Natural Resources Committee  
February 20, 2013 meeting  
Draft Minutes

Attendance  
Commissioners: Maggie Bartenhagen, Nicholas Bartenhagen, John Whitman, Andy Toepfer, Dick Clark  
Staff: Dinah Reed, Cullen Meves

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:04 P.M.

Minutes - Draft Minutes of the December meeting, moved to be accepted as written.

Regional Plan Update Comments – Natural Resources Chapter
- Cullen Meves, WRC staff on the Regional Plan Update Committee, attended the meeting and took more extended notes on the Committees’ comments, to date. The following notes are briefer and may not include everything discussed.
  - The Natural Resources Chapter has 58 policies, which having that many may dilute the significance of some. Some are not descriptive, meaning that they say what we feel, but do not necessarily have the language needed to have them stand up as a rule.
  - Question was asked, “How does the WRC implement some of our policies?” (we were asked to look at Chapter 10).  
- The Committee went through the Natural Resources Chapter page by page, and ended our discussion before the final section on “policies”:
  - Page 58 – Add wetland and vernal pools map
  - Needs section on invasive species
  - Update data (date of April 2006)
  - Section 6.1 needs sub-section on Streams, Brooks, Rivers
  - Page 59 – add map of Windham Region lakes and ponds over 20 acres
  - Page 60 – Pollution - need language addressing impervious surfaces near brooks, rivers.
  - Page 60 – Dams – question was asked, “are there places where we can rehabilitate dams for hydro use?”
  - Page 61 – Resort Industry – address impact of chemicals used in snow making. How will climate change impact the future of ski resorts, and possibly the need for more snow making?
- Page 61 – Management of Water Resources – check with John Bennett and the work done in the past on “typing”.
- Add section on Silvio Conte, stream channel stability and flooding.
- Page 63, Section 6.3, Air Quality – research has been done in the recently updated Transportation Plan.
- Section 6.4 – Noise Pollution, need added language addressing noise from wind towers, mining, quarrying and logging.
- Page 65 – Forest Economics – Sustainability requires not only ecological stability but also economic stability must be addressed, or the landowner cannot continue to have the forest. Recent economic hardships have caused landowners to cut their forest extensively. Include research done by Conway School project.
- Page 65, paragraph 3 – could be combined with agriculture land.
- Page 66 – Changing Demographics – the Green Mountain Forest Plan was up for review and nation-wide viewpoints dominated discussion.
- Page 66 -- Legislative Intervention – Current Use Program – expand on # of acres, % of forest enrolled (add data, map?). Add info about WHIP program. Add language about need for more County Foresters. Add paragraph on permanent protection (conservation easements, other)
- Page 69, Section 6.8 Soil & Topo – idea to possibly put stream channelization and flooding here rather than in the surface water section. Add language addressing prime forest soils and that they ought to be preserved for forestry.
- Page 69 – Sewage Disposal – address consequences of NOT maintaining sewage.

Natural Resources – Next Conservation Summit

- Dinah will contact the Conway School students to get two or three possible dates for our next Conservation Summit on the topic of “forestry”. We will have the students present the findings from their project and have a roundtable discussion about it so there is the opportunity for a lot of “give and take”. Most likely an April date will be established for this forum.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dinah Reed