

DRAFT

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

February 23, 2011

BUSINESS MEETING:

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission's Executive Board held its monthly meeting at the regional planning commission's office in Middlebury with the Chair, Thea Gaudette, presiding. Thea began the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

ROLL CALL

<i>Bridport</i>	Andrew Manning
<i>Bristol</i>	Bill Sayre
<i>Lincoln</i>	Steve Revell
<i>Monkton</i>	Thea Gaudette
<i>New Haven</i>	Harvey Smith
<i>Ripton</i>	Jeremy Grip
<i>Whiting</i>	

STAFF

Adam Lougee, Director

Minutes:

Steve moved to accept the January minutes. Jeremy seconded the motion and all approved by voice vote, except Andrew Manning, who abstained.

Treasurer's Report:

The Board reviewed the Treasurer's report. Adam noted that ACRPC's balances remain strong, that receivables are good. He noted that revenues and expenses are nearly even and that he intends to keep working on that fact. **Bill moved to accept the report. Steve seconded the motion, which all approved.**

Committee Reports:

Local Government Committee: The Committee met in Shoreham in February. Thea noted that the Committee found that all elements of the plan are satisfactory except that the plan fails to include an element addressing the extraction of earth resources. Thea noted that the Committee would still recommend approval to the full commission, with the condition that Shoreham work to address this element.

ACT250/248: On January 12, 2011 CVPS filed an application to relocate 5,500 feet of distribution line on Lake Street in Shoreham Vermont. On January 21, 2011 the district Environmental Commission issued a notice that it intended to treat the application as a minor permit and issued a draft permit that will become effective upon approval without a public

hearing unless a party objects and requests a hearing by February 11, 2011. No parties objected and the permit issued on February 23, 2011.

Brownfields: Jeremy Grip noted that the Committee met and received a close out briefing from Joe Hayes of ECS on its Legion Fields project for the Middlebury Union High School project. ACRPC successfully defined the contamination on the site for the current owner and expects to receive a project closure letter shortly at no further expense to them.

Natural Resources: Please see the discussion below.

Energy: The Committee met and reviewed the status of all projects. Kevin is moving forward on creating a contract with CVPS to study the Brisson farm under the Cow Power Program. Kevin also informed the committee about the status of the PACE legislation currently before the legislature and the Committee approved a letter of support for a grant application to the Vermont Sustainable Jobs fund from a company interested in creating grass fuel pellets for commercial consumption.

Transportation Advisory Committee: The TAC met in February, heard from Jon Kaplan of VTrans about its bike/ped study and continued to review the region's priorities for VTrans. It also discussed the delays for construction on the Champlain Bridge, the paving scheduled for Route 7 in Charlotte in 2013, funding for the Welcome Center at the Vergennes Park and Ride and financing for the new rail spur serving OMYA.

OLD BUSINESS

Agricultural Series: Adam noted the Watershed Program planned for the March meeting should address some of the questions raised at the agricultural forum in September and help to continue that discussion. He also hopes to get the Manomet Center to come back and provide a program on their findings and that ACRPC would be working with other local partners to sponsor the Farm to Plate's presentation of their Strategic Plan within the region on April 28, 2011. Adam stated that while these programs do not constitute the series we envisioned, ACRPC is still doing a lot of work with the agricultural community on issues important to it. Harvey raised the concern that the approach is not strategic enough and that ACRPC really needs to provide a thoughtful structure in which debate can occur and which will produce tangible calls to action. He volunteered to meet with Adam to find sources to fund the more involved and strategic approach he envisions.

Natural Resources Section of the Plan. Adam reported that the Committee had met following the last Committee meeting. They had received comments from a limited number of people. The Committee reviewed all comments, including those submitted by Delegate Maroney, and decided whether or not to include them. At the next full Commission meeting Kevin Behm will supply a sheet, noting the comment and the action the committee took to address it (included it in the plan or not.) The Commission will be free to review the comments and action, and then decide whether or not it wants to make more comments or to go to public hearing with the Committees current draft. The Executive Board also discussed Delegate Maroney's letter to the editor of the Addison Independent. They generally expressed disappointment that as a delegate James would

go to the paper to criticize a draft of a plan this early in the adoption process. They asked Adam to draft a letter to the editor responding to Mr. Maroney by explaining ACRPC's adoption process and how it works.

Other: Thea asked the Executive Board how many of them had completed the self-assessment survey. Steve Revell and Thea noted that they had completed the survey. Thea asked each member of the board to take the survey.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee: Adam reminded the Executive Board that at its March meeting the Commission typically picks a nominating committee that solicits delegates and alternates to serve on the Executive Board. Harvey noted that traditionally, one member of the Nominating Committee was a person that was leaving the Executive Board. Thea noted that she was leaving the Executive Board after this term and would be willing to serve if nominated by the full Commission. The Board reviewed a list of Commissioners and asked Adam to make inquiries whether certain members of the Commission would be willing to serve on the nominating committee so they could offer suggestions to the Commission.

Recruiting Commissioners: Adam noted that attendance had been down the last couple of meetings and that he felt it was time for the Commission to consider actively recruiting new commissioners. Steve noted the timing was good given the approach of town meeting day. Steve suggested that Adam should contact Bruce Zeeman and get on the radio to speak about ACRPC, what it does and to try to generate some interest. They also suggested that Adam speak with staff to try to solicit some names and suggested an article in the newsletter. Adam agreed to follow-up on these suggestions. He also requested permission to ask the Commissioners at the next meeting to determine whether they could help locate appropriate people from their community to attend. The Executive Board agreed that this would also be appropriate.

Annual Meeting (Program and Location): The Executive Board discussed several types of program offerings and locations for meetings. After some discussion, they decided to give the commission the following choices:

Program timing: Afternoon tour (farm?) or dinner speaker;

Program Content: agriculture (Chuck Ross), political (Angelo Lynn, a Free Press Editor, someone from the Snelling Institute); Environmental (Bill McKibben); Entertaining (Chris Bohjalian)

Location: The Board thought it would be best to match the location to the speaker chosen and then serve a catered meal at a local hall or institution. (Very few restaurants in Addison County can comfortably seat 50+ people in one room. The only one we have found that has worked comfortably has been the Red Mill at Basin Harbor Club.)

Other: None.

ADJOURNMENT

Harvey moved to adjourn. Steve seconded the motion. All approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:20p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Adam Lougee