

# Addison County Regional Planning Commission

## Full Commission Meeting

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission held its Full Commission Meeting July 14, 2004 at the Ripton Elementary School, 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 Jim Peabody Peter Grant	<i>Ripton:</i>	
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Donald Shall	<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>		<i>Shoreham:</i>	Elizabeth Golden
<i>Goshen:</i>		<i>Starksboro:</i>	Elissa Close
<i>Leicester:</i>		<i>Vergennes:</i>	
<i>Lincoln:</i>	Steve Revell	<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Karl Neuse	<i>Weybridge:</i>	
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette Charles Huizenga	<i>Whiting:</i>	Jonathan Heppell
<i>New Haven:</i>	Jerry Smiley Harvey Smith		

**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*

*Thea Gaudette*

*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

Tim Bouton delivered a power point presentation outlining his responsibilities as Emergency Management Planner for the regional Planning Commission. Tim discussed Project Impact and the regional Planning Commission's relationship with the Addison County Emergency Management Committee, Vermont Emergency Management, Vermont Department of Homeland Security, and the interrelationships between the towns.

Tim explained the four phases of emergency management: 1) Preparedness – planning, training, exercising; 2) Response – fire, police, rescue at the scene; 3) Recovery – rebuild damaged infrastructure, re-house the homeless; and 4) Mitigation – steps to prevent future disasters. In his role as Emergency Management Planner, Tim assists in developing emergency operations plans and rapid response plans, as well as conducting training and disaster skills, and activating mitigation plans.

Tim reviewed a diagram depicting ACRPC's activities and town funding sources associated with Project Impact. ACRPC received \$300,000 to manage and complete the following projects recommended by a steering committee:

- Ripton Fire Station Relocation (\$50,000)
- Shoreline Stabilization Assessments
- Stream Geomorphic Assessments
- Culvert Demonstration Project – Goshen
- Monkton Emergency Shelter Support
- Red Cross Training in local schools
- Disaster Resistant Housing plans
- Weather Radio Distribution
- Mobile Command Post
- Early Warning Rain Gauges/Monitoring Stations

Additional mitigation projects in the Addison region include:

- Lincoln Library Relocation
- Bristol Bridge Replacement
- Route 125 Causeway Rip-Rap
- Vermont's First Regional Mitigation Plan
- EPA Stream Buffer Assessments
- National Flood Insurance Memberships
- Haz-Mat Flow Study '03

Tim concluded by defining the relationship between the regional Planning Commission and Project Impact as one in which the commission offers experienced grant writers and planners, as well as a proven ability to connect and coordinate towns to work together.

Jim Peabody asked who is specifically in charge in the event of a disaster.

Tim responded that by statute, since nearly every disaster can be designated as a hazardous materials emergency, the fire chief of the host town is the person in charge. In his capacity as Emergency Planner, Tim is working toward improving intercommunications between agencies. Tim is actively seeking volunteers to work with hazardous materials decontamination teams. A training session is scheduled for July 20, 27, and 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the New Haven Firehouse.

Karl Neuse inquired about the maintenance costs in connection with the Mobil Command Post, and if towns would be assessed an annual fee to cover the costs.

Tim noted that an estimated cost of \$10,000/year is anticipated to maintain the Mobil Command Post. The response has been positive from several towns that have been approached so far, acknowledging the value of the unit.

Peter Grant asked if the Mobil Command Center would replace current radio systems. He also asked how many disasters had occurred in the state in the past ten years.

Tim explained that the 4WD van was equipped with 2-3 radios, a computer, air conditioning, and included a small meeting area and restroom. He noted the Bristol-Lincoln floods, the ice storm of '98, and last year's drowning in Ripton as recent disasters in the Addison County region where the mobile unit would have been invaluable.

Andrea Ochs asked if every town's First Response Squad could expect to receive a computer.

Tim advised that laptop computers are slated to be awarded to 17 fire departments, 1 police department, the Mobil Command Post, and to the Local Emergency Planning Committee. Tim is presently in the process of programming these computers.

Peter Grant noted problems associated with the duplication of house numbers which creates confusion for rescue personnel. He asked if there were any plans to clarify the 911 addresses.

Tim explained that each town has authority to name and number their own roads. Kevin Behm added that towns have been encouraged to address the 911 issue, and recommended that Select Boards be alerted to the problem.

## Business Meeting

The business meeting began at 8:50 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes: June 9, 2004

**Andrea Ochs moved to approve the minutes of June 9, 2004. Thea Gaudette seconded the motion.**

Corrections: P. 3: replace "Judy Kowalczyk voiced concerns" with "Judy Kowalczyk had questions" P. 4: Old Business: 'Senator' Claire Ayer incorrectly referred to as 'Representative'; P. 4: Old Business – Add: "Neil Kamman moved to add the following statement to the resolution; Andrea Ochs seconded the motion."

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

### Treasurer's Report

Adam distributed and reviewed an updated Treasurer's Report, noting that the new version reflects more money in the accounts with the first payment from DCA having been received for fiscal year 2005. Adam reported that the regional Planning Commission will end up slightly in the black and start on a good footing for the next fiscal year.

