

Meeting Minutes
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Wednesday, September 12, 2012

ACRPC held its Monthly Meeting at Room #216 of Bicentennial Hall on the Middlebury College Campus in Middlebury on September 12, 2012 with Harvey Smith of New Haven, presiding.

ROLL CALL:

<i>Addison:</i>		<i>Orwell:</i>	
<i>Bridport:</i>	Ed Payne Andrew Manning	<i>Panton:</i>	
<i>Bristol:</i>	Bill Sayre Chico Martin	<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip
<i>Cornwall:</i>		<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>		<i>Shoreham:</i>	
<i>Goshen:</i>	Chad Chamberlin	<i>Starksboro:</i>	
<i>Leicester:</i>		<i>Vergennes:</i>	
<i>Lincoln:</i>		<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Fred Dunnington Karl Neuse David Hamilton Susan Shashok	<i>Weybridge:</i>	
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette Wendy Sue Harper	<i>Whiting:</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer
<i>New Haven:</i>	Harvey Smith		

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

<i>Addison County Farm Bureau:</i>	Kent Wright
<i>Addison County Economic Development Corp:</i>	Harvey Smith
<i>Otter Creek Audubon Society:</i>	
<i>Otter Creek Natural Resources:</i>	Paul Wagner
<i>Addison County Chamber of Commerce:</i>	

ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair: Harvey Smith
Vice-Chair: Jeremy Grip
Secretary: William Sayre
Treasurer: Fred Dunnington
At Large: Steve Revell
Andrew Manning
Ellen Kurrelmeyer

STAFF

Executive Director: Adam Lougee
Assistant Director/GIS Manager: Kevin Behm
EM/Senior Planner: Tim Bouton
Transportation/Senior Planner: Daryl Benoit
Land use Planner: Claire Tebbs
Office Manager/Bookkeeper: Pauline Cousino
Regional Planner: Kevin Lehman

7:30 PROGRAM: The program for the evening focused on insect born diseases. ACRPC staff has gathered a panel of local experts to address the questions of the community in response to the recent confirmation of eastern equine encephalitis in the Addison Region and the subsequent aerial spraying in limited areas. Harvey welcomed all guests and introduced our panel for the evening in the order in which they would speak.

1. Tom Basket, Chair Lemon Fair Insect Control District;
2. Gary Meffe, Chair Brandon, Leicester, Salisbury and Goshen Insect Control District;
3. Alan Graham, Agency of Agriculture, Vector Management Specialist
4. Erica Berl, Department of Health

Tom Basket, Chair Lemon Fair Insect Control District started the conversation for the evening. He spoke about the aerial spraying of larvacide that the district routinely engages in. He noted that this generally kills nuisance mosquitoes. He also noted that because of the dry summer, the district had been less active than it had in years past.

Gary Meffe, Chair Brandon, Leicester, Salisbury and Goshen Insect Control District spoke next. He noted that this district sprayed both larvacide and then also followed up and sprayed for adult mosquitoes as necessary over the course of the summer. He noted that like the Lemon Fair District they targeted primarily flood-plain born mosquitoes whose large populations were a nuisance to people. He noted the pesticides uses were primarily biological, dissipated quickly and had very low toxicity levels. He emphasized the training and responsibility of his crews and the local volunteers and funding the supported the organization. He also emphasized personal protection by using DEET bug spray.

Alan Graham, Agency of Agriculture, Vector Management Specialist spoke next. He explained that his job with the Agency was to be the expert on mosquitoes. He noted that there were over 46 species of mosquitoes in Vermont, some more harmful or more of a nuisance than others. His main task is to conduct surveillance for the Agency and Health Department by trapping mosquitoes. He then determines what type of mosquitoes are hatching and makes recommendations to the State and local mosquito districts about appropriate actions to take. He noted he paid special attention to mosquitoes able to carry ARBO viruses, like West Nile virus or Eastern Equine Encephalitis (“EEE”), which are harmful to humans or domestic livestock. He noted this year; mosquito populations in general were significantly smaller than in previous years, mainly attributable to the dry weather.

When the first case of EEE surfaced in Vermont, at the request of the Department of Health, he went hunting in the vicinity to sample local mosquito populations. He noticed that the species of mosquito primarily capable of carrying EEE, made up higher concentrations of the total mosquito population, and were significantly concentrated in hardwood swamps. He recommended spraying around those areas.

