

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
August 26, 2015

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission's Executive Board held its monthly meeting at the Regional Planning Commission's office in Middlebury with Chair, Thea Gaudette, presiding.

ROLL CALL

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| <i>Bristol</i> | Chico Martin |
| <i>Leicester</i> | Diane Benware |
| <i>Middlebury</i> | |
| <i>Middlebury</i> | |
| <i>Monkton</i> | Thea Gaudette |
| <i>Ripton</i> | Jeremy Grip |
| <i>Shoreham</i> | Nick Causton |

STAFF: Adam Lougee, Director

Thea opened the meeting at 6:34.

MINUTES:

Nick moved to adopt the July 22, 2015 minutes. Diane seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote with Jeremy abstaining.

A quorum of people at the June meeting was not present so the adoption of the June minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Adam supplied a Treasurer's report including balances as of August 26th and a budget report complete through June 30, the end of the Commission's fiscal year. Adam noted that the cash balances are currently lower than normal, but that we also have a significant amount of receivables. Cash should improve as receivables are paid. Adam noted that the year-end figures in the budget will have some adjustments and are unaudited, but largely complete. The budget currently shows a deficit for the year of about \$8,600. Most of the deficit stems from ACRPC's inability to work on the HMGP grant that was in its budget for \$50,000 (The grant had been awarded, but was then pulled back on a statewide basis for state and FEMA administrative reasons. Numerous other programs varied from the budget created in spring 2014, but none were as significant as the HMGP grant.

Jeremy moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Nick 2nd the motion, which passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Local Government Committee: No meeting.

ACT250/248: Adam noted that the Act 250 and Energy committees were meeting next week to discuss ACRPC's solar siting policy and try to find some common ground to present to the commission. He also noted that solar applications continued to come in at a steady pace.

Natural Resources: The Committee will meet just before the full commission meeting in September.

Energy: See above.

Transportation Advisory Committee: The TAC met in August. Its primary piece of business was to award planning grants for next year. It approved 3 grant requests. The first to ACRPC to redo the transportation policy, the second to Middlebury to study alternatives to improving Creek road and the final is or ACTR to permanently locate its downtown transfer hub. It also discussed the State rail plan and paving on Route 22A.

Plan Re-write. The Committee met in August. It completed the future land use plan and started an implementation section. It hopes to bring the work it has completed to the full commission shortly for hearing and adoption.

OLD BUSINESS

TDI update: Adam noted that the project appeared to be moving along smoothly. TDI has entered into agreements stipulating to conditions in the CPG with nearly all parties to the action. The RPC and town position remains unchanged; they still reserve the authority to tax the infrastructure when it is installed. Adam has written to the towns to convene a meeting to help all affected towns act collectively.

Emergency Management, HMGP Status. Adam reviewed the HMGP grant status. Adam is working with VAPDA to resolve this issue as it impacts all RPCs and has hired a consultant to try to persuade the State to work on behalf of the RPCs. Adam expects a final answer from the state next week. The State has stated that to help matters, it will pay the 25 % match to the grant after local in kind contributions have been deducted. It has also secured the 3% administrative money from FEMA. This leaves ACRPC earning about 60 cents for each dollar of costs it incurs. Still, Adam stated that ACRPC's municipalities need the plans to secure a higher return from the ERAF funds. Accordingly, while still pursuing the indirect repayment, Adam would like to also go ahead and pursue the contract and minimize ACRPC's losses by not implementing them into plans with this money since it can be done more economically with other money and developing a plan to sub-contract certain aspects of the plans to others. The Executive Board endorsed this approach.

Committees/ Committee Assignments: Adam noted that he had received responses to the Committee request from most delegates. The Board reviewed the requests that had been submitted and made committee assignments taking into account the commissioner's request, committee size, geographic, gender and political diversity. At the end of the process **Thea moved that the Board approve the committee assignments it had created. Nick seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** A copy of the committee appointments are attached to these minutes.

Title VI policy: Adam noted that VTrans is requiring ACRPC to adopt a formal Title VI Non-Discrimination Policy. He presented the Executive Board with a draft policy. The policy formalizes many of ACRPC's current practices. After a discussion of how the policy worked, **Chico moved to adopt the policy as presented. Diane seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Other: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Solar Siting: As noted above, ACRPC's Energy Committee and Act 250/248 committees will be meeting next Thursday to see if they can find common ground regarding ACRPC's policy on solar siting issues. They can then bring that discussion to the full commission. Given the proliferation of solar in the region, the commission needs to have a clear position. Hopefully this discussion will lead to that.

Use of TPI funding: Adam noted that he expected to have about \$10,000 of TPI funds this year that staff will not be able to use up before the end of the federal fiscal year September 30th. Adam recommended that ACRPC sub the money out to a consultant to evaluate how different locations for its downtown hub would impact its operational schedule. He explained that this study was different than the one the TAC had just approved on finding the appropriate permanent location, but would feed that study with important information. **Chico moved to approve contingent on Adam's checking the funds available against July and August's TPI billing. Diane seconded the motion, which all approved.**

Other: Nick asked whether Adam had followed up on his question about poison Parsnip. Adam noted that he had asked Secretary Minter about any State programs and was still waiting for a formal response.

ADJOURNMENT

Chico moved to adjourn. Nick seconded the motion. All approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Adam Lougee