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### ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

*Wednesday, February 27th, 2002*

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission Executive Board's February 27th, 2002 meeting was held at the regional planning commission's office in Middlebury with Harvey Smith presiding.

#### ROLL CALL:

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<i>Bristol</i>	Bill Sayre
<i>Cornwall</i>	Don Shall
<i>Middlebury</i>	Karl Neuse
<i>Monkton</i>	Thea Gaudette
<i>New Haven</i>	Harvey Smith, Chair
<i>Waltham</i>	Tom Yager

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STAFF:  
Adam Lougee

#### BUSINESS MEETING:

The Executive Board convened its regular meeting at 7:15 p.m.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**Thea moved to accept the minutes of the January meeting. Don seconded the motion, which passed with none opposed. Karl Neuse abstained from the vote.**

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report was reviewed extensively. After considerable discussion, **Tom moved to accept the treasurer's report. Thea seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ACT 250: Adam reported that two new Act 250 applications had been received. Middlebury College's application for Atwater Common, and an application to attach a cell antenna to a silo on the Knop Farm south of Middlebury. Adam noted he had sent notice of the two applications to the committee.

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Transportation Advisory Committee: Tom Yager presented a report on the TAC meeting. He noted that the TAC had held its meeting in Vergennes last month just after a public hearing held by the City of Vergennes necessary to allow it to apply for Bike/Ped Funds for its proposed bike path.

Housing Committee: No items other than to note we need a super majority at our next meeting to pass the Housing Section and amend the entire Regional Plan.

Local Government Committee: No items.

Natural Resources Committee: Adam presented the Executive Board with a note from Stephen Syz from ANR noting that he would respond to the questions posed at our December meeting concerning watersheds, the Draft Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDL and other natural resource issues shortly and that he apologized for the delay.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

VAPDA Minutes: None.

Other:

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Lake Champlain Byways/Lake Champlain Basin Program Heritage Program: Janet Kennedy, the Executive Director of the Lake Champlain Byway, had been invited to the commission to discuss the Lake Champlain Byway and the Lake Champlain Basin Program, the activities of each organizations, and prospects for the future of each of them to move forward. Janet explained the activities that each organization had undertaken in the past. She then explained where she felt each organization was headed for the future. Janet noted that the plans for funding each organization appeared to be merging, since both appeared to look to federal funds to carry out their plans. She noted that since the Lake Champlain Basin Program was well connected to the federal delegation and would be asking for an appropriation this year, it was appropriate for the Byways organization to get on board and try to influence the scope of the request and how it would be controlled and spent. She noted that Adam had been representing the Byways by participating on the Cultural Heritage Recreational Advisory Committee (“CHRAC”) of the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

Janet noted that the promotion of the region as a whole from programs first stemming from the Byways program, like Bikeways, the Birding Trail, and the Paddler’s trail were all having positive impacts on the economy of and opportunities offered within the region. Innkeepers and business owners have benefited from the cross-lake initiatives and the regional marketing of the area. One innkeeper, from the Strong House Inn in Vergennes, noted that cross-lake regional marketing of themes has really helped her business by expanding her market both seasonally and on a topical marketing basis.

The Executive Board also discussed agricultural initiatives. Janet and Harvey will meet and speak about cross state agricultural initiatives with Essex County in New York.

Lastly, the Executive Board discussed any proposed federal legislation. They noted that what ever from it took, it had to promote local control of the funding. They also noted that local input was not one of

the Basin Program's strong suits. And that they would be concerned if it controlled the funding. Janet noted that the RCDs are also an entity that can be a fiscal administrator of the federal dollars. Janet expressed her opinion that they might work better than the Basin Program, since all the Basin Program money was already committed to NEWIPIC, which took a 16.9% administrative fee.

Harvey looking for some direction to give Adam asked the Executive Board for its closing comments. The Executive Board thanked Janet for coming and authorized Adam and Janet to continue to work on Celebration Champlain and keep them informed.

Programs: The Executive Board discussed the upcoming March Program concerning the pending Onsite legislative debate. They suggested that Adam create a diverse panel to discuss the legislation/rules affects on Addison County. Karl volunteered to discuss legal issues; Harvey noted that Phillip Angel, Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee would attend. Adam stated that he would get some one from the Agency and Bill Sayre suggested that Blair Enman might be a good engineer to speak with on the subject. Regardless of the changes made, Karl suggested that the legislation/rule that finally emerges should include a provision requiring towns to notify landowners of the changes when each municipality sends out the tax bills.

The Executive Board also suggested that Adam put together a panel to discuss alternative energy systems for its April program, with an emphasis on wind energy.

Attendance/Voting Requirements: The Executive Board discussed the 60% voting requirement currently in the Bylaws to amend the Plan. Adam noted that he had investigated that requirement since the last Full Commission meeting and confirmed that the requirement in our bylaws stemmed directly from statute. Accordingly, it is not something within our power to change. Adam also noted the statute was silent regarding how some one could vote (i.e. by proxy or absentee ballot). However, all members of the Executive Board were very reluctant to allow voting by any manner other than attendance at the meetings. Bill noted that allowing proxies, although well intentioned, might have the opposite affect and reduce the number of members who felt the need to participate at the actual meeting. Accordingly, the Executive Board chose not to pursue amending the bylaws.

The Board also discussed the letters Adam proposed to send to each town after town meeting day. Thea noted that we must emphasize the work that we do. Harvey requested that she review any draft letters before Adam sends them out.

VELCO Transmission Line: The Executive Board instructed Adam to coordinate our work on this issue with the Chamber of Commerce, and noted its preference to delay any program until the fall when an application by VELCO was more imminent. Adam was requested to call Susan at the Chamber.

Nominating Committee: Adam noted that at the Full Commission Meeting the delegation would be asked to select a nominating committee. Bill Sayre noted that he was rotating off the board this year and recommended a nominating committee of Bill McQuillan, Bill Sayre and Thea Gaudette. The Executive Board felt that this would be a good slate to propose to the Full Commission as the nominating committee.

Annual Meeting: The Executive Board discussed Annual meeting program topics and locations to recommend to the Full Commission. Harvey suggested that forestry would be a good topic. Others

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agreed. If this program is acceptable to the Full Commission, Adam will work with Tom Yeager to put together a program discussing the working forest in Addison County.

Other items: Karl suggests that we include an agenda item a discussion concerning instructing the legislature to craft their apportionment according to the Vermont constitution and recognizing town and county boundaries. Harvey noted that Karl's suggestion mimics state statute and what the legislature is doing. However, the Executive Board supported Karl's motion.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Adam Lougee