

DRAFT

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

March 28, 2012

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, Harvey Smith, presiding. Harvey began the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

<i>Bridport</i>	Andrew Manning
<i>Bristol</i>	Bill Sayre
<i>Lincoln</i>	Steve Revell
<i>Middlebury</i>	
<i>New Haven</i>	Harvey Smith
<i>Ripton</i>	Jeremy Grip
<i>Whiting</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer

STAFF

Adam Lougee, Director

Minutes:

Ellen Kurrelmeyer moved to accept the February minutes. Steve Revell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

The Board reviewed the Treasurer's report. Adam noted that ACRPC's balances remain strong and that receivables are good. He noted that revenues slightly exceeded expenses. Expenses will probably move ahead over the next couple of month, but we should end the year in good financial shape. **Steve Revell moved to accept the report. Jeremy Grip seconded the motion, which all approved.**

Committee Reports:

Local Government Committee: No activity since the full commission.

ACT250/248: No activity.

Brownfields: No activity.

Natural Resources: The Committee met and started to review Vermont Gas's proposal for a gas pipeline to deliver natural gas to the region.

Energy: The Energy Committee met and discussed ACRPC's current projects and future direction. They have a public meeting with Neighborworks of Vermont planned for April 12 to introduce their weatherization programs to the region and hopefully start signing up eligible Addison County residents. They also discussed the bio-methane feasibility project ACRPC is working on and the Vermont Gas project.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Andrew noted that the TAC had met and worked on prioritizing VTrans projects within the region. He also gave a status on the four planning studies the TAC is sponsoring this year:

Route 116 Culverts fish passage – Milone and MacBroom underway;
Bridge and Culvert inventory – Robert Turner- underway;
Exchange Street Bike and Ped – Otter Creek Eng.
New Haven Field Days Access- RSG, underway.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Adjustment. Adam distributed the proposed budget adjustment he had given to the full commission at the March meeting. He noted some of the major changes in the budget over the course of the year and took questions from the Board. After some discussion, **Steve moved that the Board present the budget adjustment to the full commission. Ellen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Mission Statement: Adam distributed several versions of proposed mission statements that he, staff and some commissioners had created. He noted that this process was proving harder than he had anticipated and suggested that the Executive Board might narrow the field of suggestions. He also noted that it would be helpful if all focused on key words that should or should not be a part of the mission statement. The Executive Board undertook a discussion of the Mission Statement. The Board agreed the following key words would be important to the mission of ACRPC:

Service
Community
Planning
Future
Stewardship

Polarizing key words:
Community Development
Conservation
Preservation

They then focused on some key phrases from the suggestions that they liked including:

promotes viable working landscape

stewardship of resources
helps the region and its communities plan for their future

Lastly, they asked Adam to take these words and phrases and to try to craft a new statement that encompasses them. They then suggested he ask the full commission about keywords and phrases at the next meeting and see if they reach similar conclusions.

Plan to Analyze Vermont Gas Expansion Proposal: The Executive Board reviewed the discussion at the last full commission meeting. The Board recommended that Adam send letters to each of the Selectboards in municipalities potentially impacted by the pipeline, explain how ACRPC is proceeding and to invite them to come to our meeting and speak with us about their interests.

Transportation Planner: Adam noted that he had hired Daryl Benoit, formerly of CCRPC, that Daryl is scheduled to start April 16th and that he is excited to have Daryl coming to work for ACRPC.

Other: Bill Sayre asked about the meeting time for the Forest Stewardship grant that ACRPC has been working on. He noted that while it was a good committee, he was concerned that the meeting times were not conducive to participation by the private sector and he did not want that perceived lack of participation to influence the conclusions of the study. He also expressed concern that the study may be pre-disposed to creating regulations for large tracts of lands. He felt that this would punish the landowners that had kept their parcels in large blocks, which could in turn trigger the unintended consequences of landowners selling their parcels prior to regulatory changes in order to preserve the value of the land. He proposed that any “designations” created by the study not have regulatory effect. He also suggested the study should focus on improving the economic competitiveness of the forest industry to keep the land open, not regulatory activities. **Adam stated he would record Bill’s concerns and bring them to Kevin and the committee’s attention.**

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Meeting: Adam explained his plans for the annual meeting to the Executive Board. He plans a meeting centered on the working landscape and value added agricultural work and production. He proposed to start the meeting with a short farmstand tour in New Haven for those desiring to participate prior to the meeting (3-4 stands open and in New Haven including Lincoln Peak Vineyards). Then dinner in New Haven, he is negotiating with two parties. Our speaker will be Ellen Kahler, the Director of the Vermont Sustainable Jobs fund. She will speak about “Planning to promote the working landscape”, followed by dinner of locally grown food (including a donation by Smith Family Beef) and finally with an abbreviated business meeting. The Board approved the plan and instructed Adam to finalize things so we can make announcements at the full commission meeting.

Bertha Hanson Award: The Board asked if Adam had received any nominations. Adam noted he had only had one so far. The Board discussed it and other potential nominees and selected a recipient that it will announce at the annual meeting.

Other: None.

ADJOURNMENT

Steve moved to adjourn. Ellen seconded the motion. All approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Adam Lougee