

Draft

Addison County Regional Planning Commission Meeting

Wednesday April 9, 2008

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission held its monthly meeting on April 9, 2008 at its offices at 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury with Fred Dunnington, Chair, presiding.

ROLL CALL:

<i>Addison:</i>	Tim Davis	<i>Orwell:</i>	Andrea Ochs Clyde Park
<i>Bridport:</i>	Ed Payne Mike Gamache Mark Pumiglia Andrew Manning	<i>Panton:</i>	Mike Herman
<i>Bristol:</i>	Jim Peabody Peter Grant Bill Sayre	<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip Ted Dunakin
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Ralph Teitsheid	<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Bob McNary	<i>Shoreham:</i>	Elizabeth Pidgeon Jeremiah Parker
<i>Goshen:</i>		<i>Starksboro:</i>	
<i>Leicester:</i>		<i>Vergennes:</i>	
<i>Lincoln:</i>		<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Fred Dunnington Brain Bauer	<i>Weybridge:</i>	
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette Charlie Huizenga	<i>Whiting:</i>	
<i>New Haven:</i>	Harvey Smith Al Karnatz		

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

Addison County Farm Bureau: Kent Wright
Addison County Economic Development Corp.: Bill Townsend
Otter Creek Audubon Society: Marcia Parker
Otter Creek Natural Resources: Jonathan Chamberlain
Addison County Community Action Group:

ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD

CHAIR: Fred Dunnington
VICE-CHAIR:
SECRETARY: *Thea Gaudette*
TREASURER: Andrea Ochs
 Renny Perry
 William Sayre
 Bruce Webster

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:
WATERSHED PLANNER: *Amy Diller*
OFFICE MANAGER/BOOKKEEPER: *Pauline Cousino*

Plan Hearing

Call to Order: 7:31 pm. Fred Dunnington, the Chair of ACRPC called the meeting to order. He welcomed all, and noted the first item on the agenda was a presentation by April Moulaert, a Wetland Restoration and Protection Specialist with the Vermont Department of Forest Parks and Recreation. April began the presentation by describing wetlands and their values and then described her programs efforts to restore wetlands in the Champlain Valley.

April introduced Joshua Sky, a consultant with HBV/Pioneer Environmental, who was responsible for creating a Restoration Plan for the Lake Champlain Basin. Josh explained they used GIS to begin their process to identify sites. They then created a model to prioritize which would be the most beneficial sites to mitigate phosphorus pollution. The team visited 82 sites to check the model for accuracy. The project identified 5,000 sites ranging from the smallest size of 3 acres to the largest site of about 1,500 acres. The model worked well to identify high ranking sites. Josh noted that generally the Lake Champlain Direct basin was the basin found to have the highest value wetlands in it.

April continued the presentation by noting that the restoration program is a voluntary program for landowners. Incentives include financial compensation for a fee simple purchase or a conservation easement, which may include additional protection incentives beyond those contained in VLT's Land Trust. They fully fund all restoration areas. Three projects in Addison County include the Gibb Farm along the Lemon Fair; another farm on the Lemon Fair where they will unditch an area and restore the wetland and the Willowell Foundation property in Monkton. April named several other programs which might provide financial support for wetland restoration.

Next, Jane Lazorchak, the Landowner Incentive Program Coordinator and a botanist with Fish and Wildlife, continued the presentation by explaining her program which is aimed at preserving non-game species. The Landowner Incentive Program is a relatively new program which administers federal funds to provide incentives to private landowners to preserve species at risk. Any lands that provide habitat for rare plants or animals are eligible for funds. The program focuses on preserving the best habitats and natural communities. Jane noted she would be happy to provide a book describing natural communities.

LIP funding is a voluntary program, but requires a 25% state or local match. They provide financing via educational programs, or conservation easements, including financing the management plans for a project. The program's financial assistance focuses on the Champlain Valley. Its warmth allows things to grow that do not grow elsewhere in Vermont and it is generally faster growing than the rest of the state.

