



**Executive Board Minutes
April 14, 2026**

Location: Remote meeting via Zoom.

Members Present: Gabby Ciuffreda, Chair; Bonnie North, Stephan Chait, Steve Lembke, Ann Golob, Gretchen Havreduk, Jim Pinkerton Jr.

Absent: Rick Cowan, Bill Dunkel

Staff present: Chris Campany, Executive Director, Matt Bachler, Senior Planner, Alyssa Sabetto, Senior Planner

Public/Guests: None.

Presenter: None.

Call to Order: Commissioner Gabby Ciuffreda, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Additions/Changes to Agenda: None.

Secretary's Reports:

On a motion by Commissioner Lembke, seconded by Commissioner Golob, the February 10, 2026 minutes were **approved**.

Athens Town Plan Approval & Planning Confirmation (Action: approval)

Commissioners commended Athens for adopting their first town plan. Commissioner Havreduk made specific recommendations for the next iteration of the plan that will be included in comments. Commissioner Lembke suggested the inclusion of a date on the front cover of the plan. Commissioner Chait noted that the plan references statutory goals whereas it should reference statutory elements. Commissioner Golob moved that the plan be approved, seconded by Commissioner North. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. Commissioner North moved, seconded by Lembke, that the Athens planning process be confirmed. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote.

Proposed Regional Plan Update & Adoption Schedule

Alyssa and Matt walked the Board through the proposed regional plan update process and schedule. The completed draft Act 181-compliant future land use map was shared, and compared with the current map, noting that changes are very subtle. Regional and town housing targets were also shared, as was the new Environmental Benefits & Burdens requirement through which census tracts are analyzed for "environmental justice focus population." The Board voted to bring the proposal to the Full Commission, with their endorsement, on a **unanimous vote** moved by Commissioner North, seconded by Commissioner Lembke.

Guidance Document Updates

The Commissioner Job Description and Commissioner Handbook were **adopted by a unanimous vote** on a motion by Commissioner Lembke, seconded by Commissioner Golob. On a motion by Commissioner North, seconded by Commissioner Havreluk, the amended Rules of Procedure were **approved by a unanimous vote** and are to be put to a vote for adoption at the April Full Commission meeting.

CT River Conservancy Company Expert Witness Request

The Board approved the request by the CT River Conservancy that Executive Director Company be permitted to serve as an expert witness in its legal appeal of the Vermont §401 Water Quality Certification proceeding to address concerns related to the need for a recreation plan. He would do so in his capacity as Executive Director but would not be representing positions of the WRC in depositions or testimony. Going forward the Executive Board will review such requests on a case-by-case basis.

Committee Appointments: None.

Executive Director's Report: Chris explained that Anand Fedele has taken a job at Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Commission as a Senior Planner, which represents a significant promotion for him. He noted that Anand did great work while at the WRC and grew professionally while here.

The FY2025 audit has been completed and contained no findings. The Finance Committee will review it next week and it will be on the next Executive Board agenda for acceptance, and the following Full Commission meeting for the same. Finance Manager Inessa Muse has submitted the annual indirect rate cost proposal to VTrans for review and approval, and she and Chris have begun to explore the WRC FY2027 budget.

Lastly, Chris noted that he had asked Ashley to review Full Commission attendance records to get a sense of which commissioners are typically absent, as some have not been present for several years. The Executive Board will explore this at their next meeting and how they might engage with towns to encourage active participation.

Committee Chair Reports: Project Review Committee Chair Pinkerton noted that not much is happening, but he thanked Commissioner Lembke for assisting with the committee while he recovered from a medical procedure.

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair Chait noted that project prioritization is not happening this year, which is a key function of the TAC. The committee is having discussions about how to make the most effective use of the TAC in the absence of project review. Commissioner Chait will circulate list of topics being considered for discussion.

Review of Action Items: There were no action items to review, but it was noted that Public Comment should be added to the agenda as an explicit item.

Public Comments: None.

Adjournment: On a motion by Commissioner Pinkerton, seconded by Commissioner Lembke, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:31 p.m. by a unanimous vote.