

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Addison County Regional Planning Commission**  
**Wednesday, December 10, 2008**

*The ACRPC December meeting was held at ACRPC's office on December 10, 2008 with Fred Dunnington, Chair, presiding.*

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**ROLL CALL:**

<i>Addison:</i>		<i>Orwell:</i>	
<i>Bridport:</i>	Ed Payne Andrew Manning Mike Gamache	<i>Panton:</i>	
<i>Bristol:</i>	Jim Peabody	<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Mary Dodge Ralph Teitscheid	<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Ferrisburgh</i>	Bob McNary	<i>Shoreham:</i>	
<i>Goshen:</i>	Bruce Webster	<i>Starksboro:</i>	
<i>Leicester:</i>		<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Lincoln:</i>	Steve Revell	<i>Weybridge:</i>	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Fred Dunnington	<i>Whiting:</i>	
<i>Monkton:</i>		<i>Vergennes:</i>	
<i>New Haven:</i>			

**CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:**

<i>Addison County Farm Bureau:</i>	Kent Wright
<i>Addison County Economic Development Corp:</i>	
<i>Otter Creek Audubon Society:</i>	Marcia Parker
<i>Otter Creek Natural Resources:</i>	
<i>Addison County Chamber of Commerce:</i>	

**ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD**

*Chair:* Fred Dunnington  
*Vice-Chair:* Bob McNary  
*Secretary:* William Sayre  
*Treasurer:* Thea Gaudette  
*At Large:* Jeremy Grip  
Bruce Webster  
Ellen Kurrelmeyer

**STAFF**

*Executive Director:* Adam Lougee  
*Assistant Director/GIS Manager:* Kevin Behm  
*EM/Senior Planner:* Tim Bouton  
*Transportation/Senior Planner:* Richard Kehne  
*Land Use/Environmental Planner:* Elizabeth Golden  
*Office Manager/Bookkeeper:* Pauline Cousino

## **Program: Legislative Discussion**

As is our tradition in December, we have invited Addison County's legislative delegation to attend our meeting to predict and discuss items concerning transportation and land use planning that they believe the legislature may take up this session, why, and what they would hope to accomplish. Each legislator was given the opportunity to speak to this question, and on what their priorities are for the upcoming year. In addition, they were asked what committees they intended to serve on and what goals they had for the year ahead. The issue of our fiscal crisis came up repeatedly in discussion, as did the issues of affordable housing, health care and funding of essential programs.

The legislators in attendance were: Senator Chaire Ayer, Representatives Steven Maier, Betty Nuova, Willem Jewett, Diane Lanpher, and Will Stevens.

Betty Nuovo's priorities are to take care of those in need, insure equal rights for all people, keep people safe from crime, especially our children, study issue thoroughly and Give proper deliberation on all issues. She is focused on universal healthcare. She is interested in serving on the Natural Resources and Energy Committees this year. She is working on energy efficiency and energy savings.

Willem Jewett's priorities are transportation, supporting small, rural schools, and affordable housing. He is interested in serving on the judiciary committee and chairing the judiciary retention committee, which reviews judges. His concern is that courts are closing and laying off judiciary staff. He is also concerned with highway safety measures and public safety issues.

Steven Maier's priorities are health care and budget issues, which he feels will require difficult decisions in the year ahead. Help is needed from Washington, D.C. He suggested that federal funding will be available only for projects that are "ready to go" and so we had better get ready. He expects that Washington will be looking for transportation and public works projects, as well as Vermont's Catamount Health Plan. The Medicare deficit has been looming for a long time. The alternatives are to either raise the rates, reduce the benefits, or increase premiums for users.

Betty added that towns needs to be ready to ask for Federal money, because the State isn't ready to do so. Fred Dunnington noted that it was mentioned at the transportation tour this morning that there isn't a clear plan for transportation projects under our current budget and neither is there a clear plan for projects under future potential budgets.

Willem stated that the Transportation Department turned down the spigot, and that the head people in transportation should be working on preparing for new projects. Fred agreed that we need to think ahead, as infrastructure building is a long term project.

Will Stevens' priorities are to work on an Agriculture Viability Bill H522, which spells out goals for the future of agriculture in Vermont, with a focus on profitability. He

suggested an extension of emergency funding for dairy farmers. The future of agriculture could look very different, with farmers being supported by wind farms, fuel pellet production, and more. His agenda is to put regulations and legislation in place to make it happen. Last year, composting at Intervale came under scrutiny and the issue became whether it was an ANR or AG issue. There are competing regulatory interests. He hopes to prepare regulations to permit and encourage oil seed production on our farms. He also hopes to see composting operations fall under agriculture's purview, but not let it be abused by trash companies who use ag as a cover.