Erica Berl, of the Department of Health spoke last. She noted it was her Department that is ultimately responsible for human health in the State. They were responsible for organizing the reaction to the outbreak of EEE in the region. After coordinating with Alan's surveillance and other experts, the health Department decided the threat was significant enough to warrant additional spraying in specified locations in Addison and Rutland County. The spraying was completed within a week of the initial diagnosis. No subsequent cases have emerged to date. However, she expects that other cases will occur in the future and asked individuals to be diligent and to support funding for additional work in this area.

The Panel opened the floor for questions. Lots of commissioners and members of the general public asked good questions about the mosquitoes, the pesticides and the actions of the Health Department and Insect Control Districts both currently and in the future. The panel responded knowledgeably and succinctly to each question. They noted that a lot of information exists on the Department of Health's and the BLSG insect control District website. The discussion concluded at 9:30.

Harvey thanked each of the panelists for speaking.

9:30 BUSINESS MEETING: Harvey Smith, the Chair, called the Meeting to order at 9:35 to address the Commission's agenda. Harvey requested to shorten the agenda due to the lateness of the hour. The Commission assented.

- I. Approval of the Minutes of the July 11, 2012 meeting. Thea Gaudette of Monkton moved the minutes. Fred Dunnington of Middlebury seconded the motion. The Commission passed the minutes by voice vote, unanimously.**
- II. Executive Board Minutes:** Chairman Smith of New Haven noted that draft set of Executive Board minutes from August 22, 2012 were inserted in the packet for people's information. He offered all the opportunity to ask questions or to comment. Hearing none, he moved to the next item on the agenda.
- III. Treasurer's Report:** Adam handed out the treasurer's report as of September 12, 2012. He explained that the attached monthly budget report was as of June 30th, ACRPC's fiscal year end and that our audit was currently in process. Adam noted that with our fund balances remained strong, he was sorry to report that he had not done as well balancing the budget this past year as he had previously. The unaudited budget shows a loss for last year of about \$40,000. While the audit will change that number somewhat, Adam expects it will remain roughly the same. It is the first time in 12 years ACRPC has lost money. Adam noted that he had reviewed the reasons for the loss in depth with the Executive Board. He referred the Commissioners to the Executive Board minutes for a detailed description of the reasons for the loss.

Ellen Kurrelmeyer of Whiting moved to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted. Thea Gaudette of Monkton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Ellen suggested that because of the late hour that Adam resend the executive Board minutes and the Treasurer's report to all delegates so all are adequately informed of last year's budget loss.

IV. **Committee Reports:** Tabled until the October meeting.

V. **Joint Partners Report:** Tabled until the October meeting.

VI. **Delegate/Staff Recognition/ Project Highlights:** Tabled until the October meeting.

VII. Old Business:

Vermont Gas Pipeline Update: Harvey noted that Vermont Gas had recently announced that they may be changing the configuration of their route through Addison County in order to all them to serve the International Paper mill in Fort Ticonderoga, NY. Vermont Gas is currently negotiating with the Fort Ti mill to provide a Transmission line all the way to the mill. If the negotiations are successful, this will extend the transmission system about 10 miles longer, closer to Rutland than Vermont Gas had previously planned. No definitive plans currently exist, but the commission will keep in touch with Vermont Gas to stay updated on the project.

Committee Assignments: Harvey noted that the Executive Board had made committee assignments. They are included in your packages. He asked all members to please look to confirm their assignments and to please see Adam or any member of the Executive Board if you have questions or concerns. He also noted for those that had not requested an assignment that would still be welcome to join a committee if they chose to do so and invited them to continue to make requests to Adam or any member of the Executive Board.

VII. New Business:

This Year's Budget FY 2012-2013: Adam reviewed this year's budget that the commission had passed at its June meeting. He reminded the commission that the items on the budget highlighted in yellow were projected income that staff was pursuing, but had not come in yet and may not come in. He also noted that staff continued to pursue other funding opportunities supporting our mission. Adam referred the Commission to the list outside the budget on the bottom of the first page. He walked the commission through each item listed and explained what the funding would support and how staff would pursue it. Thea asked if the projected applications would cover the hole that exists if those included in the budget are not funded. Adam noted that the total funding would be also most twice as much as the current hole, but he did not expect every application would be successful. Harvey noted that this item was for discussion only and that the commission did not need to act further on it. We would continue to review it throughout the year. Adam noted that he would work hard not to show a deficit again next year.

VIII. Members Concerns: Tabled until the October meeting.

IX. Adjourn: Thea Gaudette of Monkton moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion, passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted:
Adam G. Lougee, Director**