

DRAFT

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

February 26, 2014

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.

ROLL CALL

Bridport Andrew Manning
Bristol Bill Sayre
Bristol Chico Martin
Lincoln
Middlebury David Hamilton
Monkton Thea Gaudette
New Haven Harvey Smith

STAFF: Adam Lougee, Director

Harvey opened the meeting at 6:40.

MINUTES

Thea Gaudette moved to approve the minutes. Chico Martin seconded the Motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Board reviewed the Treasurer's report. Adam noted that balance remain good. He also noted that while revenues had slipped behind expenses, he had some unbilled EMPG work that would put them back ahead. We are still running very close to break even. Andrew Manning **moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Chico Martin seconded the motion, which all approved.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Local Government Committee: Thea reported that the Committee had not met.

ACT250/248: Adam noted that the Commission had received two new applications since the full Commission meeting.

Natural Resources: The Committee has not met since January. David reported that he will meet with Kevin and put together a summary of the Committees report for the March Full Commission meeting.

Energy: Adam reported that the Energy Committee will meet on March 3rd at 5:00 to review all information presented concerning Vermont Gas and will then make a decision and recommendation to the commission.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Andrew noted that the TAC's February meeting focused on prioritizing state network projects for the Region for State FY 2016. Adam will share maps and the TACs priorities when they have completed the prioritization process.

Plan Re-write. Adam noted that he needed to get this committee together shortly, but it had not met yet.

OLD BUSINESS

Harvey asked Thea to chair the meeting for the Vermont Gas item and recused himself from the discussion. Bill Sayre also recessed himself from the discussion.

Vermont Gas Update: Adam discussed the Committee process. Adam noted he expected that the Committees would review the responses from Vermont Gas, information offered by the speakers at our last meeting, the Phase I Order and continue their deliberations regarding the recommendations each would make to the Full Commission. Adam hopes all will have their recommendations concluded prior to the March full Commission meeting.

Thea returned control of the meeting to Harvey and both Harvey and Bill resumed participation.

Health Insurance Update: Adam noted that he had successfully resigned the Commission with BC/BS for the foreseeable future until the State network gets their financial house in order. He noted that the delay in the state system would cost about \$3,000 more than he had budgeted for. Adam also noted he needed to create HRAs for each participating employee.

Other: Adam noted he had received a request from Jim Walsh, a new delegate from New Haven to join the energy committee. **Thea moved to appoint Jim to the Energy Committee. David Hamilton seconded the appointment, which the rest of the board unanimously approved.**

Adam also raised Ross Conrad's request at the full Commission meeting to send a treasure's report out with the package. Adam noted that we used to do that, but having two financials in front of people, one in the package and one updated at the meeting confused people and was not worth the extra work. Chico, followed by the rest of the Board noted it did not want to create extra work for the staff by creating multiple reports. Adam suggested that it might work well to distribute the monthly budget report from the Executive Board meeting, but include an updated balance sheet at the meeting. Adam noted that he felt his suggestion would reduce work and provide accurate information in a

timely manner. He noted he would speak with Pauline. The board left the decision to his discretion.

NEW BUSINESS

S201. Energy Siting: Adam shared the comments he had made on this Bill with Senator Bray and reviewed the bill, which gave the RPC's a more proactive role in helping to site electrical generation facilities within each region prior to permit applications. After a lengthy discussion, the Board generally agreed with Adam's support of the bill, although several members had more reservations than others. Harvey and Bill also specifically appreciated Adam's pointing out that the Byways program was never intended to be a regulatory program and suggestion that any provision of the bill trying to give it regulatory power should be stricken.

H448. Ag Soils. The Board also looked at the version of H448, concerning agricultural soils and how they are regulated in Act 250. Adam noted that the previous version of the bill provided a path for the commission to make a decision and provided for mitigation that would result in 2-3 acres of agricultural soils being conserved for every acre impacted. The current version significantly changes the proposal to use the agricultural soils to significantly drive the form of development. David worried about the unintended consequences of this approach. This made the board nervous. While it generally supports smart growth initiatives, it expressed concern that this would usurp local control from local zoning regulations, changed the purpose of the bill, and did not constitute a productive change.

Nominating Committee. Adam reminded the Board that the Commission generally elects a nominating committee at its March meeting. He handed out a tenure schedule for the board showing that both Harvey and Steve had served for 5 years and are not eligible to sit on the board next year according to the terms of ACRPC's bylaws. Thea noted that generally an outgoing member of the E-Board steers participates in the Nominating Committee and suggested that Steve could fill that role this year. The Board also considered other commissioners to recommend to the Commission for the March meeting.

Annual Meeting Program and Location. Adam asked the board to begin thinking about a place and a topic for our annual meeting. He made a couple of suggestions and asked for all with ideas to speak to him. Thea also suggested that we need to begin reminding people about the Bertha Hanson Award.

Other: None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted by: Adam Lougee