

DRAFT

**ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
September 29, 2004**

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission's Executive Board meeting was held at the regional planning commission's office in Middlebury with Don Shall presiding.

ROLL CALL

Bristol Bill Sayre
Cornwall Don Shall, chair
Middlebury Karl Neuse
Monkton Thea Gaudette
Orwell
Vergennes Renny Perry
Waltham

STAFF

Adam Lougee, Director

BUSINESS MEETING:

The Executive Board convened its regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Executive Board reviewed the minutes of their last meeting. Thea moved to approve the minutes. Renny seconded the motion. All approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Board reviewed the treasurer's report. Adam noted that cash in our accounts was still was back where it should be and that we are in a good cash position. As of August 30th, we have received 34% of our budget and expended about 15%. He also noted that he continues to expect to end last year with a small surplus of funds. Renny moved to accept the report, Thea seconded and all approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Local Government Committee: The Committee is working to schedule a hearing on Vergennes City Plan and has set a preliminary date of Tuesday November 9, 2004, at 7:00 p.m.

ACT250/248: Adam reported that several new applications had come in since the last meeting. Porter Hospital has submitted its application for the addition that it presented to the full Commission earlier this year. Additionally two small subdivisions are proposed for Bristol (One for two 5-acre lots and one for 4 lots). Lastly, the Ochs have appealed the District 9 Coordinators jurisdictional determination that their packing operation, combined with their leasing of land constitutes a commercial activity subject to Act 250 jurisdiction.

Economic Development: No meeting.

Natural Resources: The next meeting is October 4, 2004.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Adam reported that TAC met last month. It reviewed the Bike/Ped Applications and discussed the capital program.

Utilities and Facilities: Adam reported that he believes the committee met and was ready to present a draft of the Utilities and Facilities and Energy Section of the Regional Plan as the October Program.

OLD BUSINESS

VAPDA minutes: Adam distributed VAPDA Minutes from VAPDA's July meeting.

VELCO Summary: Adam gave a summary of where we are in the VELCO process. He noted that the Surrebuttal stage is nearly completed. Several witnesses were unable to testify in September and will do so on October 20, 2004. There are several motions to strike testimony presently pending. We are also in the design detail phase of the docket. VELCO presented supplemental aesthetic information (Simulations of various areas) on September 14th. Adam noted that Jean Vissering will provide testimony on behalf of the region and that he will be participating in this round of proceedings. The Public Service Board hopes to make a final decision regarding the case in January.

Year End Reports: Adam handed out a copy of the year-end report that he had prepared for and sent to the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs. It discusses activities the Commission undertook last year and is offered for informational purposes.

Auditors: Adam noted that Miller Deverill has started work and hoped to have things completed by the end of October, early November.

Other: None

NEW BUSINESS

Insurance Issues: Adam stated that the watershed planning work that the region has been engaging in over the past couple of years is coming to fruition and we are beginning to secure grants to implement some of the planning recommendations we have made (i.e.

plant trees, stabilize banks, etc.) We are doing most of this work in conjunction with watershed organizations in the community composed largely of volunteers. Many of these small watershed organizations do not have insurance. We have found a federal program that will cover the volunteers if they are hurt while volunteering, but have not found other insurance for them to date. Adam stated that he wanted to support these organizations and have them continue to work. The Board agreed that it was important to keep supporting these local groups and enable them to work on improving the water quality in Addison County. They also encouraged him to pursue insurance on behalf of these community groups.

Thea also noted that we had not shopped for insurance for some time and that we should seek quotes the next time we need to renew a policy.

LEPC Emergency Management: Adam noted that he had reported in the spring of this year that the Commission and the Addison County Emergency Planning Committee (“ACEPC”) would be receiving a significant grant (+/- \$40,000 of work for ACRPC) to carry out training and exercising with the first responders in the region. That grant has yet to come in from the State. Adam stated that he hoped it would shortly, but that the Homeland Security Unit and Vermont Emergency Management were having difficulties defining the scope of the projects between them. Adam stated that he hoped that they will resolve their issues shortly and issue a grant, but wanted the Executive Board to be aware that a significant budget item is at the very least falling behind schedule.

Plan for Chapter 117 Training: Adam distributed a copy of the newsletter outlining how ACRPC will be providing outreach to the towns and the region on changes to bylaws resulting from the statutory amendments to Chapter 117.

Other: Adam handed out a copy of a draft letter that he proposed to send to the Committee investigating whether the Act 248 process as administered by the Public Service Board is the appropriate panel to review all the issues relating to wind towers and other large scale energy initiatives that may have environmental impacts. Adam stated that he believes that the Section 248 process and the Public Service Board is sophisticated enough to address these issues and should continue to oversee these matters. The Board reviewed the letter and authorized Adam to send it.

ADJOURNMENT: Thea moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Andrea and the meeting adjourned before 8:25 pm.

Submitted by: Adam Lougee