Jane noted that Fish and Wildlife is interested in preserving the Clay Plain Forests. She noted that Indiana bats like the forest fragmentation because it aids there movement. Most bats winter in the Adirondacks and then fly and summer in the Champlain Valley. Most woodlots in the

Champlain valley probably have them. They are working to create timber management guidelines for the bats.

Fred Dunnington asked why ANR now felt that the Lake Champlain Direct Basin had a greater phosphorus loading than the Otter Creek. Josh explained that Lake Champlain Direct had more sites than the other areas, but not necessarily better sites.

Ralph Teitsheid asked about wetland maps being sent to each town. April noted that their program is a voluntary program and is designed to work with the landowners.

Brian Bauer asked what percentage of the phosphorus loading was coming from each state or Quebec. April replied most of the pollution is coming from Vermont. It is also mostly coming from non-point sources.

Fred Dunnington thanked our guests for their presentation.

Next on the agenda was Ken Hafner, the Executive Director of the George Aiken Resource Conservation and Development Council ("RCDC"). Ken thanked the Commission for allowing him to speak and presented the RCDC workplan to the Commission. Ken noted that the RPCs around the state were enabling members of the RCDC and continue to be sponsoring organizations. He also noted that the RCDC will soon be re-writing their area plan. Programs within the RCDC's Area Plan need to focus on one of the following areas: land conservation, water conservation, rural development, waste management and community development. Ken noted that he would like input from the RPCs regarding the content of future area plans.

Elizabeth Pidgeon asked who in town should fill out the survey From RCDC that Adam included in the delegates packages. Ken responded that the RPC delegate should. He noted that the RCDC also sends the survey directly to towns, but that RCDC wanted as broad an audience as possible.

Ken noted that the purpose of the survey is to get input as was his reason for visiting. He then opened the floor for questions. What are the needs that the RCDC should help fill in Addison County?

Brian Bauer responded that slaughter houses are a real need in the State of Vermont and that Addison County is no exception.

Andrea Ochs noted that the RCDC could build on the State Department of Agriculture's efforts.

Fred asked about some of the categories in the survey. He noted that many went beyond what RCDC had traditionally done. Ken responded that they had written the survey very broadly within the bounds of land conservation, water conservation, rural development, waste management and community development.

Elizabeth Pidgeon noted that affordable housing should be a priority for the RCDC. She noted that is a real problem for younger people.

Andrea Ochs noted that energy should be a priority for the RCDC.

Marcia Parker emphasized conservation of energy. Bob McNary noted that our Energy Committee is working on conservation and would love additional support.

Ken noted that the Dry Hydrant grants are out and the Wildland Fire grants will come out shortly. Lastly Ken noted that on June 21st the ISO insurance service rating will be visiting Vermont to inform towns regarding how the fire insurance rating system works.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes were deferred.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was also deferred.

Committee Reports:

1. **Act 250 applications:** Adam outlined the Act 250 activity since the previous commission meeting. He noted that no new permits were granted, but that 3 new permits had been requested.
 - a. On March 5, 2008 RCC Atlantic, Inc submitted an application to mount cell antenna on an existing barn silo on the Purinton farm in Bristol.
 - b. On March 14th Pike Industries filed an application to idle its existing asphalt batch plant and install a portable asphalt batch plant at its facility off Campground Road in New Haven.
 - c. On April 9, 2008 Newton Burnham Properties, LLC filed an application to permit a retail "Sears" store on Exchange Street in Middlebury.

The Committee made a decision via e-mail to comment on the Deerview Commercial Subdivision Application on Route 7 in New Haven. The Committee supported Rick Kehne's work with the Agency of Transportation regarding the access for the property and concluded that with the changes proposed by Rick in conjunction with VTrans that the project would not have a negative impact on Route 7.

2. **Energy Committee.** Harvey Smith gave the Energy Committee Report. He noted that the Energy Committee Continued to be busy. He noted that Bob and Elizabeth had spent the day at another Energy Expo at Middlebury College and thanked them for their help. He also noted that the Committee was planning training for Town Energy Coordinators on May 20th and that it was preparing to have a speaker present on geo-thermal energy on May 7th at ACRPC's offices.

