Full Commission Meeting  
May 29, 2012  
Newbrook Fire Station, Newfane, VT  05345

Commissioners Present: Sam Battaglino, Elaine Beckwith, Dora Bouboulis, Heath Boyer, Tom Buchanan, Jenepher Burnell, Jack Cunningham, Jodi French, Charlie Goodwin, Mary Alice Herbert, Brad Horn, Alan LaCombe, Alice Maes, Jane Morano Purdy, Cynthia Nau, Carolyn Partridge, Lew Sorenson, Eric Stevens, Roger Turner, Piet van Loon, Norm Wright  
Citizen Interest Commissioners Present: Lynette Hamilton  
Staff Present: Chris Campany, Ashley Collins

Introductions: There was a quorum of 14 towns present.  
Convened: 7:34pm

Administrative Items & Reports:

Secretary’s Report: On a motion by Lew Sorenson, seconded by Jack Cunningham the minutes from the April meeting were approved.


National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP):

Ned Swanberg, Flood Hazard Mapping Coordinator from the VT Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), was present to discuss how the NFIP works, including the planning challenges presented by the program. He provided Commissioners with a history of the program dating back to the 1920’s and the disasters that led to the National Flood Insurance Act, which created the NFIP. Ned gave an overview of the ecological and hydrologic values and functions of floodplains, how special flood hazard area maps are created, and what the maps do not capture in terms of possible flood hazards and damage, including erosion caused by flood events. Commissioners asked several questions about filling in floodplains, and channel adjustments. Ned explained that filling in a floodplain essentially raises the floodwater level and reduces “storage” in the floodplain as water has less room to spread out. Channelization, including berming, reduces floodwater access to its floodplain and tends to cause the river or stream to cut the stream channel deeper. This leads to eventual bank failure as slopes become too steep. He explained to the Commissioners that there is a vicious
cycle of escalating costs, risks, and stream/river channel degradation and Towns should be focusing on preparing for natural disasters by budgeting for flood mitigation measures, understanding their risks and what development they allow in floodplains and fluvial erosion hazard areas, updating their floodplain ordinances, and understanding how the NFIP is to be administered.

**Elections to Fill Remainder of Term for Chair and Secretary:** Per the WRC Bylaws, in the event of a vacancy the Full Commission is to vote on nominations to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term, which is the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012. The position of Chair was made vacant by the passing of Melinda Bussino. The position of Secretary was made vacant by the resignation of John Kristensen as a Commissioner from Guilford. Additional elections may be necessary depending upon who is elected to fill these vacant positions.

**Chair:** Through written ballot Jodi French, Newfane Commissioner and current Vice Chair, was elected Chair of the Commission.

**Secretary:** There was one nomination from the floor made for Piet van Loon as Secretary. Lew Sorenson moved that a unanimous ballot be cast for Piet as Secretary; the motion was seconded and approved.

**Vice Chair:** This position was made vacant with the election of Jodi French to serve as Chair. There was one nomination from the floor made for Dora Bouboulis as Vice Chair. Jodi French moved that a unanimous ballot be cast for Dora as Vice Chair; the motion was seconded and approved.

**Executive Director’s Report & Other Business:**
- Chris announced that on June 14th the WRC will be collaborating with the Bennington County RPC in hosting a discussion about the creation of regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS). Having a CEDS is a prerequisite to participation in most of the programs, including grant programs, of the U.S. Economic Development Administration.
- Chris mentioned that WRC’s new Emergency Planning Commission convened their first meeting immediately prior to the Commission meeting.

Charlie Goodwin moved adjournment. Meeting adjourned: 9:10pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley Collins