

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Addison County Regional Planning Commission**  
**Wednesday, February 10, 2010**

*The ACRPC February Meeting was held at the ACRPC offices on February 10, 2010 with Thea Gaudette, Chair, presiding.*

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**ROLL CALL:**

*Addison:*

*Bridport:* Andrew Manning  
Ed Payne  
Mark Pumiglia

*Panton:* Michael Hermann

*Ripton:* Jeremy Grip

*Bristol:* William Sayre  
Peter Grant

*Salisbury:* Bryan Jones

*Shoreham:*

*Cornwall:*

*Starksboro:* Richard Warren

*Ferrisburgh:* Bob McNary

*Vergennes:* Alyth Hescock

*Goshen:* Chad Chamberlain

*Waltham:*

*Leicester:* James Maroney

*Weybridge:*

*Lincoln:* Steve Revell  
Dave D'Allienne

*Whiting:* Ellen Kurrelmeyer  
Jonathan Heppell

*Middlebury:* Fred Dunnington  
Pat Peters

*Monkton:* Thea Gaudette

*New Haven:*

*Orwell:* David King  
Clyde Park  
Robert Bogdon

**CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:**

*Addison County Farm Bureau:*

Kent Wright

*Addison County Economic Development Corp:*

*Otter Creek Audubon Society:*

Margaret Lowe

*Otter Creek Natural Resources:*

*Addison County Chamber of Commerce:*

**ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD**

*Chair:* Thea Gaudette

*Vice-Chair:* Bob McNary

*Secretary:* Bruce Webster

*Treasurer:* Jeremy Grip

*At Large:* Ellen Kurrelmeyer

Steve Revell

Harvey Smith

**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:** Adam introduced our speaker for this evening. Dr. Arnold Bloom is from the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of California, Davis. He has written a college textbook on global climate change. Dr. Bloom told the Commission that only a third of the population believes that climate change is occurring and is of human origins, whereas 98% of all scientists believe so. Why is there such a disparity? Because very few people are moved to change their way of life by a pie-chart! He presented evidence that global temperatures are warming, humans are responsible for global warming, and climate change threatens human well-being. He argued that greenhouse gas abatement needs to be compatible with prosperity. Over the last 660 years, people have measured temperature. We now have 4,349 land-based weather stations. From 1850 to today, there is a subtle but clear increase in temperature of .6 degrees C (1.1 degrees F). The Arctic ice cap has been shrinking dramatically. Sea levels are rising steadily, 200 millimeters overall. The severity of storms has increased. Sea temperatures have also risen.

In terms of the greenhouse effect from human activities, electricity production, which has the greatest impact, has risen most dramatically. CO<sup>2</sup> concentration, measured from the Mauna Loa volcano on the Big Island of Hawaii, found a steady increase over the last 150 years, but with consistent seasonal fluctuations, which is evidence of the cutting of the forest, with seasonal variations for the growing and burning seasons. At the South Pole, as the snow fall accumulates, it traps air bubbles in the layers. Scientists have gone down 3 kilometers, which have accumulated over a million years, to study the ice cores – which indicate that greenhouse gas concentrations have gone up and that they correlate with temperature changes. Jim Hanson reported on the relative contributions of factors on climate change, and CO<sup>2</sup> concentrations have 3 times the effect of the natural variations of the sun. The Earth Simulator Center is dedicated to working of climate change models. They reported a strong deviation from projected temperature based on natural causes due to anthropogenic causes.

The future depends on what we do to affect concentrations of CO<sup>2</sup> in the atmosphere. 550 PPM is the best we could do, with controls on CO<sup>2</sup> emissions and the best technologies. If we do not do anything to reduce our carbon emissions, global temperatures are predicted to rise by 2 degrees C, 3.5 degrees F by the end of the Century. Based on our current trajectory, there would be a one meter rise in sea level during the same timeframe. The internal feedback loops with runaway changes are not taken into account, because these are not as probable. With a one meter rise in sea level, the New Orleans area, Key West, and the edge of the entire coastline of the United States will be flooded. Predictions are a median temperature increase in Vermont from December – February of 2-3 C, or 5 degrees F warmer; March – May – 5 degrees F warmer; July – August - 7 degrees F warmer; and September – December – 4 degrees F warmer. Precipitation in winter is expected to increase by 10-20 percent (in both rain and snow); Spring will be 20-30% wetter; Summer would be 5-10% dryer, and no change in precipitation is expected in the Fall. Vermont can expect the dominant forests to be New England, rather than Conifer Forests. Storm tracks will be 20%

stronger at our latitude. The strength of the ocean currents are declining, but there is still a warming of the temperatures, thus the problem isn't simple, nor is the solution.

