



**Full Commission Meeting  
January 30, 2024**

**Commissioners Present:**

Ralph Meima	Brattleboro
Matthew Hoffman	Dummerston
Todd Davidson	Dummerston
Cheryl Kaufman	Grafton
Eric Stevens	Grafton
Gabby Ciuffreda, Chair	Guilford
Stephan Chait	Halifax
Edee Edwards	Halifax
Denis Pinkernell	Londonderry
Ann Golob	Newfane
Jessica Tobey	Searsburg
Andrew Snelling	Townshend
Tim Arsenault	Vernon
Jack Cunningham	Wardsboro
Bob Bois	Wilmington
Ann Manwaring	Wilmington
Bill Dunkel	Windham
Kathy Urffer	Citizen Interest: Natural Resources

**Guests/Members of the Public:** none

**Staff Present:** Chris Campany, Executive Director; Sue Westa, Associate Director

**Guest Speaker:** Adam Grinold, Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation

The meeting was held via Zoom and called to order by Chair Gabby Ciuffreda at approximately 6:05 p.m. There were no amendments to the agenda.

A quorum of 13 towns was present.

**Approval of October 31, 2023 Minutes:** On a motion by Commissioner Arsenault, seconded by Commissioner Bois, the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Program:** Executive Director of the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation, Adam Grinold, reviewed the economic development project prioritization process that each of the state's regional development corporations was required to follow in collaboration with the regional planning commission of the communities served. He noted that the project solicitation process paired well with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy project solicitation process that has been used annually. A review and ranking committee were formed that included WRC Executive Director Chris Company and WRC Chair Gabby Ciuffreda. Also included on the committee were economic development directors for the towns in the region that have them. Adam went on to describe the upcoming Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy update process for the Southern Vermont Economic Development Zone that is comprised of the Windham and Bennington Regions, and progress towards the creation of the Southern Vermont Economic Development District that will be recognized by the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

**Executive Director's Report:** Chris explained that he had been asked to testify on behalf of the state's regional planning commissions on legislation related to river corridor and floodplain regulation, and Act 250 reform. He also noted that he represents the regional planning commissions on the Vermont Individual and Family Needs (disaster) Recovery Task Force and in meetings of the state's Long Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs) formed in response to the July flooding. In that role he was asked to facilitate a discussion among the LTRGs at Monday's first Vermont Long Term Recovery Summit. He explained that he is participating in a four-state discussion about a possible federal funding initiative to support regional planning agencies to collaborate on climate resilience and flood hazard mitigation planning in the Connecticut River Watershed. This would be in addition to his engagement in discussions about the creation of a Connecticut River Watershed Partnership and related federal legislation. Lastly, he noted that his January newsletter article about the need to examine Vermont's governance structure and municipal capacity challenges might be published by the VT Digger online news.

**Chair's Report:** None.

**Public Comment:** None was offered.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:13 p.m. on a motion by Commissioner Arsenault, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Company