3. **Local Gov't Committee:** Thea reported that the committee had not met since the last full commission meeting, but would be meeting on an application by the Town of Bristol sometime probably in June.
4. **Natural Resources Committee:** Andrea noted that the Committee continued to work on the Natural Resources section of the plan. They had finished drafts on water and agriculture and would start on forestry next month.
5. **TAC Report:** Andrew Manning reported that the TAC would meet next week.
6. **Joint Partners Report:** None.
7. **Staff/Delegate Recognition:** Fred noted that Don Shall of Cornwall had recently resigned as a member of the commission to allow himself to travel. Fred then introduced Clyde Park, a new delegate from the Town of Orwell to the Commission and asked him to say a few words about himself. Mr. Park noted that he had spent 34 years in the military, and had recently retired to Orwell to operate a small beef cattle farm. Clyde noted he was interested in planning and in the community and looked forward to meeting every one.

Old Business:

Report of the Nominating Committee: Fred noted that prior to our annual meeting the commission created a nominating committee to propose a slate of officers to run the Commission. At the last meeting, the Commission had elected Andrea Ochs, Charlie Huizenga, and Ellen Kurrelmeyer as the nominating committee. Andrea announced that the nominating committee had met and proposes the following slate of directors and officers to serve the Commission:

Chair, Fred Dunnington;
 Vice Chair, Bob McNary
 Treasurer: Thea Gaudette
 Secretary: Bill Sayre
 At large member: Bruce Webster;
 At large member: Elizabeth Pidgeon
 At large member: Jeremy Grip

Fred then opened the floor for additional nominations for officers of ACRPC. None were voiced at that time. Fred reminded the Commission that the actual vote would be at the Annual Meeting in May and nominations would be sought from the floor at that time as well.

Bertha Hanson Award

Fred asked for nominations for the annual Bertha Hanson Award. These need to be submitted to Adam before the last Wednesday in April (April 30, 2008).

Ralph Teitsheid nominated Don Shall of Cornwall to receive the Bertha Hanson award. Ralph noted Don was a longstanding member and past President and deserved to be recognized for his service to the community.

Other. None

New Business

Amendments to the FY 2007/2008 Budget.

Adam asked the Commissioners to refer to the 2007/2008 budget that he had sent to all commissioners in their package. He noted that over the course of the year his projections had changed and requested that at the Annual meeting the Full Commission adopt a new budget to reflect those changes. Adam explained that several work projects were going slower than anticipated in the budget, like Safe Routes to Schools and the Western Corridor Planning project. He noted that the commission had added several other projects, including a second Brownfields project and two river corridor studies. Adam noted that he expected to end the year with more revenue and more expenses than he had anticipated, but still slightly profitable.

Proposed FY08/09 Workplan and Budget.

Next Adam referred to the proposed FY08/09 Budget and workplan that he had also distributed. Adam noted that he expected it to be a lean year. He noted that several of the RPCs programs were ending. He also noted that our expenses associated with the new building had increased. Nevertheless, the new budget notes that Adam projects that next year will be slightly cashflow positive. Adam asked if anyone had any questions on the budget. Kent Wright asked why ACRPC's trash bill was so high. Adam responded that although he had not reviewed the trash bill for a while, he felt that the expense reflected a reasonable amount, significantly less than previously. Adam noted that he might make some formatting changes to the budget to get it to conform more to the workplan, but that in general he would be asking commissioners to vote on the same paper the following month at the annual meeting.

Location and Speaker for May 14th annual meeting. Adam noted he had narrowed the location to two, Middlebury Inn and Basin Harbor Club. He also shared a list of speakers he had created with the staff. After a review of the speakers, Fred Dunnington asked all those interested in the place and topic to cast their votes and give them to Adam. 4 Commissioners cast votes.

Town Selection of Delegates and Alternates:

Adam reminded the delegates and alternates present that their respective select boards had begun or would shortly appoint municipal officials. Adam asked the delegates and alternates to approach their selectboard and notify them that they were willing to serve and then make sure the Selectboard filed their paperwork so that the delegates would be officially recognized at the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1st.

Other: None

Adjournment:

Upon a motion made by Thea Gaudette and seconded by Charlie Huizengia, the Commission voted to adjourn at 9:40p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Lougee