What can we do to mitigate global warming? Vermont can get off of coal, oil and gas. Under current technology, the least expensive electricity-producing power plants are biomass, integrated gasification, wind, small hydro, and fuel cells. Solar is more expensive. Wind power is viable in the United States in coastal areas, as well as the ridge lines in Vermont (where wind speeds are over 7.5 meters per second). However, the viewshed would be affected, which many people are concerned about. Hydro is used to a great extent in Norway. Major dam projects have major negative environmental impacts, but small hydro, in contrast, has minimal impact. He would recommend that we reuse our small hydro sites, since precipitation will be increasing with global warming. Reforestation is helpful, but not likely, with the demands on land and wood supply. Carbon sequestration in biomass has its limits after a decade or two. The more absorption, the more biomass is produced. The bottom line is that the more biomass there is, and slower turnover, the better it would absorb CO<sup>2</sup>. Trees are the climax community. Local hydro, solar and wind have less transmission-distance energy loss.

#### **BUSINESS MEETING:**

Thea called the Business Meeting to order.

- I. **Approval of Minutes: January 13, 2010** – Thea asked for a motion on the Minutes. Peter Grant moved the adoption of the January 13, 2010 Minutes; Bob McNary seconded. Jonathan noted that he was present at the last meeting. A couple of small changes were noted. The Minutes were approved as corrected.
- II. **Executive Board Minutes: January 27, 2009** - Thea explained that the Executive Board Minutes are provide for information only, and asked if anyone had any questions. There were none.
- III. **Treasurer's Report** – Adam reported on the Treasurer's Report dated February 10, 2010. He reported that our cash flow will be improved significantly over the next few years with the addition of our EECBG. Ellen moved its acceptance; Peter seconded. Ellen asked if the money is from both the State and Federal government. Adam answered that both the State and Federal contacts have been signed and that we will be able to procure it as we spend it and submit invoices. The Motion carried unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Report.

#### **IV. Committee Reports:**

**Act 250** – Ellen Kurrelmeyer reported on the Committee's activities. On January 11, 2010 District 9 Environmental Commission issued a permit in favor of Lewisburg, LLC to add an

additional apartment to an existing 3 unit apartment building at 89-91 Main Street in Vergennes.

**Brownfields** – Jeremy reported that we have two projects running. The Shade Roller Mill Phase II investigation is in the final sub-phase. They expect to drill a new bedrock well next week and conduct their sampling round shortly after, so there should be a report in about a month. MUHS Legion Field is in the Phase II investigation. They have done their initial investigation, drilled their wells and should be sampling next week. A report is expected from them in a little under a month. The next committee meeting will follow our receipt of both reports. If anyone knows of projects in the region, we still have funding and would be interested in pursuing them. Please have someone with an interest in the property speak to a committee member or Adam.

**Local Government Committee** – Thea reported that Lincoln has asked for their Town Plan to be reviewed. Elizabeth will review the Plan and submit her recommendations to the committee.

**Natural Resources** – Kevin reported that the committee is working on the next to last section.

**Strategic Planning** – Fred reported that the committee will be meeting next Tuesday. Staff has been assigned towns to visit within the next couple of months. Staff will contact the senior delegate from each town, who will then set up a half hour meeting with their Selectboard, and invite the other delegate and alternates to attend. Each town will get town-specific information as well as general information on the work that staff have done over the past year, and the opportunity to let ACRPC know what assistance they will need in the year ahead.

**TAC** – The TAC met on January 19. Peter Grant had concerns with the new ACTR route in Bristol. Rich reported that the route was adjusted to serve more riders. Thea reported on the salamander crossing on Monkton Road. Bob reported on progress on the rail depot move in Ferrisburgh. The steering committee chose S-2 as the architects and contracts have been signed. Bill reported on the Cross Street Bridge which should be open on 10-10-10. The committee approved the RFP for the Route 125 project. Regarding the Champlain Bridge, trash continues to be cleared from the lake and both ferries are now in operation. Their next meeting in February 17 at 7 pm.

**Staff Recognition** – Thea reported that the Executive Board has accepted Bob McNary's resignation from the Energy Committee. Bob has projects in Ferrisburgh which have made him busy. Dave D'Allienne has agreed to serve as Chairman.

**Energy** – Dave D'Allienne reported that the Energy Committee met on February 3. ACRPC has received both the Federal and the State Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant contracts and are moving ahead with the programs funded by those grants. Elizabeth is busy assisting towns with their energy audits for both municipal buildings and community schools, as well as their comprehensive grant applications for energy retrofits. The application deadline is February 23.

Middlebury, Ripton, Lincoln and Cornwall are participating in the State's Vermont Community Energy Mobilization Project, with Bristol, New Haven and Shoreham as possibilities. Volunteers have been trained to visit homes and provide energy saving materials, such as CFLs (compact fluorescent light bulbs), programmable thermostats, electric hot water blankets, and shower aerators.

