

# Addison County Regional Planning Commission

## Full Commission Meeting

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission's Full Commission Meeting was held on June 9, 2004, at the Vergennes Fire Station, with Donald Shall presiding.

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### ROLL CALL:

<i>Addison:</i>		<i>Orwell:</i>	Andrea Ochs
<i>Bridport:</i>	Andrew Manning Edward Payne	<i>Panton:</i>	Mike Hermann
<i>Bristol:</i>	William Sayre	<i>Ripton:</i>	
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Donald Shall William McQuillan	<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Bob McNary	<i>Shoreham:</i>	
<i>Goshen:</i>		<i>Starksboro:</i>	Elissa Close
<i>Leicester:</i>		<i>Vergennes:</i>	Neil Kamman Renny Perry
<i>Lincoln:</i>		<i>Waltham:</i>	Thomas Yager
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Karl Neuse	<i>Weybridge:</i>	
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette	<i>Whiting:</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer
<i>New Haven:</i>	Jerry Smiley		

### CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

*AC Chamber of Commerce:*

*AC Community Action Group:*

*AC Economic Development Corp:*

*Otter Creek Audubon Society: Judy Kowalczyk*

### ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

#### ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD

**CHAIR:** Donald Shall

**VICE-CHAIR:** Ellen Kurrelmeyer

**SECRETARY:** Thea Gaudette

**TREASURER:** Karl Neuse

Tom Yager

Harvey Smith

Andrea Ochs

#### STAFF:

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Adam Lougee

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/GIS DATA MANAGER:** Kevin Behm

**EMERGENCY MGT PLANNER/SENIOR PLANNER:** Tim Bouton

**SENIOR/TRANSPORTATION PLANNER:** Garrett Daque

**PLANNER/GRANT WRITER:** Brandy Saxton

**WATERSHED PLANNER:** Neil Fraser

**OFFICE MANAGER/BOOKKEEPER:** Pauline Cousino

**TELEPHONE:** 388-3141

**FAX:** 388-0038

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## Public Program

Guest speaker Jim Moulton, Executive Director of Addison County Transit Resources, discussed ACTR's scope of services available to the general public. ACTR's mission is to enhance the economic, social, and environmental health of the region by providing public transportation services that are safe, reliable, accessible and affordable for everyone.

ACTR provides approximately 84,000 rides each year through eight primary programs, including shuttle bus services, Reach-up, Medicaid transportation, and services for the elderly and disabled, Rideshare, services for the visually impaired, and Ridematch.

Although ACTR has been active for nearly 11 years, Jim noted that many Addison County residents are unaware of the service. ACTR's vision for 2008 is to be the leading transportation alternative for all county residents, and to provide services to and beyond the entire county.

Neil Kamman suggested that ACTR consider leading the way in converting to bio-diesel engines for its vehicles.

Kevin Behm asked what other routes of interest were reflected in the survey conducted by ACTR.

Jim noted that the most popular routes suggested in ACTR's recent survey were commutes to and from Burlington, Rutland, and the Snow Bowl. In addition to transporting skiers, ACTR hopes to attract passengers destined for Ripton's hiking trails as well as to the Bread Loaf campus.

Bob McNary inquired about the ratio of passengers who pay for the service versus non-paying passengers.

Jim advised that ACTR is able to avoid administrative costs by offering its service at no charge; however, the program has collected \$2,000 in the past year through its donation boxes, as well as \$1,500 from individual donors.

Don Shall suggested that organizations such as MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers) be made aware of ACTR's services, and to regularly offer transportation services to young people in the county.

Jim noted that the awareness level of the young population continues to grow in terms of the ACTR's value to families throughout the county.

Karl Neuse asked about the effects of any competition with Middlebury Transit.

Jim responded that the two companies serve different niches in the market at the present time, and ACTR's goal is to work collaboratively with other transportation services.

Karl Neuse inquired of the status of the bus shelter in Middlebury.

Jim advised that a grant has been obtained to construct the new bus shelter, and the Rotary will provide matching funds. The Downtown Business Association, Select Board, and Planning Commission have all been supportive of the project, which is scheduled for completion this summer.

Neil Kamman also suggested that ACTR consider expanding its service to include transportation to Mad River Glen.

Jim concurred and assured Neil he would pursue the idea.

Mike Hermann asked the name of the state agency that coordinates the public and private sectors of transportation.

Jim explained that the Agency of Transportation is currently working on coordinating services, adding that David Dill, head of Operations, oversees public transportation, rail, air and maintenance for the state.

## Business Meeting

The business meeting began at 8:25 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes: May 12, 2004

**Thea Gaudette moved to approve the minutes for May 12, 2004. Ellen Kurrelmeyer seconded the motion.** Correction in Roll Call: add: Mike Hermann, Panton. Also, under "Member's Concerns/Information," delete first line: "Ellen Kurrelmeyer asked if the Economic Development Committee planned to outline its goals and objectives."

**The motion passed unanimously. Minutes approved as amended.**

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### Treasurer's Report

Adam reviewed the Treasurer's Report, noting that the amount of Accounts Receivable is largely driven by Project Impact. Additionally, to date 75% of expenses have been paid, and 84% of revenues have been collected. The Department of Housing and Community Affairs will account for a large number of funds due in July.

**Bob McNary moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Andrea Ochs seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

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### Committee Reports

#### Act 250 Committee

Adam reported receipt of a new application from the Blue Spruce Farm, under Section 248, for a methane conversion project. He recommended that the Planning Commission support the project, which anticipates selling power back to CVPS and saving up to \$50,000 in cattle bedding.

Ed Payne supported the project, adding that it would compliment Bridport's Town Plan.

Neil Kamman noted that burning methane was a clean procedure.

