

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

Full Commission Meeting

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission met at the Middlebury Inn on July 12, 2006, Fred Dunnington presiding.

ROLL CALL:

<i>Addison:</i>		<i>Orwell:</i>	Andrea Ochs David King
<i>Bridport:</i>	Andrew Manning Edward Payne	<i>Panton:</i>	
<i>Bristol:</i>	Peter Grant William Sayre	<i>Ripton:</i>	
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Donald Shall Laurel Kritkauskay Annie Wilson	<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Larry Keyes	<i>Shoreham:</i>	Elizabeth Pidgeon Jeremiah Parker
<i>Goshen:</i>		<i>Starksboro:</i>	Elissa Close
<i>Leicester:</i>	Kathleen Ramsay	<i>Vergennes:</i>	
<i>Lincoln:</i>	Steve Revell Jason Oleet	<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Fred Dunnington Brian Bauer Charlotte Rettinger	<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:

*Otter Creek Resource Conservation
District:*

Addison County Farm Bureau: Kent Wright

Otter Creek Audubon Society: Marcia Parker

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD

CHAIR: Fred Dunnington
VICE-CHAIR: Elissa Close
SECRETARY: Andrew Manning
TREASURER: Andrea Ochs
Renny Perry
Thea Gaudette
William Sayre

STAFF:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Adam Lougee
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/GIS DATA MANAGER: Kevin Behm
EMERGENCY MGT PLANNER/SENIOR PLANNER: Tim Bouton
SENIOR/TRANSPORTATION PLANNER: Richard Kehne
PLANNER/GRANT WRITER: Jeffrey Owen
WATERSHED PLANNER: Nell Fraser
OFFICE MANAGER/BOOKKEEPER: Pauline Cousino
TELEPHONE: 388-3141 **FAX:** 388-0038

Public Program

Newly elected Chairman Fred Dunnington opened the meeting at 7:27 p.m. with the introduction of guest panelists Harvey Smith, Dave Lane, Neteka White, and Bob Foster who were invited to lead a discussion on the latest legislative efforts addressing renewable energy.

Dave Lane, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture for Agricultural Development, opened the public program with a slide presentation sponsored by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets depicting the most current biomass conversion technologies. Dave explained the economics and benefits of biodigesters, which recover methane from animal manure through a process called anaerobic digestion. Biogas produced by a digester can reduce overall operating costs and serve as a revenue generator since the gas produced can be used to produce electricity, in addition to providing excess heat for process heating or refrigerator application, or building heat. A biodigester usually requires manure from more than 150 large animals to cost effectively generate electricity.

Marcia Parker inquired about the proportion of energy used versus the amount produced in the digester process.

Dave Lane made the comparison that 9/10 of every barrel of oil is used for energy, while a ratio of 1 - 2.4 results from the use of ethanol processing. Harvey Smith added that energy alternatives such as biodigesters make use of byproducts, converting a waste stream into an energy source. It is anticipated that costs will go down with an increase in production. Dave noted that the Department of Energy released a plan last month to advance cellulosic ethanol, a practical alternative to gasoline. Cellulosic ethanol is a renewable, carbon-neutral transportation fuel produced from the fibrous, inedible parts of plant matter.

Laurel Kritkausky asked the typical number of cows required to justify the cost of a digester.

Jeremiah Parker expressed his hope that the same amount of research is being done for small-scale farms.

The Audet farm in Bridport consists of 600 cows, but Dave pointed out that digesters are currently being developed at the Intervale Foundation to serve smaller farms. He added that because large farms are more economically feasible, small farms remain the focus.

Bob Foster, a partner of Foster Bros. Farm in Middlebury, offered an overview of the 25 x '25 Project, supported by the Energy Future Coalition, a non-partisan public policy initiative funded by foundations. The vision of the 25 x '25 group is to produce 25% of the total energy consumed in the United States, while continuing to produce abundant, safe and affordable food, feed, and fiber. Vermont's agricultural development programs tie in with this national effort to develop a comprehensive cross section of the agricultural community in reaching the 25% goal by 2025.

Neteka White serves as executive director for the Vermont Biofuels Association, a diverse group of Vermonters dedicated to increasing the demand and capacity for locally produced biodiesel and other agricultural based fuels. Neteka stressed the importance of exploring alternatives to fossil fuels as the environmental, economic, and energy-security concerns associated with a dependence on petroleum become more evident.

Peter Grant asked what percentage of Vermont's fuel needs could potentially be supplied by biodiesel.

