

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

Full Commission Meeting

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission's Full Commission Meeting was held on March 12, 2003, at Middlebury College's Kenyon Lounge with Harvey Smith presiding.

ROLL CALL:

<i>Addison:</i>	Alden Harwood	<i>Orwell:</i>	David King Andrea Ochs
<i>Bridport:</i>	Andrew Manning	<i>Panton:</i>	David Raphael
<i>Bristol:</i>	Peter Grant	<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip Warren King Laurel Kritkowski
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Don Shall	<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>		<i>Shoreham:</i>	
<i>Goshen:</i>		<i>Starksboro:</i>	
<i>Leicester:</i>		<i>Vergennes:</i>	Randy Friday
<i>Lincoln:</i>	Rick Good	<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Fred Dunnington Karl Neuse	<i>Weybridge:</i>	
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette Charles Huizenga	<i>Whiting:</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer
<i>New Haven:</i>	Harvey Smith Allen Karnatz		

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

AC Chamber of Commerce:
AC Community Action Group:
AC Economic Development Corp:
Otter Creek Audubon Society: Judy Kowalczyk

STAFF:

Adam Lougee
Brandy Saxton

Public Program

The public program to discuss the Solid Waste Plan for Addison County began at 7:40 p.m. Tonight's guest speaker, Teri Kuczynski, is the executive director of the Addison County Solid Waste District. Teri began the program by introducing herself, noting she's been on the job for less than a year.

Teri then went on to describe the district and its goals for the future. The district is made up of 19 member towns; Bristol and Salisbury are not members. The current population of the district is 30,411 (10,894 households).

While the district does not have its own landfill, it does have a transfer station. The Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste District is in the process of permitting a landfill, which might be able to take waste from the Addison County district in the future. WSI's landfill in Moretown and Waste USA's landfill in Coventry will reach capacity in about 7 years.

In 1989 there were 50 municipal and 14 private landfills in operation in the state. Today only three small municipal and two private landfills remain open. Act 78 required the closing of most of these landfills; Bristol and Salisbury

were not forced to close due to their small waste streams.

There has been significant privatization and consolidation of the industry since 1987. The number of haulers has decreased from 500 to 277. In 1987, approximately 42,000 tons were diverted statewide (12% of total waste stream). In 1999, approximately 190,000 tons were diverted (35% of total). In 1991, the district was planning to construct a MRF and a landfill, neither of which happened.

Teri then went on to discuss the district's Five-Year Plan, which must be submitted to the Agency of Natural Resources by May 1, 2003. After that, an implementation plan must be submitted every two years and the district must demonstrate that it meets the state's solid waste plan priorities. She added that the plan must receive approval from the regional planning commission as well as from each member town.

The guiding principal for the district is a hierarchy: reduce, reuse/recycle, waste processing to reduce volume, and land disposal of residuals. Key components of the plan include: meeting a 50% state diversion goal by 2006; a biosolids and septage management plan to meet 75% beneficial reuse rate by 2005; a plan for non-regulated hazardous wastes, etc.; a unit-based pricing plan; a "Buy Recycled" plan; an illegal disposal plan; outlining solid waste facilities siting criteria; specifying facilities included in plan; budgeting the timeline; a public participation plan; solid waste ordinances; and conformance with other plans.

Teri then described the amount of waste that the district handled last year. Total generation for the district was 25,670 tons, of which 7,875 tons were diverted (31%). Per capita generation rate is 4.62 lbs per day. She then showed a breakdown of all the categories of waste brought into the facilities. The transfer station took in 17,576 tons. The district is not responsible for handling major amounts of household hazardous waste. Residential composting accounted for 24 tons, although this is based only on estimates.

Household Hazardous Waste collection is very proactive in the district, Teri said. Materials collected include automotive waste, nonfriable asbestos, hazardous waste, fluorescent lightbulbs, PCB ballasts and capacitors, consumer electronics, and propane cylinders.

Teri wrapped up her presentation by discussing the district's priorities for the future: C&D (construction and demolition) diversion will have to increase in order for the district to meet the 50% goal; new disposal options must be sought (the WSI contract expires in November of this year); the transfer station has to be modified to meet new requirements (stormwater runoff, etc.) and to replace aging equipment. Teri added that in the future, single-stream recycling would be the norm. Single stream is collecting everything together and sorted by machinery. These recyclables are currently being taken to Canada for sorting.

Peter Grant asked when the state (and the country) would run out of landfill sites.

Teri answered that we have a lot of capacity in the U.S. In Vermont, the capacity has diminished quite a bit. The waste-to-energy sector has not taken off as much as expected 10-15 years ago. The European Union may very well be the source of some new technologies in the future.

