

## DRAFT

### ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

*Wednesday, February 28, 2001*

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission Executive Board's February 28th, 2001 meeting was held at the National Bank of Middlebury's office in Middlebury with the Executive Boards of the Chamber and Economic Development Corporation.

#### ROLL CALL:

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*Bridport*      Ed Payne  
*Bristol*        Bill Sayre  
*Monkton*      Thea Gaudette  
*New Haven*    Harvey Smith

Ken Perine, Chair, Addison County Economic Development Corporation  
David Nourse, Chair, Addison County Chamber of Commerce  
Tom Corbin  
Joe Duval  
Bill Brooks

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#### STAFF:

Adam Lougee, Executive Director ACRPC  
Linda Stearns, Executive Director ACCOC  
Jamie Stewart, Executive Director ACEDC  
Anne Ginnevan, Executive Director Workforce Investment Board

#### BUSINESS MEETING:

Ken Perine, Chair of the Economic Development Corporation's Executive Board, called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. He summarized the need for the meeting and the history of meetings that the Executive Directors and Chairs of the boards had held concerning whether or not creating a CEDS would be a worthwhile process for Addison County.

Bill Sayre stated that one of the reasons we need to control the process is so as not to re-invent the wheel. Bill explained that our three groups could make this work within the guidelines of the CEDS. Each of our organizations has broad bases of community support. We all have members that represent diverse interests in the community.

The Ground rules laid out at the beginning of the process by the Chamber were valid goals. We should continue to honor those goals. Bill stated that the CEDS plan must remain under the control of the partners to make sure that it does not become in conflict with the regional plan. Bill expressed concern about certain language in the CEDS guidelines that discuss environmental issues such as “smart growth” and other controversial items.

Jamie Stewart stated that the reason that he first approached the Regional Planning Commission to use the regional plan as a starting point or foundation on which to build. The CEDS could incorporate a lot of the elements of the regional plan. However, the Economic Development section of the regional plan does not contain the specificity required by the CEDS. The CEDS could build on the principles expressed in the regional plan. Whether the RPC then chose to incorporate the specific elements of the CEDS would be up to the regional planning commission.

Bill Brooks questioned where every one stood. He understood that no one felt that regulatory affect existed.

Bill Sayre stated that although no one had found regulatory effect, Bill noted that many federal program evolved over time to have regulatory effect.

Ken Perine stated that although he understood Bill’s concerns, but felt that the only regulatory effect found might affect an Applicant.

Bill Sayre stated that he has no problem with people accepting regulation for their own purposes. He fears one group binding a community to federal regulations. He also stated that he was happy that we had received confirmation in writing from EDA that this was not a regulatory process. He could move forward and would hold the EDA to its word. But he also wanted this group to stay clear to its principles of control of the three Joint Partners. We already have regional planning processes and Act 200. We do not need to reinvent the wheel and create a new group.

Phil Corbin stated that he had an easy solution. We ask the feds whether these groups will be a satisfactory steering committee. If yes, OK, if no then we cannot waste our time. This is a federal process if we buck it, we will lose.

Linda noted that if we are creative, we can probably do this. We have a lot.

Ken also noted that we can fill a lot of these positions, but we would probably need other people. We have a charge to better the community. Where we can leverage community support to bring significant amounts of money to the community for needed infrastructure, we should do it.

Ed Payne questioned whether this community could compete with others on a need basis. Is the process an end in itself without the money, or can we create a plan that addresses economic needs in the community.

Joe Duval noted that this process could create some good things for the community and that has a value in and of itself.

Harvey proposed that we contact Mr. Beach and ask if these groups can satisfy the EDA CEDS process. Phil stated that maybe we should just go ahead and staff this committee and form the steering committee as best we can and start this process.

Jamie stated that we should not contrive this group. We must have real input from all sectors. Each member of the Steering committee is meant to go back to a community sector and pull each sector together.

Harvey noted we also do not want to make this too complicated. All our organizations have policies created by a representative policy of the group they represent. We should be able to use those policies. Bill agreed. Many have served various organizations for a long time, the CEDS must incorporate that work.

Ken Perine suggested that we are close to agreement. He suggested that we do the following:

1. Bill Sayre will draft a statement of principles for the groups;
2. Harvey and Adam will get information on how other groups established their steering committees.
3. Committee How many, who, who did the work? Adam, Jamie to put together.

All agreed to this strategy. Ken asked if the RPC would make a decision within two weeks at its next meeting. Harvey stated we would try to do that as soon as we could all agree to the governing principles. Jamie stated that he wanted the answers together by the 9<sup>th</sup> of March for his board meeting.

The Joint meeting terminated and the Executive Board convened its regular meeting.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Ed moved to accept the minutes of the January meetings. Bill seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Adam explained the Treasurer's Report. Cash flow is positive and the commission is in good financial shape. Adam will give a more detailed report when he discusses the budget below.

**Ed moved to accept the treasurer's report. Ellen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

ACT 250: Adam noted that no new Act 250 permits were filed this month, but that two other matters not under Act 250 have heated up. First, the hearing officer for the public service board recommended against the windmill in East Middlebury. There will be a hearing next week. Additionally, the CLF's suit regarding the Shoreham Wastewater Plant's phosphorus plan is moving forward.

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Transportation Advisory Committee: Adam noted that at the TAC meeting in January the TAC had reviewed the state Long Range Transportation Plan and the bike/ped proposal. Tom expressed concern regarding the Bike/Ped study and hoped the TAC would have a final for next meeting. Additionally, the Vergennes Partnership has put together a proposal to hold a design Charrette for traffic studies in the Vergennes area. The TAC will review that and other budget related items next month.

Local Government Committee: Thea reported the Local Government Committee had received requests from the Towns of Goshen for a regional review of their plan. She indicated that the Local Government Committee would hold a hearing in Goshen at its monthly Planning Commission Meeting February 19th.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: Please see discussion above.

Mid-year Budget Adjustment. Adam handed out his proposed amendments to the budget. Any area of significant change was highlighted and contained an explanation. Adam reviewed each of the changes from the original budget and responded to questions raised by the Board members. After several minutes of discussion, Bill moved to recommend the budget adjustment to the full commission. Thea seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VAPDA Minutes. Adam passed out the VAPDA minutes from the VAPDA meeting February 1st.

Housing Forum. Adam announced that ACRPC held a regional housing meeting on February 22, 2001. Adam stated the meeting had been well received and interesting. Adam explained that he plans to use the statistical data from the staff and the anecdotal data gathered at the Housing forum as the current intellectual underpinning for the Housing Committee to begin work on that portion of the regional plan.

Other: None

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Nomination of Delegates from Towns/Attendance. Adam distributed an attendance sheet of the Full Commission meetings and requested permission to send them to the towns with a letter requesting that each town re-appoint or appoint delegates to the commission. All congratulated Thea on her perfect attendance. Ed moved we send the letters to towns; Thea seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Other: None.

**MEMBERS' CONCERNS/INFORMATION:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, **Thea moved to adjourn the meeting. Ed seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Adam G. Lougee