellation line, before any meeting to be sure the meeting is, in fact, going to be held.

**Other Business**
- Piet van Loon presented a Resolution to the Commissioners commemorating the work of Rutland Regional Planning Commission Director, Mark Blucher. On a motion by Charlie Goodwin, seconded by all who were present, the Resolution for Mark Blucher was approved.

**Charlie Goodwin moved to adjourn the meeting.**
Meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley Collins