Natural Resources Committee  
February 15, 2012 meeting

Attendance  
Commissioners: Maggie Bartenhagen, Nicholas Bartenhagen, Lynette Hamilton, Andy Toepfer and Dominique Haynes.  
Staff: Dinah Reed.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

Minutes - Draft Minutes of January 18 meeting; on Motion to approve by Haynes, Second by Nick Bartenhagen, approved unanimously as presented.

Discussion of meeting of Conservation Commissions and other Land Use groups, as well as discussion of draft letter for that meeting:  
The letter was reviewed and edits were made, namely to include several more organizations to list in addition to the Conservation Commissions. The committee settled on a date for RSVPs by April 13, and decided we needed a firm date for the meeting before sending out the letter. That date would be determined by a time we can secure the free room at the Marlboro Grad Center that has been offered by WCNRCD. Dinah will handle scheduling the room, making edits to the letter and getting it sent before the end of February so groups meeting in March can bring it to their agenda and have a discussion about attending.

It was suggested we make sure the WRC Natural Resources page on the website is updated so we can reference that in the letter.

There was further discussion about how the Natural Resources committee sees itself as a resource to regional Conservation Commissions and other land use groups. The following points were made:

- Provider of information
- Casting the larger picture of how natural resources should be viewed from a systems approach within our region and how it connects to regions outside of southeast Vermont.
- Developing policies for the Natural Resources chapter of the WRC Regional Plan  
  - To build up a dialogue with the Conservation Commissions and other land use groups in the region so we can readily gather their input when developing that chapter

Report outs regarding other WRC committees as they relate to Natural Resource:
• PP&L – Sarah Edwards discussion about Statewide Integrated Solid Waste Bill. By 2016 leaf and garden will be banned from landfills and by 2017 all other organic matter will be banned from landfills. Landfill issues have escalated due to TS Irene, both of Vermont’s landfills are almost at capacity.
• Energy – Condensed natural gas as a potential use for automobiles.

Reports on Act 250 and Biomass were postponed until March.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dinah Reed