Alden Harwood asked about why it is so expensive to dispose of commercially generated food waste and why an earlier program was cancelled.

Teri answered that it was a combination of factors, but primarily the cost of collection/transportation. The businesses weren't very enthusiastic about keeping food waste separated, estimating the frequency of collection, etc. Food waste is also very heavy and requires a separate collection vehicle. It was too hard to staff, restaurants weren't very interested, and homeowners tend to compost on their own.

C&D and leaf/yard waste is more viable, Teri said, and the district is considering a drop-off for leaf and yard waste in the future.

Karl asked if the 50% diversion rate is merely a goal or if it will be enforced by the state.

Teri said that there is no real enforcement built in, but the state will hold districts to a per-capita disposal rate.

Judy asked how the district would meet the goal.

Teri answered that they would be meeting the goal currently if the state counted the sludge recycling numbers.

Charles suggested that single-stream recycling might help meet the goal.

Teri agreed and added that food waste accounts for about 20% of the waste stream, so if that could be limited, it would help as well. However, composting facilities are tricky because of the odors, Teri said.

Jeremy noted that Middlebury College is composting its own food waste.

Teri said that they have been successful in their program.

Fred asked if Middlebury College's C&D waste is being accurately measured?

Teri answered that they have a good handle on all of the college's numbers. Some of the fill material was estimated, and the college doesn't weigh their C&D material but rather estimates it by the cubic yard. This is considered diverted waste.

Fred wanted to clarify the paragraph on yard waste on page nine of the plan. He said that Middlebury does not collect yard waste anymore.

Teri thanked him for the clarification and will amend the plan.

Judy asked about markets and what is stopping manufacturers (particularly toy makers) from either making goods out of recycled or recyclable materials.

Teri said cost, liability, and marketing issues are usually the major concerns of manufacturers and the district has to keep up with what's being generated.

Karl asked that, in view of limited landfill capacity and the fact that we're transporting a lot of waste to Quebec, whether we're vulnerable with regards to increased cost of transportation and the chance that the Canadians could increase their fees. He also asked whether incineration is possible.

Teri answered that because of the passage of NAFTA, waste is now able to flow into Canada freely. She added that incineration had previously been used, but it hasn't turned out to be cost-effective.

Tom said that an edible Styrofoam food package had been made and that food waste recycling could really be done well in the district and need not be so costly to transport.

Teri said that every time you add to the collection stream, it compounds the odor issue. She's very in favor of composting organics, but concedes that private companies may be reluctant to take part. Teri added that there's a slaughterhouse rendering compost facility coming on line shortly. She also added that user fees do tend to create a problem with improper disposal.

Michael Hurlburt (Vermont Citizens for Safe Energy) asked about the incineration plant in Rutland.

Teri added that that plant was dismantled and is no longer incinerating waste. It never took off because the air quality standards were made stricter at the time, and they did not generate enough energy to make the facility cost-effective. She doubts one will be sited in the state in the future.

Adam asked Teri what they need from the commission and when.

Teri said that she needs the commission to fold the plan into the Utilities and Facilities section of the regional plan. The draft will go to ANR by May 1st, and then ANR will come back with any comments. Two public hearings will

be held, and then the final draft will be written. She needs a letter from the commission saying it conforms to the regional plan.

Karl suggested that the Utilities and Facilities committee review the plan and issue a recommendation to the commission.

Adam said someone on staff would review the plan. Ellen said it could be compared to the existing plan and then the committee could decide what needs to be incorporated into the new Utilities and Facilities section of the plan.

Ellen asked what happens if ANR makes changes that don't conform to the regional plan.

Teri said she'd have to come back to the commission for a review at that point. Teri noted that the complete plan is available at their website: www.acswmd.org.

Harvey thanked Teri for addressing the commission, and the public program ended at 8:25 pm.

Business Meeting

The business meeting began at 8:25 pm.

Approval of Minutes: February 12, 2003

Rick said there were two typos in the minutes. On page 2, the fourth paragraph should read, "...to demonstrate..." And on page 6, it should read "or less..." **Peter moved to approve the minutes as amended from February 12, 2003. Thea seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Board Minutes: February 26, 2003

There was no discussion.

Treasurer's Report

Adam said that the checkbook balance is down to \$22,000, however, we're on budget with the exception of some project impacts discussed at the last meeting.

