



**Full Commission Meeting Notes
January 28, 2025**

Commissioners Present:

Ralph Meima	Brattleboro
Eric Stevens	Grafton
Steve Lembke	Guilford
Gabby Ciuffreda, Chair	Guilford
Stephan Chait	Halifax
Andy Coyne	Jamaica
George Mora	Londonderry
James Bressor	Newfane
Andrew Snelling	Townshend
Jim Pinkerton, Jr.	Vernon
Tim Arsenault	Vernon
Jack Cunningham	Wardsboro
Paul Spector	Wardsboro
Bill Dunkel	Windham
Cathy Fales	Windham
Cheryl Carr-Maleh	Winhall
Gretchen Havreluk	Citizen Interest Commissioner - Community Development

There was **no quorum** with only 12 towns present.

Staff Present: Chris Company, Executive Director; Matt Bachler, Senior Planner

Guest Participants: Jo Anna Young, Readsboro Town Energy Committee; Lester Schwalb, Grafton Planning Commission

Call to Order: Chair Gabrielle Ciuffreda called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

No amendments to agenda.

August 27, 2024 Minutes: There was not a quorum present, minutes will get approved at the next meeting where there is quorum. No action taken.

Presentation on Act 181 and Implications for Regional Planning:

Senior Planner, Matt Bachler presented on Act 181 and its impacts on regional planning, and the new role and significance for the Regional Plan in Act 250 proceedings and the State Designation

Programs. He also reviewed a draft community engagement plan outlining how WRC will work with municipalities to inform them about Act 181 requirements and work collaboratively on Regional Future Land Use Map amendments. There were questions about how the new regional planning requirements might affect town planning. Chris and Matt explained that what goes into the regional plan would be developed in collaboration with town planning commissions, making use of planning that's already been done.

Project Review Committee Report: Commissioner Cunningham provided a light report. There is a large solar array in discussion for development in Vernon. Stratton is beginning their Master Plan, and the Mount Snow Master Plan may be on the horizon.

Executive Director's Report: Chris outlined the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) order that is suspending all payments on federal grants. He reviewed the initial directive of the OMB. We will continue to try to understand how this will impact WRC from an operational perspective. The direction for staff is to invoice early and often so we can take advantage of payment windows when they open to help manage cash flow. We will be suspending work on certain areas within Brownfields where we receive federal funding, and will continue to reach out to other State agencies to see how to proceed. WRC's responsibility through this uncertainty is to ensure we can maintain operations.

Chair's Report: Chair Ciuffreda noted the change of schedule for Full Commission meetings moving forward, adding more meetings the first half of the year. She also mentioned the Executive Board discussed taking a closer look at the Committee structures with consideration to reorganizing to reflect current needs. The Executive Board also implemented an Inclement Weather Protocol for Executive Board and Full Commission meetings, and they will proceed with a fully remote meeting as long as there are no financial or budgetary decisions to be made.

Public Comment: None was offered.

Adjournment: The meeting concluded at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Company