



**Full Commission Meeting Notes
February 25, 2025**

Commissioners Present:

Ralph Meima	Brattleboro
Stanley Noga, Jr.	Brookline
Eric Stevens	Grafton
Cheryl Kaufman	Grafton
Gabby Ciuffreda, Chair	Guilford
Patti Smith	Marlboro
James Bressor	Newfane
Rick Cowan	Rockingham
Bonnie North	Rockingham
Andrew Snelling	Townshend
Jim Pinkerton, Jr.	Vernon
Jack Cunningham	Wardsboro
Paul Spector	Wardsboro
Art Dufresne	Westminster
Kara Halpern	Weston
Bill Dunkel	Windham
Cathy Fales	Windham

There was **no quorum** with only 13 towns present.

Staff Present: Chris Campany, Executive Director; Sue Westa, Associate Director; Inessa Muse, Finance Manager

Guest Participants: Wayne Feiden, UMass-Amherst Landscape Architecture & Regional Planning faculty member; Senator Wendy Harrison

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

No amendments to agenda.

Senator Wendy Harrison noted that VTrans is holding a public meeting on the Vermont Rail Plan on March 10th to gather public comment on the 5-year rail plan. It includes both freight and passenger rail.

January 28, 2025 Meeting Notes: There was not a quorum present at this meeting and meeting notes do not require approval. No action taken.

November 12, 2024 Minutes: There was not a quorum present, minutes will get approved at the next meeting where there is quorum. No action taken.

Quarterly Financial Report: Finance Manager Inessa Muse reviewed the most recent financial reports. No action was taken.

Presentation: 4 Town Housing Collaborative (no action)

UMass-Amherst Landscape Architecture & Regional Planning faculty member Wayne Feiden reviewed the process and outcome of the four-town housing cooperative planning process and charrette the WRC lead in September, 2024 as an experiment in intermunicipal engagement in planning. The report is available [here](#) with all materials, including the housing study and recorded public meetings on our Community Development Committee [webpage](#). Executive Director Chris Campany explained that a similar process will be explored in the Deerfield Valley with a focus on flood adaptation planning.

WRC Committee Structure Reorganization (Chair Presentation – no action)

Chair Gabby Ciuffreda explained that during its February meeting the Executive Board voted to update the WRC committee structure to make more effective use of Commissioner time and to create space for more targeted committees with defined purposes. This would take effect April 1st. Executive Director Chris Campany explained that the time commitment, especially for Executive Board members who typically chair committees, might be affecting Executive Board recruitment as WRC meetings might total 5 hours or more during months when there are Board, Full Commission, and committee meetings. Chris was asked if this would also free up staff time. He explained that the issue wasn't so much freeing up time as making best use of it on behalf of the Commission and the towns. This change would permit a more focused use of time. He noted that over the last few years committee chairs and staff had struggled with meeting agendas and purpose.

Project Review Committee Report: Chair Jack Cunningham noted that this was his last Full Commission meeting as he retires as a Commissioner. He said the biggest projects on the horizon were the Mt. Snow and Stratton master plans. Those in attendance thanked Jack for his 20 years of service to the WRC.

Executive Director's Report: Chris explained that for the time being the changes at the federal level had not yet had a major impact on WRC funding or operations. Work through a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant through the US EPA had been suspended, although work had not yet begun on the specific task, which was to support towns in their energy plan updates. He said he would advise towns to anticipate having less access to federal funding, and to plan for "rainy day funds" should federal disaster relief not be as available as it has been in the past. It appears that hazard mitigation funding may also be affected. He also explained that depending on how changes at the federal level impact state budgets, it's possible state resources may not be as available as in the past either.

Chair's Report: Chair Ciuffreda mentioned that Commissioners Arsenault and Cunningham would be retiring; noting that Commissioner Cunningham had served for 20 years.

Public Comment: None was offered.

Adjournment: As there was no quorum, no motion was needed. However, Commissioner Cunningham moved adjournment for the last time in his tenure. The meeting concluded at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Campany