**Executive Committee**

**Minutes**

**October 5, 2015**

Present were: L. Hill-Eubanks, J. Potter, T. Ruth, D. Strong, D. La Haye, B. Waninger, and L. Emery.

There were no members of the public present. Adjustments to the agenda included: deleting "strategic approaches for regional leadership," and adding notice of the Annual Meeting of the Central VT Economic Development Corporation and attendance at same.

The financials as of October 5, 2015 were reviewed.

Minutes of the August 31, 2015 Executive Committee meeting were accepted as written.

Executive Director's Report: B. Waninger reported on the regional storm water planning study with Plainfield, Barre City and Barre Town using clean water funds and analyzing how and where storm water is moving; transportation policy issues regarding funding for local match and moving forward; FEMA Federal grant requirements that we will now have to follow; and forest stewardship and fragmentation that will be a topic in the next legislative session. It was agreed to send the Executive Director's report to all the Commissioners.

Regional Planner: CVRPC has hired Eric Vorwald as the regional planner and he will be starting work November 2. He comes with a local and regional planning background and has experience with Councils of Governments in Pennsylvania.

Municipal Planning Grants: Six of our communities are applying for funds to update their plans and/or bylaws and one to analyze infrastructure capacity and needs. Sarah McShane is working as our part time planner and assisted with these grant applications. Michelle Braun who worked formerly for Northfield will also be working part time and sharing office space with Sarah. Michelle will be working on the energy element of the 2016 Regional Plan.

It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to authorize the Vice-Chair to sign the notice to proceed for the FY 15 emergency management planning grant to continue the emergency management planning assistance we are providing to our towns.

Per Diem for M.Wolz: Marianne Wolz, our VISTA volunteer, attended the Brownfields conference on our behalf. Her meal expenditures were $17.72 more than the per diem identified in the Personnel Policies. The Personnel Policy Review Committee is recommending that the policies reflect the GSA rate since it is linked geographically to current rates and updated annually. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to reimburse M. Wolz the additional $17.72.

Lake Champlain TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Plan Letter: The TMDL Plan makes recommendations on how to remove phosphorous from the Lake and assigns responsibility to various sectors--agriculture, municipal, waste water treatment, etc. The Town of Plainfield has requested that we sign their letter protesting the additional cost to towns without also associating a cost to developers; i.e. all contributors pay a fair share of the clean up. The TMDL Plan does not address the impact of runoff from residential development, however. Signing the letter would be support for Plainfield, but may also establish policy that we have not fully discussed. It was noted that we may not have enough information to weigh in as Plainfield has. It was suggested that the Executive Director draft a letter stating our concern over the inequities of the funding proposal for TMDL mitigation and urge the Agency to be as equitable as possible. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that the Executive Director draft a letter about the TMDL Plan and Vermont's initiative, share it with the Executive Committee members for their input, and the members meet at 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13 prior to the Commission meeting to make a decision on signing the letter.

Plan Central Vermont: The schedule for adoption of a 2016 Regional Plan by September 2016 is very tight and has gotten more so due to the need to amend the 2008 Regional Plan. There are several options that can be taken: allow the 2008 Plan to lapse; readopt the 2008 Plan to extend its life (and do so for only a year, for example) while continuing to develop the 2016 Plan; or have the Commission meet twice each month to get through the work. Agreeing to one of these options would provide for a more realistic time frame to adopt the 2016 Plan. We still need to discuss several elements and spend sufficient time on some substantial issues, such as energy siting. If we re-adopt the 2008 Plan to extend its life, there will still be issues with the data. We could explain this to Commissioners in a memo in hopes that the data won't hold up extending the 2008 Plan so that we have time to more fully discuss the 2016+ Plan.

It was agreed to revise the Plan Central Vermont (2016 Plan) to something more easily achieved and then see what it would mean if the 2008 Plan was readopted. The revised schedule should be presented at the December Commission meeting for discussion.

October 13, 2015 Commission Meeting Agenda: The Transportation Element was added to the agenda for discussion at 8:30 p.m. It was queried that if the Land Use element and map for the 2008 Regional Plan update aren't adopted at the October meeting, is there any value in continuing to discuss the 2008 Plan or should we move on to the 2016 Plan Central Vermont?

Central VT Economic Development Corporation Annual Meeting Breakfast, October 15: B. Atwood, B. Waninger, and J. Potter will be attending. If others are interested, let us know.