Peter moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Thea seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

TAC: Rick said they spoke about the governor's budget on transportation. They discussed what's happening to the railroad track on the western side of the state. The Rutland rail yard may be changed to make it more useful to handle the increase in freight train traffic. North of Rutland, there's a plan to make a corridor to bypass Rutland for Eastbound traffic. Rick believes that project is still in the budget. Rick also added that they would be writing a letter to the state suggesting that enhancement grants should be taken off moratorium since many county projects won't get done. Fred said that he believes they're asking for federal funds for the Rutland rail project. Harvey said very few state dollars are in that project. Rick believes that has changed.

Adam added that Mel Adams, the new director of Policy and Planning at the agency, would be in attendance at the next meeting.

Local Government: Thea said a meeting on Waltham would be held next Wednesday.

Act 250: Fred said Adam has received two applications for small quarries in Shoreham. The committee just received this information. Middlebury College withdrew an application for the Centano House project.

Natural Resources: Harvey said a meeting would be held Monday the 24th at the office at 7 pm. Representatives from ANR would be on hand regarding Watershed Planning.

Economic Development: Monday the 31st, Jamie will provide info about CEDS.

Utilities and Facilities: Ellen said they had a good meeting with VELCO and the Vermont Citizens for Safe Energy. They did not have a quorum, so they could not vote on anything, but the minutes are included in the packet.

The committee proposed an amendment to the resolution, which is based on the language of the current plan. The Committee's resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Addison County Regional Plan last adopted on May 8, 2002 identifies that: "Increasingly questions are being raised about the human health effects associated with the electromagnetic fields associated with high power facilities. At this time insufficient evidence exists on which to take a position, however, in the future as more information becomes available it should be actively reviewed and recommendations should be developed."

AND WHEREAS, increases in population and demand for electricity in northwest Vermont may increase the likelihood of expansion of existing electric facilities within the Addison Region.

BE IT RESOLVED, that prior to issuing a Certificate of Public Good for any electric transmission lines in Vermont, the Addison County Regional Planning Commission ask the public service board to consider the impact of electric and magnetic fields on human health.

Michael Hurlburt commented that he had hoped that the commission would address the positioning of high-voltage transmission lines in the area. He suggested that the resolution is a bit weak and wondered whether it could be beefed up a bit.

Harvey said if a commission member offered an amendment to the resolution, it could be voted on immediately.

Fred made a motion to add the following amendment to the resolution:

WHEREAS, the Addison County Regional Plan last adopted on May 8, 2002 identifies that: "Increasingly questions are being raised about the human health effects associated with the electromagnetic fields associated with high power facilities. At this time insufficient evidence exists on which to take a position, however, in the future as more information becomes available it should be actively reviewed and recommendations should be developed."

AND WHEREAS, increases in population and demand for electricity in northwest Vermont may increase the likelihood of expansion of existing electric facilities within the Addison Region.

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the ACRPC requests that as part of considering the request for a Certificate of Public Good for any electric transmission lines in Vermont, that the Public Service Board consider the impact of electric and magnetic fields on human health both in the design and in the siting of power lines."

Rick seconded the motion to amend the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

A vote was then held on the resolution as amended, which passed unanimously.

Staff/Delegate Recognition

Harvey introduced Laurel Kritkowski as the new alternate in Ripton.

Karl acknowledged the departure of Randy Friday and thanked him for his service to the commission during his tenure.

Joint Partner's Report

Adam said there's been significant discussion regarding RMOs. The new administration has proposed that the money used to fund Regional Marketing Organizations is being redistributed.

He said we're funded through the MURF fund, which is the best performing fund in the state. Our funding won't be cut, but it won't be funded to the full extent of the formula. If any one has any planning related projects, please send your suggestions to Adam.

New Business

Town selection of Delegates and Alternates: Adam reminded everyone to ask their Selectboards for their nominations. A letter is being sent out to the Selectboards that includes attendance lists from the past year.

Peter asked if members need to be U.S. citizens. Adam said he'd look into it.

Election of Nominating Committee for Executive Board Elections: Harvey nominated three members to make up the nominating committee: Andrew, Thea, and himself. **Karl made a motion to approve the nominations. Charles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Annual Meeting May 14th: Adam said he's looking for suggestions on location and agenda. The Carillon tour has been one idea discussed. Mike Klein from ANR will discuss geomorphology at the April meeting. Rick suggested a tourism-related location. The Maritime museum was also suggested.

Other: Adam passed around a copy of a resolution regarding the location of the Middlebury State Police Barracks. Both safety of the citizens and land use implications should be considered carefully during the siting of the barracks. The executive board agreed it was important for the planning commission to weigh in on the plan.

Randy asked whether -- in the second paragraph -- the New Haven Corners is included in the area described. Adam answered yes.

Karl moved to approve the recommendations. Thea seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

| **Thea moved to adjourn. Peter seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 pm.**

Submitted by Ursula Jones