

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGIONAL ENERGY COMMITTEE  
December 07, 2017  
MEETING MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission's Regional Energy Committee was held on Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 4:00PM in the Board Room of the Central Vermont Regional Medical Center.

**Committee Members Present:**

Steve Fitzhugh – Town of Northfield Planning Commission  
Jamie Stewart – Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation  
Karen Horn – Vermont League of Cities & Towns  
Julie Potter – RPC Representative - Town of East Montpelier  
Barbara Conrey – City of Montpelier Energy Committee  
Karin McNeill – Agency of Natural Resources  
Ron Krauth – RPC Representative - Town of Middlesex  
Robert Dostis – Green Mountain Power

**Committee Members Not Present:**

Patty Richards – Washington Electric Coop  
Mark Sousa – Green Mountain Transit  
Paul Zabriskie – Capstone Community Action  
Jackie Cassino – Agency of Transportation  
Bram Towbin – Town of Plainfield Selectboard  
Don LaHaye – RPC Representative - Town of Waitsfield  
Brian Fitzgerald – RPC Representative - Town of Duxbury  
Dan Potter – Vermont Public Service Department  
Janet Shatney – RPC Representative - Barre City  
Alex Bravakis – Novus Energy Development

**Others Present:**

John Brabant – Town of Calais  
Eric Vorwald – CVRPC Senior Planner

**CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME:**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Fitzhugh 4:05PM.

**CHANGES OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

No quorum was present therefore changes to the agenda could not be made.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No members of the public were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

No quorum was present therefore no action was taken on approval of the minutes from the April, 27, 2017, May 24, 2017, or November 29, 2017 meetings.

REVIEW OF DRAFT REGIONAL ENERGY PLAN:

Mr. Vorwald noted that the Committee would continue discussions and review of the draft regional energy plan and focus on the Pathways & Implementation Actions section. He began by providing a few overall comments on this section including that he was recommending the “cost” column be removed since it would be difficult to estimate costs for all the projects and leaving the column as “TBD” seemed unnecessary. Instead, he noted that language would be added at the beginning of this section indicating that resources would be needed to complete the identified actions including funding, personnel, and time. The committee agreed with this approach.

Next, Mr. Vorwald led the committee through a review of the pathways & implementation actions and identified specific changes. One notable change that Mr. Vorwald highlighted was the inclusion of policies and actions related to mapping. He indicated that this information was previously included in the mapping section but was moved since specific actions were now being identified. The committee discussed specific changes throughout the document and suggested updates to help clarify the information.

At the conclusion of this review, Mr. Vorwald continued a discussion from the previous meeting regarding limitations on turbine heights for wind generation facilities. Mr. Vorwald cited examples from other regional energy plans regarding this topic and also noted that the Central Vermont Regional Plan’s future land use section discussed prohibiting or limiting development of energy generation facilities in specific locations due to their impacts on environmentally sensitive areas. He also noted that many of the prime resource areas for wind generation were located in the future land use categories that limited energy development. Mr. Vorwald indicated that he would include references to the regional plan where appropriate. Next, the committee discussed including provisions that would limit the height of turbines. Mr. Brabant suggested specific language that could be included which was similar to other regional energy plans. The committee agreed to include language to this effect and it was recommended that the language be shared with the committee prior to inclusion in the plan.

Since a quorum was not present, Mr. Vorwald asked if there was consensus among the committee members to forward the draft, with the changes discussed, to the Regional Planning Commission to begin their review and consideration of final adoption. The members present agreed to this action and suggested the draft be forwarded to the Regional Planning Commission.

OTHER BUSINESS:

No other business was identified.

ADJOURN:

With no additional items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.