

1 State level the highest priority are the large forest blocks and that it's important to recognize and
2 prevent further fragmentation. Addition it's also important to consider the connections between block
3 and protecting those. The maps and data are available to everyone on BioFinder -
4 <http://anr.vermont.gov/maps/biofinder/>. Lastly Ms. Przyperhart spent a few minutes talking about our
5 Regional Plan and what we should consider updating in the future including these large forest blocks.

6 Q: Can you talk about habitat bio diversity?

7 A: Each species needs different types of habitats and some need more than others.

8 Q: Can you talk about the roles that both urban and rural communities have?

9 A: In urban centers the waterways are some of the most important resources and looking to keep
10 vegetation along the river edges is important. In rural areas we have a wider range of resource to
11 consider for protection.

12 Q: Where does farm land fall on these maps?

13 A: We are focuses on forest in this data and we don't include farm land.

14

15 **Regional Energy Plan**

16 Eric Vorwald presented on the draft Regional Energy Plan and the steps to advance the Plan to public
17 hearing and adoption. Mr. Vorwald started by outlining the relationship between the Regional Plan and
18 Regional Energy Plan. The Regional Energy Plan as it is written is a standalone plan that will need to be
19 incorporating in the Region Plan. To do this staff are proposing to update the existing energy element
20 and add a new appendix to the Regional Plan to hold the Regional Energy Plan.

21

22 Q: Why can't we just switch out the existing energy element with the Regional Energy Plan?

23 A: We could do this but that element would stick out because it would not have the same format or
24 tone as the rest of the Regional Plan.

25

26 Mr. Vorwald next talked about the updates to the Regional Energy Plan and comments we received
27 from the Public Service Department and other during its review. Almost all the comments were
28 requesting more details and clarification in the Plan. Each comment was considered and more details
29 where included. One of the more substantial comments was in reference to the Plans prohibition on
30 industrial scale wind. To address this a new paragraph is being proposed for page 15 to help explain
31 why. It was suggested and agreed upon by the Commissioner from Barre Town that all reference to
32 Barre Town be removed from the new paragraph. Discussion ensued on why we included a prohibition
33 on industrial scale wind in the Plan.

34

35 Q: On page v of the Plan it talks about the replacement of approximately 75,000 vehicles from fossil fuel
36 to alternative fuels. How is this possible when that number is larger than the existing number of vehicle
37 that exist in our Region?

38 A: That number includes existing and future vehicles.

39

40 The commission suggested clarifying that paragraph and making clearer that the 75,000 vehicles is a
41 future projection.

42

43 **2016 Regional Plan Update**

44 Eric Vorwald presented on the draft energy element and the steps to advance an update to the 2016
45 Regional Plan to public hearing and adoption. To incorporate the Regional Energy Plan into the 2016

1 Regional Plan staff will start by updating the existing energy element to match the data in the Regional
2 Energy Plan and include references to Regional Energy Plan which will be added as an appendix to the
3 2016 Regional Plan.

4
5 The next step after the update to the element is complete is to move both the Regional Plan and Regional
6 Energy Plan to public hearings. We are aiming for a March 1, 2018 start of the public hearing notice period
7 and this includes the holding of two public hearings.

8
9 Q: How will the Forest Integrity be included?

10 A: That language is still being worked on and will need to be included in the Regional Plan update before
11 we can move that plan to public hearing.

12
13 Discussion ensued about the Forest Integrity requirements and the public hearing on the Regional Plan.
14 The Commissioners felt it was important to move both Plans along at the same time and request the
15 Forest Integrity language be worked on and incorporated so that could happen.

16 17 **Public Hearings**

18 Julie Potter, Chair talk about an Executive Committee recommendation that the Town Plan Review
19 Committee hold public hearings for town plan approvals outside of the regular Commission meeting.
20 Currently these public hearings are all being held at the Commission meeting and the Executive
21 Committee would prefer that they be held in the town that is being reviewed. This recommendation
22 would change the order of the meetings but would not add a meeting because the hearing could be
23 done at and before the recommendations are presented to the Commission.

24
25 Discussion ensued on the town and regional plan review and approval and the public hearings process.
26 The Commission was in favor of this change and Eric will implement this recommendation right away.

27 28 **NOVEMBER 14, 2017 MEETING MINUTES**

29
30 No action was taken due to a lack of quorum.

31 32 **REPORTS**

33
34 Bonnie Waninger provided the following updates:

- 35 • The Chamber of Commerce is holding its Legislative Reception if you're interested in attending
36 please let the Chamber know.
- 37 • On Thursday January 12 from 5-7 pm at Montpelier City Hall GMT will present on the NextGen
38 Plan Capital District Service Scenarios.
- 39 • The Legislature is looking to know which Towns are still interested in Local Energy Plans. If your
40 Town is interested and would like to be added to the list please let Eric know.

41 42 **ADJOURNMENT**

43 *Meeting adjourn at 9:05 pm.*

44
45 Respectfully submitted,

46
47 Daniel Currier, Program Manager