

# Addison County Regional Planning Commission

## Full Commission Meeting

Wednesday, April 11, 2007

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission met at the Middlebury Inn on April 11, 2007, Fred Dunnington presiding.

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### ROLL CALL:

<i>Addison:</i>		<i>Orwell:</i>	Andrea Ochs
<i>Bridport:</i>	Edward Payne	<i>Panton:</i>	Michael Herman
<i>Bristol:</i>	Peter Grant William Sayre Jim Peabody	<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Annie Wilson	<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Stephen Gutowski Bob McNary	<i>Shoreham:</i>	Elizabeth Pidgeon
<i>Goshen:</i>	Bruce Webster Chad Chamberlain	<i>Starksboro:</i>	Elissa Close
<i>Leicester:</i>		<i>Vergennes:</i>	
<i>Lincoln:</i>	Jason Oleet Steve Revell	<i>Waltham:</i>	Thomas Yager
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Fred Dunnington	<i>Weybridge:</i>	
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette Charles Huizenga	<i>Whiting:</i>	Jonathan Heppell
<i>New Haven:</i>	Allen Karnatz Milo Schaefer		

### CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

*Addison County Farm Bureau:* Kent Wright  
*Otter Creek Audubon Society:*  
*OC Natural Resources:*

### 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:** Amy Diller  
**OFFICE MANAGER/BOOKKEEPER:** Pauline Cousino  
**TELEPHONE:** 388-3141      **FAX:** 388-0038

## Public Program

The public program focused on the economic importance of Vermont's forests, with panelists Chris Olson, Addison County Forester; Bill Sayre of A. Johnson Lumber Company; and Paul Fredericks, Forest Utilization Specialist with the Vermont Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation.

Of Vermont's 5.9 million acres, 4.6 million consist of forests. From these forested acres, the annual contribution of forest-based manufacturing and forest-related tourism and recreation to the Vermont economy is over \$1.4 billion. Paul Fredericks provided additional forestry factoids, including: forest-based manufacturing totaled \$1 billion in value of shipments to Vermont's economy in 2001. This is 11% of the statewide value for manufacturing. The forest-based manufacturing economy provides employment for over 7,800 people, and generates payrolls of \$216 million. Forest-related recreation and tourism provides employment for 6,000 and generates payrolls of \$81 million. Vermont landowners received estimated stumpage revenue in 2001 of \$30 million. Wood provides 6% of total energy use in Vermont, and revenue from sales of biomass chips totaled \$4.8 million in 2002. Sales of cordwood generate \$27 million annually. Each 1,000 acres of forest land in Vermont supports 1.6 forest-related manufacturing jobs, and .52 forest-based recreation and tourism jobs.

Elizabeth Pidgeon asked what changes the forest industry has seen since 2001.

Paul noted that hardwood prices have dropped in the last 6-8 months, and the number of sawmills have decreased. According to Bill Sayre, sawmill owners favor locating in neighboring states because of Vermont's unreasonable tax and regulatory burden. He cited the mill in Whitehall, New York as a prime example. Chris Olson added that, although the market for wood byproducts is in decline, the industry has seen a redirection of biomass from paper to energy production.

Elissa Close asked about the wood flow, where Vermont exports its lumber.

Bill Sayre explained that Vermont's highest grades leave the country and are exported to Canada, Southeast Asia, and Europe. Lower grades, used for cabinetry and furniture, are shipped throughout America and Canada; while the low grades used for pellet material stay in Vermont, or shipped to Canada, and used in flooring material. Paul added that, over the past 5-6 years, the majority of Vermont's hardwood lumber is exported to China.

Bill Sayre pointed out that two-tenths of the population is producing one-tenth of one-percent of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions. The forests of Vermont absorb more than what is produced. Therefore, as a state, Vermont does not contribute to the country's total greenhouse gas emissions. As such, Vermonters receive a double benefit: absorb and produce. Therefore, Bill believes we must find a way to reward those who are growing the trees; i.e. tax credits, investment in timber land, and better public understanding of the importance of our forest products industry.

The public program concluded at 8:45 p.m.

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## Business Meeting

The Business Meeting began at 9:10 p.m.

