



**Executive Board Minutes
January 14, 2025**

Location: Hybrid meeting via Zoom and WRC Conference Room.

Members Present: Gabby Ciuffreda, Chair; Jack Cunningham; Jim Pinkerton, Tim Arsenault, Ann Golob, Bonnie North

Absent: Stephan Chait, Steve Lembke

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 6:01 p.m.

Additions/Changes to Agenda: none

Secretary's Report: On a motion by Commissioner Cunningham, seconded by Commissioner Arsenault the minutes from the September 10, 2024 meeting were **approved** with one abstention.

Committee Review Process: Chair Ciuffreda and Executive Director Campany outlined the need to revisit our existing committee structure, with a focus on the non-standing committees identified in the WRC bylaws. Need to make best use of Commissioner and staff time and reflect current needs. Chairs and supporting staff have struggled to find committee purpose under current context and circumstances. Would benefit from a structure that gives us more flexibility going into the future, especially with new regional plan requirements. Commissioners Golob and North spoke to difference between serving on the Project Review Committee with an explicit purpose, as well as the Brownfields Committee. Both make substantial, defined decisions. This is different from the Community Development Committee which does not take definitive actions. Commissioner Cunningham suggested leaving the committee structure in place for standing committees, but require membership on at least one of those. He suggested the others should be eliminated. Commissioner Pinkerton supported Commissioner Cunningham's idea. Chris and Gabby will bring a proposal to the February Executive Board meeting for consideration.

Brownfields Grant/Loan Request & Recommendation – Bellows Falls Bike Project: Motion to accept committee recommendation was made by Commissioner Cunningham, Seconded by Commissioner North. The motion was **approved** by a unanimous vote.

Proposed 2025 Full Commission Schedule: January, February, April, June, August, October

Incident Weather Protocol for Executive Board & Full Commission Meetings: It was agreed that meetings should proceed as long as there are no money or regional plan adoption decisions being made. Future agendas will note that the WRC website should be consulted to determine if the physical location will be available.

VAPDA Legislative Priorities: Executive Director Company explained that the first task will be to introduce regional planning commissions to new legislators and leadership. He also anticipated that regional commissions would be asked to testify on Act 181 “fixes” to conflicting language in the bill passed last year, and will be responding to legislative proposals related to housing and possibly the Global Warming Solutions Act as related to land use.

Executive Director’s Report:

- Field audit complete
- Staff performance discussions underway
- Title VI Civil Rights Policy update in February
- Rockingham letter to Governor related to Town’s desire to redevelop the train station
- UMass-Amherst flood adaptation charrette in Autumn
- UMass-Amherst senior landscape architecture studio in Saxtons River this semester
- Conway School of Landscape Design Outdoor Recreation Economy Inventory and Analysis in preparation for an Outdoor Recreation Economy Plan
- No Exec Board meeting in June unless necessary

Committee Chair Reports:

- Commissioner Cunningham – potential challenges in the year ahead may include Mt. Snow’s continued lack of an approved master plan

Review of Action Items: None.

Public Comments: None.

Adjournment: approved by a unanimous vote on a motion by Commissioner Cunningham, seconded by Commissioner Pinkerton, the meeting was adjourned.