



**Executive Board Minutes
September 10, 2024**

Location: Hybrid meeting via Zoom and WRC Conference Room.

Members Present: Gabby Ciuffreda, Chair; Jack Cunningham; Jim Pinkerton, Stephan Chait, Ann Golob, Bonnie North, Steve Lembke

Absent: Tim Arsenault

Staff present: Chris Campany, Executive Director, Inessa Muse, Finance Manager

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 Report: On a motion by Commissioner Golob, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham the minutes from the August 12, 2024 meeting were **approved** unanimously.

End of Fiscal Year Staff Compensation Proposal Chair Ciuffreda explained the rationale for the development of the proposal at her request, which primarily focused on adequacy and competitiveness of compensation and need to retain the current good staff capacity to serve the WRC and the region's towns. Executive Director Chris Campany explained the approach and Finance Manager, Inessa Muse explained the budgetary context, which would leave the WRC budget and end of year balance in good shape. Questions about how payroll taxes were handled, and how WRC compensation compares to other RPCs, were answered. Executive Director Campany noted the RPCs conduct annual compensation and benefits surveys. The proposal was approved by a unanimous vote on a motion by Commissioner Lembke, seconded by Commissioner Pinkerton, Jr.

Staff explained the proposal to provide payment for the full staff person dental coverage premium as part of the 2025 benefits package. This was developed at the request of the chair. The proposal was approved by a unanimous vote on a motion by Bonnie, seconded by Jack.

Full Commission Meeting Agendas & Dates Through December Executive Director Campany explained that the four-town housing planning charette would conflict with the regular date of the

September Full Commission meeting, and that he and other staff would be attending the annual conference of the Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association at the time of the regularly scheduled October Full Commission meeting. He proposed that the Full Commission meet on October 22nd to have a presentation on Act 250 reforms and what these mean for the WRC, and that the last Full Commission meeting for 2024 be held on November 12th to review the draft regional plan to begin commissioner comment ahead of solicitation of the public comment process that will begin early in the new year. The Board supported the proposal.

Committee Chair Appointments Chair Ciuffreda asked the Board to think about who might chair the Energy and Project Review Committees after Commissioners Arsenault and Cunningham retire after 2025 Town Meeting.

Committee Appointments: The following Commissioner committee appointments were made upon a unanimous vote.

- Patti Smith, Marlboro – Natural Resources and Planning Coordination Committees
- Cory Ross, CIC Conservation – Natural Resources Committee

Executive Director's Report:

- Act 250 Reform Education for WRC & Towns (proposed for early November for towns)
- Regional Plan Commissioner Review & Public Engagement Schedule (public engagement would begin early in the new year with early summer schedule for adoption)
- First meeting of Regional & County Governance Committee & Technical Advisory Group Recap
- Discussion with Sheriff Mark Anderson about Regional Policing Plan and their serving together on the aforementioned Technical Advisory Group. He was asked about the Sheriff's concept of the use of a council of governments (COG) structure for regional policing. He explained the challenge for the Sheriff is what the governance structure would look like, as a COG structure typically involves selectboard chairs or others with explicit authority to speak for the town providing direction to a hired director. In the case of the Sheriff, they are an elected official and directly accountable to voters. He and the Sheriff discussed the benefit of an independent analysis of models and process.

Committee Chair Reports: None.

Review of Action Items

Revamping Natural Resource, Community Development, and Energy committees; Committee Chair Appointments; Project Review Committee comments at last Full Commission meeting, including possible recording of Project Review Committee meetings. Commissioner Lembke mentioned a guide that Guilford is creating to all town services and processes.

Public Comments: None.

Adjournment: approved by a unanimous vote on a motion by Commissioner Lembke, seconded by Commissioner Golob, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.