Full Commission Meeting  
November 27, 2012  
Westminster Fire Station, Westminster, VT

Commissioners Present: Jodi French (Chair), Maggie Bartenhagen, Nick Bartenhagen, Dora Bouboulis, Heath Boyer, Tom Buchanan, Jenepher Burnell, Tom Consolino, Jack Cunningham, Charles Goodwin, Mary Alice Herbert, Alan LaCombe, Alice Maes, Ray Mara, Edith Mas, Jane Morano Purdy, Steve Skibniowsky, Lew Sorenson, Eric Stevens, Roger Turner, Piet van Loon, John Whitman

Citizen Interest Commissioners Present: Lynn Barrett, Greg Brown, Lynette Hamilton, Gretchen Havreluk, Robert McBride

Staff Present: Chris Campany, Ashley Collins, Sarah Linn, Jeff Nugent

Introductions: There was a quorum of 16 towns present. 
Convened: 7:06PM

Administrative Items & Reports:
Secretary’s Report: On a motion made by Jack Cunningham, seconded by John Whitman, the minutes from the September meeting were approved with one abstention.
Financial Report: On a motion made by Lew Sorenson, seconded by John Whitman, the Financial Report was approved with one abstention.

The Great Flood of 1927: Nicholas Clifford, Professor Emeritus of History at Middlebury College, was present to discuss the Great Flood and Recovery of 1927. Mr. Clifford provided the Commissioners with some background information on his work, including discussing the book he wrote on the Great Flood in 2007, around the time of the Flood’s 80th Anniversary. He also made comparisons between the Great Flood of 1927 and Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. The Great Flood affected nearly the entire State of Vermont, while Irene’s most hard hit areas were in the southeastern part of the State. He displayed maps which showed the affected areas of both disasters, and provided estimated numbers for rainfall and river levels of both storms. The response after each disaster was similar, with initial action occurring at the local level, followed by the State of Vermont, and then the engagement of outside organizations such as the Red Cross and Federal agencies and aid. The efforts at the local level were described as “heroic” by Governor Weeks, stating that “Vermont will take care if it’s own”. Mr. Clifford highlighted Vermont’s willingness to rebuild in the summer of 1928, with railways being rebuilt without turning any profit, through the Great Depression and the decline of railway use during that time. Although it is nearly impossible to assess the total cost in damages, his research indicated that the Flood sped up the rate of change in part due to improvements to the state’s road.
network. He also noted that some of the state's first planning efforts came about after the storm, which unfortunately included eugenics.

**Undeveloped Waters in Southeastern Vermont:** WRC Senior Planner, Jeff Nugent presented the Commission with a study on Undeveloped Waters in Southeastern Vermont, a project administered by WRC to identify undeveloped land adjoining lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers in the region. Jeff explained that mapping of these undeveloped waters is done for a number of reasons including: identification of habitat, looking at flood control options, and examining water quality. In 2009 WRC received funding from the 604b program for water quality work. WRC performed studies in 2009 and 2011 on undeveloped waters, and just recently was able to release the final results of the combined studies. Jeff mentioned that these studies will be used in the regional plan update, and will also be used in the planning process for watersheds and basin planning in the future.

**Londonderry Town Plan Approval:** 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. John Whitman made a motion to approve the plan as presented, and was seconded by Charles Goodwin. The motion was unanimously approved. On the confirmation of the town plan and process, Lew Sorenson made a motion, seconded by John Whitman, motion was approved.

**Winhall Town Plan Approval:** 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. The chair made a motion to approve the plan as presented, and was seconded by Jodi French. The motion was unanimously approved as presented. On the confirmation of the town plan and process, John Whitman made a motion, seconded by Jenepher Burnell, motion was approved.

**Introduction of New Planning Technician:** WRC's newest staff member, Sarah Linn, introduced herself to the Commission, and gave a brief summary of projects she has completed and continues to work on at WRC. The majority of her time recently has been spent doing culvert inventories, and road sign surveying.

**Executive Director’s Report & Other Business:**

*Bylaw Amendment:* Chris mentioned that suggested changes were made to the Article VI – G. and will be presented to the Commission at its January meeting for a final vote.

*Annual Dinner:* Chris explained that with the cancelation of the dinner, he will provide the Commission with a survey to get a better sense of Commissioner expectations, thoughts, and ideas on alternatives to the formal sit down dinner in the future.

*Regional Plan Update:* Cullen Meves has launched a website designed for the draft plan to be viewed by readers, and to encourage members from the general public to leave comments and provide feedback.

Chris gave a brief summary of recent happenings relevant to the WRC: The transportation coordination study funded by the Jeffords Center was nearing completion. The Transportation Funding Committee has been established by the legislature to determine how to make up the $240
million annual shortfall in transportation funding anticipated for 2014-2018. RPC’s were asked to make a presentation at the annual meeting of the Natural Resources Board about their participation in the process and the role of the regional plans.

Charles Goodwin moved adjournment.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:09PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Ashley Collins