

**FINAL**

**ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

March 27, 2013

**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 Vice-Chair, Jeremy Grip, presiding.

**ROLL CALL**

*Bridport* Andrew Manning  
*Bristol* Bill Sayre  
*Lincoln* Steve Revell  
*Middlebury* Fred Dunnington  
*New Haven*  
*Ripton* Jeremy Grip  
*Whiting* Ellen Kurrelmeyer

**STAFF**

Adam Lougee, Director

Jeremy opened the meeting at 6:35.

**Minutes:**

**Ellen Kurrelmeyer moved to accept the January minutes. Fred Dunnington 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 OK. He noted that revenues fell behind expenses again in February. Adam noted we generally catch up at the end of each quarter, but this \$30,000 drop surprised him. He explained he is not panicking, but knows that he needs to find some additional revenue and watch the revenue side very closely. **Steve Revell moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Ellen Kurrelmeyer seconded the motion, which all approved.**

**Committee Reports:**

Local Government Committee: No Meeting.

ACT250/248: No Activity since the full Commission meeting.

Natural Resources: The Natural Resource Committee met March 25th. They discussed prioritizing the action steps contained in the Natural Resources section of the plan, decided they would like to investigate Vermont Gas's plan to cross under Lake Champlain and the Forest Stewardship Plan that the Commission completed last year.

Energy: No Meeting.

Transportation Advisory Committee: The TAC met last Wednesday. Their agenda included a discussion with Nancy Schulz of the Bike and Ped coalition and determining the TAC's priorities for state financed projects within the Addison Region for next fiscal year. **Adam needs to send in the priorities with a letter requesting additional new projects. Adam should also distribute the final priority list to the full commission at its next meeting.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Vermont Gas Update: Adam summarized the current status of this application. He noted that the Board held a public meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup> that was very well attended. Both Adam and Fred Dunnington had attended the public meeting. Adam noted that the crowd split about 50/50 on the project merits. Those against the project generally fell into two camps. Those with property negatively impacted and those with concerns about climate change and the negative impacts this project might have. Fred noted that he spoke and that he had challenged those against the project to create a viable alternative for thermal heating and gauge the consequences of those improvements. Motions to intervene in the case are due by Friday. Fred and Adam both expect a number of new parties, including ACEDC. Adam noted that he planned to condense the committee reports and requests into a list and to share those lists with Vermont Gas shortly to see how many requests they will agree to stipulate too.

Regarding Phase II, a group to analyze the routes is meeting every Friday at ACRPC, composed mostly of Town representatives from Middlebury, Cornwall and Shoreham. The process is moving well, but no routes have been chosen. Vermont Gas recently requested the name of a possible participant from Whiting. Adam will give Ellen's contact information to Jim Hamilton.

WhistlePig, LLC Update. WhistlePig, LLC currently bottles and stores whiskey on a 450 acre farm in Shoreham. They had filed for a jurisdictional opinion to exempt a proposed distillery, rye growing and storage operation from Act 250 under the Agricultural exemption. The District Commission issued a Jurisdictional Opinion taking jurisdiction over both the current and proposed operation. The hearing on the merits of the application was held on Friday, March 22, 2013. Adam attended on ACRPC's behalf and filed the testimony he had distributed to the full commission earlier in the month. Adam does not believe the opponents' testimony was credible and expects a permit will be issued to Whistlepig on the merits as soon as they supply the District Commission with all of the information they have requested.

Annual Meeting: Adam noted that he was working with Harvey to find an interesting program on value added agriculture or forestry production. He is also still looking into locations. He will have one to announce at the full Commission meeting in April.

Bertha Hanson: Adam noted that he had not received any nominations to date. The Executive Board will need to make a decision by its May meeting.

Other: None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Draft Budget Review: Adam brought the Executive Board a spread sheet of the current budget, as amended and his projected draft budget for next year. Adam noted that the budget is shrinking corresponding to the number of grant programs available. He noted that our brownfields budget is still up in the air, but not included. He also noted that while he has some irons in the fire, the energy budget has also shrunk substantially. Adam requested permission to keep adjusting the budget to make its projections as accurate as possible until it is voted on in May. However, he noted this will be roughly the budget he brings to the full Commission in April.

Other: Ellen reported that the Nominating Committee was working and would be ready to report by the next full commission meeting.

Ellen asked Adam to investigate how many towns had not been paid by FEMA for Irene. She noted Whiting had not been paid and expressed her frustration.

Adam told the Board he had an orientation meeting with David Ludwig of Lincoln and that David had requested to be on the Natural Resources Committee. **The Board unanimously approved David's Committee request effective immediately.**

**Adam reminded the board that the next meeting had been moved from April 24th to May 1st.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Fred moved to adjourn. Steve seconded the motion. All approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Adam Lougee