The 'Way to Go' Program is being expanded from a one week contest to a year round program.

Our next outreach program is on the topic of Green Building on Thursday, February 25, from 7-9 pm. It will be presented by Chris Hoffman from Bread Loaf Architects. Their next meeting is Monday, March 8 at 7 pm.

**Act 248** – David D'Allienne reported that the Public Service Board is ready to give DuBois Farm a Certificate of Public Good for its methane digester project. Adam has sent our letter of support for the Ferrisburgh Solar Farm. Tim Upton, Ryan Johnson and Scott Lehman from CVPS shared information about the proposed Salisbury Project, now in the pre-application phase. Their proposal includes four transmission lines coming into a new substation, the current one being in dire need of repair. They also updated the committee on the Middlebury Reliability Project.

The Middlebury College senior environmental studies class is planning to study the potential for solar energy generation at the college, as well as in the towns in Addison County. Adam and Elizabeth are assisting them.

**V. Joint Partners Report** – Adam reported that we received a grant to work with the Chamber of Commerce on a Champlain Scenic Byways marketing brochure.

**VI. Delegate/Staff Recognition/Project Highlights** – Adam reported on the staff highlights.

Tim is continuing to create training opportunities in the region for emergency managers and first responders. He organized and held the first Emergency Managers roundtable on January 19, a successful event with 10 emergency managers in attendance. A second is scheduled for April. Their primary interest was in additional training being available here in the Addison region.

Elizabeth is about to begin working with Cornwall, Ferrisburgh, Orwell, Middlebury, Shoreham and Whiting on their Scenic Byways Plans, and will be rewriting the Byways Management Plan for Addison County.

Kevin highlighted the water quality work he is doing in the region. Kevin helped to create and print water quality brochures for Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative explaining different water quality results on nearly every river in the region. He has also begun work on a LaRosa Lab water quality sampling grant to continue the water quality monitoring data we have in the county.

Rick noted that over the next few months he will be working on reviewing accident data on the town road systems throughout the region in order to identify candidates for state-funded improvements. If anyone has information regarding specific areas in which they know of chronic safety problems where accidents occur, please make him aware of these locations. He will rank them with the TAC and bring the most critical safety hazards to the State for improvement. Improvements include signage and minor geometrical fixes for local roads all funded by the state. It's a great program provided for free to towns and Rick hopes to bring a couple of projects a year to the region.

Pauline will be having hip replacement surgery on March 1<sup>st</sup>, so she is busy preparing all the bookkeeping work she can to be ready for her absence. We all wish her well and a speedy recovery.

Adam highlighted some of the good work we have been doing recently with both the Chamber and Economic Development. In addition to the byways marketing we are working on with the Chamber, his first item of old business on the Champlain Bridge deals with the testimony in support of businesses we coordinated with Economic Development. We are working better and more closely than ever with both the Chamber and Economic Development and it is really expanding the effectiveness of all organizations.

## **VII. Old Business:**

1. **Crown Point Bridge** – Ed Payne noted that they are limiting use to lighter traffic. Adam noted that the dock can't take heavier trucks. Heavier beams will be installed later this month under the docks, so it can accommodate heavier trucks.
2. **EECBG Grant updates** – We have received both the Federal and State contracts and they are signed. The State grant covers the outreach work of the Energy Committee. The Federal grant covers the municipal building audits. Adam met with the Sheriff's office. Kevin has begun work on the electric car charging stations.
3. **Appointment of Addison County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC)** The Executive Board reappointed Bruce Webster, who is feeling better. He has agreed that should he be unable to attend their meetings, he will step down from the position.
4. **New Planner** – Claire Tebbs will start March 1. She will be doing a lot of our land use work and grant writing for municipalities, which was part of our Strategic Planning initiative. Claire is a landscape architect who has done project management, village design, storm water design, and has an agricultural background. She has many talents, much like everyone on our staff.

- VIII. **New Business:** Thea announced that it is time to begin thinking about electing a Nominating Committee for Executive Board Officers. This process ends with the Full Commission voting on Officers at our Annual Meeting in May. Adam requested that anyone interested in serving on the Nominating Committee please speak with someone on the Executive Board. Thea added that there is no term limit on the Nominating Committee itself, even though there are term limits on the Officer positions.
- IX. **Members Concerns:** Fred would like to acknowledge Bob's efforts on the active Energy Committee.
- X. **Adjourn:** There being no further business, Peter Grant moved to adjourn the meeting; Kent Wright seconded. Thea adjourned the meeting at 9:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Elizabeth Golden  
Land Use and Environmental Planner