### **I. Approval of Minutes: March 14, 2007**

**Thea Gaudette moved to approve the meeting minutes for March 14, 2007; Andrea Ochs seconded the motion.**

Bob McNary noted the following corrections: under Committee Reports, Act 250: 12-unit PRD should read 21-unit; and under Energy Committee, substitute Harvey with Bob McNary.

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Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Minutes approved as amended.

## **II. Executive Board Minutes:**

No action required.

## **III. Treasurer's Report**

**Bob McNary moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented (copy attached); Elizabeth Pidgeon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

Andrea noted strong balances.

## **IV. Committee Reports**

### **Act 250 and 248**

Adam reported that Middlebury College submitted a biomass application, and the Keewaydin Foundation submitted a minor application regarding soil classification.

### **Brownfields Committee**

Jeremy Grip reported that the committee is currently reviewing a single application. Due to some unresolved questions surrounding title to the property, the applicant's name will not be made public until the committee's next meeting.

### **Energy Committee**

Bob McNary reported that the Energy Committee will participate in the Conservation Congress event at Mt. Abraham Union High School next month. Bob reiterated the importance of every community appointing an Energy Coordinator. Bob also reminded delegates of the upcoming event being hosted by Judy and Bryce Kowalczyk at their home in Ripton on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. The Kowalczyks will give tours of their modern, solar, off-grid, built-green home from noon until 8 p.m., and everyone is welcome.

### **Local Government**

Thea Gaudette reported that the Monkton Planning Commission has recommended approval of the Town Plan to the Monkton Select Board.

### **Natural Resources**

Andrea reported that the Natural Resources Committee will coordinate their next meeting with the TAC Committee to discuss air quality emissions on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

### **TAC Transportation Committee**

Thea reported that the Transportation Committee will meet with consultants May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 p.m., and will then prepare to schedule public hearings around the county.

## **V. Joint Partners Report**

Adam reported that he has been working closely with Addison County Economic Development in the search for a new location for the ACRPC offices. [See "Old Business" below for more details.]

## **VI. Delegate/Staff Recognition**

### **Nominations for Bertha Hanson Award**

Fred noted that the Executive Board has opted for a more democratic approach in its search for nominations for the Bertha Hanson Community Service Award by inviting all delegates to convey their ideas to Adam. The Community Service Award commemorates Bertha Hanson, a founding member of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission. The award will be presented at the annual meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup> at the Basin Harbor Club.

## **VII. Old Business**

### **Discussion Regarding Relocating ACRPC Office**

Adam reported that he has made an offer in connection with the former CVPS building on Seminary Street this week, and remains optimistic. If all goes as planned, ACRPC would be housed downstairs, and share the building with Addison County Economic Development.

### **Report of the Nominating Committee**

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Elizabeth Pidgeon cited the following slate of officers recommended to be nominated for appointment at the annual meeting:

Fred Dunnington, Chair  
Elissa Close, Vice Chair  
Andrea Ochs, Treasurer  
Thea Gaudette, Secretary  
Bruce Webster, Renny Perry, and Bill Sayre, at large

### **Other**

### **Monthly Meeting Time**

**Peter Grant moved to change the monthly meeting time back to its original hour of 7:30 p.m.; Andrea Ochs seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

## **VIII. New Business**

### **Review of Proposed Workplan and Budget for 2007/2008**

Adam briefly reviewed the proposed changes to the FY08 budget (copy attached).

**Andrea Ochs moved to accept the ACRPC Annual Workplan; Thea Gaudette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

Action on the proposed budget will be taken at the annual meeting May 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Location and Speaker for May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Annual Meeting**

Adam reported that Frank Bryan, UVM political Science professor and authority on Town meetings in Vermont will be the keynote speaker at the commission's annual meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup> at the Basin Harbor Club. Delegates are asked to RSVP by contacting Adam at 388-3141.

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

A reminder to Select Boards will be mailed shortly prompting them to appoint delegates to the regional commission. Delegates are asked to remind their Select Boards as well.

### **Other**

Andrea Ochs announced there will be an open house in Orwell June 9<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 3 p.m. to celebrate the new addition to the firehouse. The governor is expected to attend, and everyone is invited.

## **IX. Members' Concerns/Information**

### **X. Adjournment**

**Andrea Ochs moved to adjourn; Bruce Webster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Peggy Connor