Adam asked what it would take to make farming economically feasible. Will replied that he served on the Business Development Working Group to move ag forward. The results included a website and plans to use food as a basis for economic development, such as holding a good event which would import dollars and circulate dollars in Vermont's economy. Thinking integratively between Committees, coordinating our funding and planning events together, we could use build a mass transit system (with transportation dollars) that would remain to use or use philanthropic organizations' dollars as expansion cash for growing small ag companies. We should conduct a needs assessment for the ag, forestry and horticultural schools to encourage them to stay in the State and offer graduates in these fields an opportunity to earn teaching certificate at Castleton College, to develop teachers in these areas.

Claire Ayer agreed with Betty that we need transportation projects prepped to do to take advantage of federal stimulus dollars. Her top three concerns are 1) using transportation dollars for needed infrastructure improvements, 2) getting a health care demonstration project ready, and 3) watching how our budget cuts impact other areas. She is concerned about students who drop out of school and are stuck in pool jobs with no health care. Her focus is on providing an opportunity for alternative education in local energy production, installation, forestry and public/private sector projects, with ANR and education partnerships, such as the youth conservation corp, funded by a gas tax. We always have underfunded transportation. We need more dollars to take care of our roads, funded by fees, and gas, income and sales taxes.

Diane Lanpher's focus is getting the "silos" of different departments to work together. She plans to serve on the energy committee to integrate job creation with economic development, and with transportation, as they need someone from Addison County as a representative. She intends to expand public transit: rail, bus, parking lots and sidewalks in Vergennes. He is also working on reducing poverty through education, health care, job creation and affordable housing, to create a liveable Vermont.

Claire noted that we will have budget cuts before Christmas and that the Transportation Department needs to focus on projects that circulate dollars throughout Vermont. Fred noted that we need to change our distribution systems for projects with legislative oversight, because our bureaucracy is holding up potential projects. He then closed the program, thanking our legislators for offering their insights and sharing their plans and concerns with us.

## **Business Meeting:**

**Call to Order:** 9:00 p.m.

Fred Dunnington, Chair of ACRPC called the meeting to order. He welcomed all in attendance and noted that we do not have a quorum, and thus cannot conduct official business. However, we can make reports and carry out discussions, which followed.

**Approval of Minutes:** Andrew Manning noted that the minutes needed to be changed to indicate that he was present last month, and that it was he who said that his wife works at CVOEO.

**Executive Board Minutes:** Adam handed out the October 22 and November 3 Executive Board minutes.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Adam handed out the Treasurer's Report.

### **Committee Reports:**

Act 250 – Adam reported that there was nothing of regional significance to report. Vallee filed to amend an existing permit to allow it to modify its existing service station in Shoreham. The District 9 Environmental Commission proposes to treat this as a minor amendment and will not hold a hearing unless someone requests a hearing prior to December 19, 2008. The Heffernans filed two applications to extend the operation of a previously approved gravel pit on Hardscrabble Road in Bristol. The District 9 Environmental Commission proposed to treat this as a minor amendment and will not hold a hearing unless someone requests a hearing prior to December 31, 2008.

Brownfields – [Who?] reported that a Federal investigation will take place regarding low levels of PCEs resulting from sub-slab air samples taken below the building, above the bedrock at [where?] Jeremy Grip noted that triclothalene vapor intrusion/migration may be the cause. Steve Revell suggested that when a red flag occurs without knowing a source, you must look deeper into the source of the contamination. Adam agreed.

Energy – Bob reported that he and Elizabeth attended the conference “Community Based Approaches to Energy and Climate Change” last Saturday and that Elizabeth skillfully facilitated the Addison, Rutland and Bennington (with some Chittenden County attendees) Break-Out Session on Town Energy Projects. Some positive programs discussed in the session included energy efficiency in town buildings, CVPS's Cow Power Program, a sustainable town forestry program, and fuel assistance efforts. There was discussion on how community hydropower projects face significant challenges as there is no clear path for applications and obtaining a permit. The Energy Committee will be discussing this issue and considering a recommendation at their January meeting.

The Energy Committee will be presenting a program “Renewable Alternatives to Vermont Yankee tomorrow evening, and holding a Training of Town Energy Coordinators on Thursday, January 8, from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Local Government Committee – No report was made.

Natural Resources Committee – Mary Dodge reported that the Committee is busy. Kevin Behm reported that the Committee has completed 80% of the work and is working on the Cultural Resources now. The large sections on Agriculture, Water, Forestry and Wildlife are completed. The Scenic, Mineral, and Air sections will follow. They are on target for completion in the summer of 2009.

TAC – Adam reported that there was a tour and meeting this morning. Andrew Manning reported that at their regular meeting, a representative from Leahy's office was present. He reported that federal transportation funding is in poor shape, as is our State funding.

**New Business:**

Strategic Planning – Adam handed out an outline of the Strategic Planning Process and Survey which will be mailed to constituents to determine what they would like us to do, to inform our planning process.

Adam circulated the list of Commissioner's email addresses and asked everyone to update the list, if needed. He also asked that any Commissioner who wishes to receive Full Commission Meeting notices in the mail, rather than via email, make note of it. We plan to begin sending meeting packages only via email, starting in January, unless requested, to save money.

**Adjournment:**

Mary moved to adjourn the meeting. Ralph seconded. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Golden