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ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, March 27th, 2002

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission Executive Board's March 27th, 2002 meeting was held at the regional planning commission's office in Middlebury with Thea Gaudette 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 |

STAFF:
Adam Lougee

BUSINESS MEETING:

The Executive Board convened its regular meeting at 7:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Don moved to accept the minutes of the February meeting. Karl seconded the motion, which passed with none opposed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ACT 250: Don noted that because of the Ross Commons, the Adirondack house could no longer see the Adirondacks.

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Transportation Advisory Committee: Tom Yager presented a report on the TAC meeting. He noted that the TAC meets tomorrow. **Ellen requested that Adam send an e-mail as to whether we did a culvert in inventory in Whiting.**

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 the response from Stephen Syz from ANR to the questions posed at our December meeting concerning watersheds, the Draft Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDL and other natural resource issues. He noted the answers are extensive and suggested that we reconvene the natural resource committee to review the responses and recommend further action.

Tom also brought the memo that Hilary had sent to the Natural Resources Committee up for discussion. He noted that he was concerned that the memo implied that staff was leading the commission into policy areas that the commission had not authorized it to go. Bill added that he felt the list of people on the list groups to lead each sub-basin was completely biased towards environmental groups and lacked any input from landowners, businesses, farmers or other significant groups within the county. He also expressed concern that by creating sub-watershed groups we were merely creating more meetings that business people would not have time to attend, thereby further prejudicing the process against them even further. Don noted that we need to be encouraging the work of local volunteer groups to clean the water. He stated we should take a leadership role as a moderator, not a controller and further explained that trying to localize this process by focusing on volunteer efforts and traditional cleaning efforts was a worthy goal. The E-board requested that Adam send Hilary's e-mail to Eboard (Mail to Ellen). Bill requested that the Natural Resource Committee review the outline for watershed planning that Hilary had sent them to ensure that it represents the direction that the Commission wants to pursue.

OLD BUSINESS:

VAPDA Minutes: Harvey suggested that the Full Commission adopt a resolution for the full commission to adopt to send to the Vermont Land Trust specifically encouraging Conservation Easements to be interpreted to allow for the use of existing farm silos as communications facilities and that all proceeds of that use be directed to benefit the farm owner.

Programs/Attendance: Adam noted that we had already received several responses back to our letters to towns requesting that they make sure they are represented at Full Commission Meetings.

Annual Meeting: Adam will work with Tom to find an appropriate place for a demonstration and discussion of forestry techniques. Adam will try to reserve Mary's in Bristol for the dinner.

Other: Tom suggested that we look at the resolution passed by the Essex Board of Supervisors and bring it to the Executive Board for Addison County to act on.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Brownfields Grants and Legislation: Adam noted that at the last VAPDA meeting a woman from EPA Brownfields division spoke and asked that we solicit any sites for brownfields remediation in the county. The Executive Board did not know specifically of any areas eligible for brownfield status (non-petroleum) contaminated or potentially contaminated sites that had been abandoned or taken over by a municipality.

VELCO/Vt. Citizens for Safe Energy: Adam handed out the resolution requested by Vt. Citizens for Safe Energy, the Addison Regional Plan section speaking to transmission lines, and their latest request for action. The Board held a discussion regarding how to respond. They directed Adam to respond to Vt. Citizens by explaining how the Commission works, declining the idea of passing a resolution sponsor an open forum to VELCO, themselves and other interested parties.

Onsite Systems Results: Adam passed around the onsite systems monitoring results. He noted that all the systems are working well. Ellen suggested that we publicize the septic work that we have done, but requested that we have Gary Fern translate the results into something more readily understandable to a layman. **Make copies for Harvey to bring to legislature.** Tom suggested that when the plants dissolved they may release Phosphorus back into the water and account for some of the seasonal discrepancies.

Regional Plan Updates/Adoption: Adam noted that the Workplan passed last year anticipated that we would complete the housing section and then move to the economic development section so that we are working concurrently with the CEDS process. Adam also suggested that the regional planning commission also work on its Utilities Facilities and Services section of the plan this year since it appears to contain several topics of interest, including telecommunications towers, the VELCO distribution system and alternative energy systems. Adam also suggested that we would continue to amend 2-3 sections per year for the next few years until the entire plan is updated. He suggested that our goal should be to have all sections updated by 2005 and to never allow any section to get more than 10 years out of date. The Executive Board was generally receptive to these suggestions.

Other items: Ellen suggested that we tape the full commission meeting. Adam stated that we would look into it.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Submitted by: Adam Lougee