**Andrea Ochs moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Thea Gaudette seconded the motion.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

### Committee Reports

#### Act 250 Committee

Adam reported that two new Act 250 applications had been received by the Committee in June. William and Constance Houston submitted an application for a 90 x 125 steel building on Lot 3 in the Vergennes Industrial Park on Panton Road. David Livingston submitted the second application for a subdivision of a 14-acre parcel into 4 building lots for single-family residents. Adam also reported that the Blue Spruce Farm Digester Application is moving forward with the first hearing scheduled before the Public Service Board in Montpelier on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Economic Development Committee**

Jim Peabody reported there was no new business. The Economic Development Committee will meet again in early September.

### **Natural Resources Committee**

Harvey Smith reported that the committee met June 14<sup>th</sup> and discussed at length the resolution regarding International Paper's test burn, an agenda item under Old Business, to follow.

### **TAC Transportation Committee**

Adam reported that the TAC Committee met at the Middlebury Airport where discussion focused on the Vermont Airport Capital Facility Program. Committee members reviewed enhancement grant proposals and looked at projects utilizing ACRPC's \$50,000 reserved for transportation planning projects.

### **Utilities, Facilities & Service Committee**

Jonathan Heppell reported that the UFS Committee met July 19<sup>th</sup>. Addison County Chamber of Commerce Travel and Marketing Director Barbara Harding gave a presentation on cultural heritage tourism, and reviewed various publications and guides developed by the Chamber to market the region's cultural resources.

### **Local Government**

Thea Gaudette reported that the Local Government committee is scheduled to meet August 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

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## **Joint Partners Report:**

Adam reported that the Joint Partners Report is ready to be submitted to the Department of Community Affairs, noting that the work programs included in the report had been approved by the full commission at its annual meeting in May. Adam also reported that a telecommunication services pilot project is being considered for the Town of New Haven.

Jim Peabody asked for clarification on page 5 of the report, item 3: "known fact."

Adam noted the error.

## **Delegates/Staff Recognition:**

No new delegates were present. On behalf of the commission, Don Shall congratulated Garrett and Karen Dague on the birth of their first child on June 10th, a son, Ethan Scott Dague.

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## **Old Business**

Harvey Smith reported that the Natural Resources Committee met for over two hours in an effort to revise the resolution in connection with tire burning at the International Paper Plant in Ticonderoga, N.Y. The revised resolution reads as follows:

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**ACRPC supports the effort of the State of New York and Vermont to ensure that a regional balance is met between economic and environmental impacts. The International Paper Company's (IPCO) pilot tire burn should be conducted for the least time necessary under full scientific analysis to ensure public and environmental safety, and recognize that the results may not provide 100% assurance from negative environmental impact. At a minimum, emissions from the plant must not violate Vermont's air quality standards [and should reasonably minimize the impact to ambient air quality]. ~~Allowance of additional hazardous air pollutants must 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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**Jim Peabody moved to adopt the last two paragraphs as the resolution; Thea Gaudette seconded the motion.**

Karl Neuse noted that the redacted portion of the resolution reflects concerns raised by Barbara Eastman at the commission's June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Jerry Smiley recalled that discussion at the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting focused on a more stringent standard.

Judy Kowalczyk voted against the resolution, indicating it does not go far enough to ensure there will be no increase in emissions from what the mill presently produces.

Steve Revell supported the proposed resolution, adding that because commission members are not environmental experts, the generality of the resolution is appropriate. Its purpose should be to serve as assurance to towns in the region that the ACRCP will act as watchdogs over the paper mill's tire burn.

Karl Neuse concurred, adding that from a general perspective, the resolution incorporates the message that the regional Planning Commission wants to convey

Jerry Smiley noted that, to the degree that the issue is political, and those in high station feel strongly about the mill's tire burn, he sees no problem with the ACRPC feeling strongly as well.

Harvey Smith explained that the EPA is the driving force that sets state ambience standards with two levels of regulatory oversight. International Paper is presently below EPA emission standards. If the resolution was more restrictive, one of those elements could be elevated and still be below standards; therefore, it was the intent of the Natural Resources Committee to make a statement while at the same time protect air quality.

**Andrea Ochs moved the question.**

**Motion passed by voice vote; 2 members opposed (Elizabeth Golden and Peter Grant); and 1 member abstaining (Judy Kowalczyk).**

#### **Committee Assignments:**

Don Shall asked members to submit confirmation of their committee assignments to Adam.

Adam made an appeal to those presently serving on the Utilities, Facilities and Services Committee to remain on the committee in order to provide continuity in their current work. Don Shall noted that the committee has had difficulty obtaining a quorum on a regular basis.

#### **VELCO Summary:**

Adam reported that the final hearings are scheduled for July 26<sup>th</sup> and August 4<sup>th</sup>. Recommendations include underground installation, clean up distribution lines, locating poles away from roads, and plantings, i.e., tree lines.

Elizabeth Golden asked what recommendations specifically pertained to the Town of Ferrisburgh.

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Adam responded that recommendations for Ferrisburgh included plantings, burying distribution lines to lower poles in certain areas, and the lines should follow re-routes along the railroad track.

Harvey Smith asked if moving the substation in New Haven had been considered.

Adam explained that moving to a lower location was suggested in the report, but the cost is estimated to be one million dollars.

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## **New Business**

Housekeeping addresses and emails: An updated mailing list including e-mail addresses is presently being compiled.

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## **Member's Concerns/Information**

None.

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## **Adjournment**

**Andrea Ochs moved to adjourn; Peter Grant seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.**

*Submitted by Peggy Connor*