Neteka White explained that Vermonters use 300 gallons of diesel annually; however, within ten years, Vermont could produce 20% of its on-road diesel needs. Expressing the energy crisis in a global context, Neteka listed the following contributing factors: 1) stress on petroleum capacity: use vs. availability; 2) increased competition through increased global consumption; 3) increased political destabilization (wars); and 4) increased climate destabilization.

In going forward, Dave noted the following next steps: to develop a national presence, identify resources, focus investments, and to further develop strategies, and the Green Valley concept. More information on the 25 x 25' Work Group can be found on their website at www.agenergy.info

The public program concluded at 8:50 p.m.

Business Meeting

The Business Meeting commenced at 9:00 p.m. with approval of the minutes.

I. Approval of Minutes: June 14, 2006

Thea Gaudette moved to approve the meeting minutes for June 14, 2006; Andrea Ochs seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Minutes approved as presented.

II. Executive Board Minutes: June 27, 2006

Don Shall moved to approve both the Executive Board Minutes for June 27, 2006, and Treasurer's Report (copy attached); Charles Huizenga seconded the motion.

III. Treasurer's Report

Adam pointed out that billings from HSU should overshadow the \$8,000 deficit reflected in the unadjusted year-end statement. He noted strong account balances in the beginning of the fiscal year. Don Shall suggested that a glossary of acronyms commonly used throughout the Budget Report be made available to members on an annual basis.

Treasurer's Report and Executive Board Minutes approved unanimously by voice vote.

IV. Committee Reports

Local Government

Refer to "New Business." Thea noted that the Town of Ferrisburgh has requested a public hearing be held to consider their Town Plan. The hearing will be scheduled in August.

Act 250 and 248

Fred Dunnington reviewed the list of new applications and decisions cited in the Executive Board minutes of June 27th (copy attached).

Natural Resources Committee

Harvey Smith reported that the Natural Resources Committee has been assigned to work on the watershed project, and will meet on an as-needed basis.

TAC Transportation Committee

Thea Gaudette reported that a steering committee was appointed at the last TAC meeting on July 12th to develop and draft RFP's for hiring a consultant. Thea will serve as chair of the committee, and Jeff Owen is vice chair.

V. Joint Partners Report

Commission members welcomed Bill Townsend, representing the Addison County Economic Development Corporation.

VI. Delegate/Staff Recognition

Adam reported that the commission's water planner, Nell Fraser, has resigned her post having recently had a baby. Nell has enrolled at UVM to continue her education to become a nurse practitioner. On behalf of the commission, Fred extended his thanks to Nell for her service, and wished her well.

Newly appointed delegates Charlotte Rettinger of Middlebury, Laurel Kritkasky of Cornwall, and alternate Annie Wilson were recognized by the chair and welcomed by commission members. Faith Ingulrsud of the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs was also recognized.

VII. Old Business

Delegate and Alternate Forms

Adam noted delegate reports that remain outstanding from the following towns: Bridport, Leicester, New Haven, Salisbury, and Vergennes.

Committee Membership for FY06-07

Adam advised that the Executive Committee will appoint new committee members, and asked that any preferences be expressed to him before appointments are announced in September.

ACRPC's Brownfields Grant and Safe Routes to Schools Awards

In addition to the \$200,000 Brownfields grant, three towns received Safe Routes to Schools grant awards: Bristol, Middlebury, and New Haven. Adam advised a new Brownfields committee will be formed to assess and select petroleum sites in Addison County. Adam noted that the two new programs will require additional staff.

VIII. New Business

Housekeeping: Addresses and E-mails

Adam advised that a list of email addresses for delegates is being distributed, and asks that any corrections or additions be directed to him.

VOTE on the Confirmation of New Haven's Planning Process and Town Plan

Thea Gaudette reported that the Local Government Committee attended a public hearing in New Haven July 6th to consider the Town Plan. One citizen expressed his dissatisfaction with the process in that it lacked adequate citizen participation. Thea advised that the Town will again meet to recommend ACRPC approval.

Thea so moved to approve the process and New Haven's Town Plan; Andrea Ochs seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

IX. Members' Concerns/Information

Jason Oleet suggested that, in order to reduce costs, a volunteer effort be organized to prepare the commission's monthly mailings. Adam reiterated that anyone wishing to receive their packets via email should contact the ACRPC office. Andrea suggested that the mailing question be added to the Executive Board agenda for further discussion.

Thea noted that copies of the Local Government report are available upon request.

X. Adjournment

Andrea Ochs moved to adjourn; Thea Gaudette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by,
Peggy Connor