

DRAFT

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

December 3, 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, Thea Gaudette, presiding.

ROLL CALL

<i>Bridport</i>	Andrew Manning
<i>Bristol</i>	Bill Sayre
<i>Bristol</i>	Chico Martin
<i>Middlebury</i>	David Hamilton
<i>Middlebury</i>	Ted Davis
<i>Monkton</i>	Thea Gaudette
<i>Ripton</i>	Jeremy Grip

STAFF: Adam Lougee, Director

Thea opened the meeting at 6:35.

Prior to reviewing the minutes, the Board placed a phone call to its auditor, Vance DeBouter. Vance discussed his review of the financial statements for ACRPC for fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. He acknowledged ACRPC had a loss for the year and noted that it was explained in the management summary. He also noted that the accounting was very accurate. He had access to all records, believed that appropriate internal controls were in place and therefore issued a clean audit with no findings of material defects.

MINUTES

David Hamilton moved to approve the October 26th minutes. Ted Davis seconded the motion. The minutes passed by voice vote with all approving.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Board reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Adam noted that fund balances remain good. Revenues through October for the new fiscal year exceed expenses. Bill Sayre **moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Jeremy Grip seconded the motion, which all approved.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Local Government Committee: No meetings to report. Orwell and Middlebury have adopted new plans and will be seeking regional approval.

ACT250/248: Adam reported the commission had received two applications for solar installations since the November full Commission meeting, one from Green Peak Solar in New Haven and a smaller application for the State of Vermont on Comfort Hill in Vergennes. Adam also noted that the Committee met on November 20th and discussed the Denecker Chevrolet application and the 45 day pre-application of TDI New England Clean Power link.

Natural Resources: The Committee met to set its new directions. It discussed forestry, the working landscape and water issues. Its next meeting is January 14th.

Energy: Jeremy reported the committee hosted a meeting on “Best Practices for Solar Siting” at its meeting on October 30, 2014. The meeting was very well attended. As an outcome of the meeting, the Energy Committee will meet tomorrow evening, December 4th at 6:30 to review some solar siting guidelines to share with the Commission, and with the Commission’s approval, member municipalities.

Transportation Advisory Committee: The TAC met in November and spent most of the meeting reviewing grant applications. It awarded \$10,000 in funding to the Town of Middlebury to study traffic calming on South St.

Plan Re-write. Chico noted this committee met just before the full commission in November and reviewed the substantial regional impact Chapter of ACRPC’s regional plan.

OLD BUSINESS

Vermont Gas Update: Adam presented the Executive Board with a very brief status update. Nothing has changed since the full Commission meeting. Hearings are still scheduled for January.

Emergency Management, HMGP Status. Adam noted that the State still expects to hear back regarding the success of the application it filed sometime in October. It also expects some additional time to move it through to a contract.

Transportation Planner: Adam noted that he had interviewed several candidates for the transportation planner position, but had yet to find a suitable candidate.

Criteria 9L Guidance, Act 250:

Adam handed out information on the new guidance from the Natural Resources Board regarding how to interpret the changes to criteria 9L passed last legislative session. In addition, he passed out ANR’s filing of comments on the Denecker application. Adam noted that the Commission did not file testimony on 9L because Denecker withdrew his application prior to the hearing. Had Denecker not withdrawn his application, the Commission would have expressed doubts concerning whether it could comply with the new 9L Criteria. Several commissioners both from Ferrisburgh and elsewhere had requested that the Commission review the 9L guidance, since it has the potential to dramatically alter the balance of power in land use planning. The Board had

a brief discussion on the guidance. David Hamilton noted that he was concerned that it would have the potential to prohibit a lot of good rural development projects. Jeremy Grip noted that he appreciated and supported the intent of the guidance, but acknowledged the concern over the shift to state control. The Board asked Adam to create a series of scenario questions for the Natural Resources Board to conduct a “thought exercise” to determine how it would apply 9L on some “typical” rural projects. **They requested Adam have the draft for its review at its next meeting and include projects along Route 7, in a rural setting, in an industrial park and involving a residential use.**

Other: Thea suggested that the Commission should consider appointing a vice-chair for each of its committees. That way, the committee will have a leader even in the chair's absence. Thea asked Adam to speak with the chair of each committee to ask them for suggestions for a vice-chair.

Thea also noted that due to the holidays, she would not convene the Executive Board unless there was a need on an emergency basis to do so.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Municipal Dues: Adam distributed a spreadsheet showing ACRPC's current dues and a proposed 3 cent per capita increase for next year. Adam noted that 3 cents per capita raised about \$1,000 over the entire region. Given ACRPC's tight budget and increasing costs, Adam stated he supported a small increase. Chico noted he would oppose the increase. David noted he felt it was better to ask for small incremental increases than periodic large ones. After further discussion, David moved to send the proposed budget to the full Commission. Jeremy seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote with Chico Martin abstaining.

Healthcare: Adam distributed a memo summarizing the actions the commission took last year in responses to the changes to the healthcare exchange and his proposal for the coming year. He also distributed an alternate proposal a staff member had proposed. The Board discussed the historic and current benefits and the changing landscape of Vermont's healthcare laws. The Board felt that they should not make any large-scale changes until they know what will happen next year. **Chico moved to keep the policy similar to last year, but to extend an HRA option to all. David Seconded the motion and all approved.**

(After the meeting Adam attempted to implement the directions and found he could not create an HRA for staff members opting out of the Commission's coverage. After consulting with Board members individually, in order to file by the yearend deadline, Adam created a policy in which the commission gave a fixed dollar amount to participating employees to spend in their discretion and non-participating employees would share half the benefit, the same as in previous years. The Bylaws Committee will be asked to review healthcare next year.)

Other: None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chico moved to adjourn. Andrew seconded the motion. All approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Adam Lougee