



**Full Commission Meeting
August 29, 2023**

Commissioners Present:

Gabby Ciuffreda, Chair	Guilford
Jack Cunningham, Vice Chair	Wardsboro
Tim Arseneault, Secretary/Treasurer	Vernon
Andy Snelling	Townshend
Andy Coyne	Jamaica
George Mora	Londonderry
Ann Golob	Newfane
Edee Edwards	Halifax
Cheryl Kaufman	Grafton
Edie Mas	Marlboro
Ann Manwaring	Wilmington
Eric Stevens	Grafton
Bob Bois	Wilmington
Bill Dunkel	Windham
Bonnie North	Rockingham
Todd Davidson	Dummerston
Jessica Tobey	Searsburg
Andy Toepfer	Athens
Mike Tuller	Jamaica
Ralph Meima	Brattleboro
Denis Pinkernell	Londonderry
Peter Barus	Whitingham
Elizabeth Bridgewater	Housing
Kathy Urffer	Natural Resources
Laura Sibia	Business/Industry

Guests/Members of the Public: none

Staff Present: Chris Company, Executive Director; Inessa Muse, Finance Manager

Guest Speaker: None

The meeting was held via Zoom and called to order by Chair Gabby Ciuffreda at approximately 6:00 p.m. There were no amendments to the agenda.

A quorum of 19 towns was present.

Approval of May 30, 2023 Minutes: On a motion by Commissioner Arsenault, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham, the minutes were approved with 5 abstentions.

Annual Business Meeting

- **FY2024 Work Program & Budget:** The FY2024 Work Program and Budget were presented with an endorsement by the WRC Finance Committee and Executive Board. Executive Director Campany and Finance Manager Muse explained that the principle change to the Work Program was the addition of the Municipal Technical Assistance Program, also explaining that in the wake of a disaster the work program would likely include recovery functions that have yet to be defined. As for the budget, they explained that the retirement costs have been given their own line to track those going forward, that the Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund had been replenished by \$2 million broken out evenly over 5 years for budgeting purposes, and that the overall approach was to assume a conservative positive allowance due to a number of uncertainties in the coming year. The emphasis is on sustaining capacity rather than growth unless that growth can be sustained. On a motion by Commissioner Arsenault, seconded by Commissioner Golob, the FY2024 Work Program and Budget were approved by a unanimous vote.
- **2024 Election of Officers, Executive Board Members, and Citizen Interest Commissioners:** Chair Ciuffreda presented the following slate as proposed by the WRC Nominating Committee.

Officers

Chair – Gabby Ciuffreda, Guilford

Vice Chair – Jack Cunningham, Wardsboro

Secretary/Treasurer – Tim Arsenault, Vernon

On a motion by Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Mas, the slate of officers was approved by a unanimous vote.

Executive Board Members

Stephan Chair, Halifax

Ann Golob, Newfane

Steve Lembke, Guilford

Bonnie North, Rockingham

Carolyn Partridge, Windham

Jim Pinkerton, Vernon

On a motion by Commissioner Mora, seconded by Commissioner Bridgewater, the slate of officers was approved by a unanimous vote.

Citizen Interest Commissioners

Agriculture – Lynette Hamilton

Community Development – Gretchen Havreduk

Conservation – Cory Ross

Economic Development – Laura Sibilgia/BDCC

Healthy Communities – vacant

Housing – Elizabeth Bridgewater

Natural Resources – Kathy Urffer

Tourism – Lynn Barrett

Arts & Culture – Robert McBride

On a motion by Commissioner Davidson, seconded by Commissioner Mora, the slate of officers was approved with one abstention.

Executive Director's Report: Chris reviewed the function of the WRC in times of disaster and summarized staff response and recovery activities, commending them for working through vacations and weekends, and for taking on multiple shifts with the State Emergency Operations Center. He went on to note that it was his belief that work on the regional plan update was back on schedule following a slow down in the wake of the July disaster, and that work on the intermunicipal shared services outreach could resume in the new year.

Chair's Report: Gabby expressed her of staff keeping the WRC on a solid financial footing, and commended the Commissioners for their ongoing service.

Public Comment: None was offered.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m. on a motion by Commissioner Arsenault, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Campany