Judy Kowalczyk voiced some concerns and will research the project further to learn more about the byproducts/conversion numbers.

#### Economic Development Committee

Bob McNary reported that the committee has approved the revised Economic Development section of the Work Plan.

Judy Kowalczyk objected to including a company by name in the plan, stating that the commission's role is not to promote one company's ideas over another. Although Judy supports rail, she recommended eliminating any reference to a specific entity.

Jerry Smiley concurred and cautions promoting companies within the plan since it stifles the commission's position in terms of regulation.

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Chairman Don Shall suggested that comments and suggestions be directed in writing to the committee.

### **National Resource Committee**

The committee is scheduled to meet next Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **TAC Transportation Committee**

Adam announced that a joint meeting is scheduled with the Vermont Agency of Transportation at the Middlebury airport to discuss the Vermont Airport Capital Facility Program. TAC's regular meeting will follow at 7:00 p.m.

### **Utilities & Facilities Committee**

Ellen Kurrelmeyer reported that in reviewing goals and objectives for the Education Facilities section of the Work Plan, the committee looked at a range of educational opportunities available for adults and children, as well as how taxes for education affect planning issues.

Jerry Smiley suggested that the committee further consider the dire changes in connection with elements of the supervisory system. Although the possibility of decreasing the number of supervisory union boards is mainly a legislative item, Jerry noted that Regional Act 200 situations are of significant concern.

Both Ellen and Andrea Ochs encouraged Jerry to attend the committee's next meeting scheduled for June 21<sup>st</sup> to share his comments and suggestions.

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### **Joint Partners Report:**

None.

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### **Delegates/Staff Recognition:**

Don Shall introduced Elissa Close as the new delegate from Starksboro, and recognized Vermont House Representatives Willem Jewett and Claire Ayer, and farmer/writer Barbara Eastman from Addison.

### **Old Business**

#### **Resolution of the Natural Resources Committee Concerning International Paper's test burn proposal.**

Natural Resources Committee member Ed Payne summarized the Committee's resolution on tire burning at the International Paper Corporation's plant in Fort Ticonderoga, New York.

**Karl Neuse moved to adopt the resolution. Ellen Kurrelmeyer seconded the motion.**

Neil Kamman proposed the following amendment to the third resolve from the bottom of the resolution:

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**At a minimum, (STRIKE THIS -- >emissions from the plant must not violate Vermont's air quality standards<←) EMISSIONS of additional hazardous air pollutants BEYOND CURRENTLY PERMITTED LEVELS must BE CONTROLLED SUCH THAT VERMONT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS ARE MET EVEN GIVEN RELEASES OF AN UNANTICIPATED AND ELEVATED NATURE. ALLOWABLE EMISSIONS SHOULD be based on the existing ambient air quality and the maximum allowable level of incremental lifetime carcinogenic risk for the population of concern.**

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Judy Kowalczyk strongly supported Neil's amendment.

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Representative Willem Jewett presented No. R-451, a Joint Resolution recognizing the governor's effort to minimize the health risk of any tire-burning activity at the Ticonderoga, New York International Paper Company, which represents the consensus of the Natural Resources Committee and comes before the Commission for its approval.

Adam suggested that there may be differences between the Legislative and Executive branch concerning the resolution.

Willem Jewett offered that he had proposed the resolution to create a record. He added that legislators are working closely with the company as well as the attorney general to ensure emissions control. A legislative tour of the paper mill is scheduled for next week

**Renny Perry moved to adopt the proposed amendment to reflect the language in Joint Resolution No. R-451. Judy Kowalczyk seconded the motion.**

Don Shall asked if the motion required immediate action.

Jerry Smiley suggested that Neil's amendment was a technicality that should be sent to the administrators of the Agency of Natural Resources.

Barbara Eastman asked why the Resolution limited itself to carcinogenic risks, adding that she had serious concerns with the inadequacy of the paper company's equipment to handle the metals released from its stacks.

Karl Neuse recommended more weight be given to "not violating Vermont's air quality" rather than limiting the wording to include "no increased emissions."

Kevin Behm spoke on behalf of Harvey Smith who was unable to attend the meeting. Harvey suggested that the resolution focus on meeting Vermont Air Quality Standards rather than a standard calling for "no net increase in emissions."

**Thea Gaudette moved to table the motion and refer the resolution back to the Natural Resources Committee for further review prior to the full commission's consideration at its next meeting in July. Renny Perry seconded the motion. Motion passed by hand vote: 10 in favor, 4 opposed, and 2 abstaining. Motion tabled.**

#### **Town Selection of Delegates and Alternates:**

Adam reminded the following municipalities to return ACRPC appointment forms for their representatives to the commission: Bristol, Panton, Vergennes, Leicester, Salisbury, Weybridge, Lincoln, and Starksboro.

#### **VELCO Summary:**

Adam announced that hearings on VELCO's reroute around the City of Vergennes through New Haven and Ferrisburgh would begin June 10<sup>th</sup>. Additional testimony will be heard on items deferred, and a decision is anticipated by late September.

#### **Workplan and Budget:**

None.

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## **New Business**

**Committee Membership:** Don Shall reminded members that committee appointments will be made in September. Adam will distribute a memo with a description of the committees at the next commission meeting, and encouraged

members to voluntarily join various committees since the Executive Committee may appoint members to serve.

**Joint Partners Workplan 2004-2005:**

Tabled.

**Other:**

Adam distributed an informational map provided by the Department of Public Service depicting a wind power system that would serve a single-family residence.

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**Member's Concerns/Information**

None.

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**Adjournment**

**Andrea Ochs moved to adjourn. Thea Gaudette seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.**

*Submitted by Peggy Connor*