

BYLAWS UPDATE WORKGROUP

Tuesday, October 1, 2019 3:00 pm

CVRPC Office, 29 Main Street, Suite 4, Montpelier

AGENDA

3:00¹	Adjustments to the Agenda			
	Public Comment			
3:05	Minutes (Page 2)			
3:10	Indemnification Language Review (Page 5)			
3:30	Language Revisions (Page 8) Review and approve revised language as provided by staff			
4:25	Next Steps – Next Meeting			
4:30	Adjourn			

¹ All times are approximate unless otherwise advertised

Bylaws Work Group DRAFT Meeting Minutes September 3, 2019

Attendance: Steve Lotspeich, Julie Potter, Rich Turner, Bonnie Waninger, Nancy Chartrand

Chair Potter called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Quorum present.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None.

Public Comment

None.

Minutes

Turner moved to approve minutes of August 5 2019 as written; seconded by Lotspeich. Motion carried.

Terms Review

A review of the drafted language regarding terms was undertaken. It was agreed to change 'certified' to 'certified in writing by their appointing legislative body'; however further discussion ensued about the timing of certifications and continuous service beyond July 1st. Potter will redraft language for review.

Language Revisions

Review resumed with Article 5. Page 17, line 9 - Add 'and those nominations added to the slate' to complete the item.

Page 17, Line 17 – change 'all members of the Board' to 'all Commissioners'.

Page 18, Line 5 – discussion ensued regarding appointments to other organizations. It was determined the language would be left as is.

Page 18, Lines 20-26. Discussion ensued regarding rights of removal.

Line 25 – following governing body instead of DINSE suggested language amend to read 'in accordance with Section 302C'.

Page 19, Line 4 - replace 'yearly meeting that occurs in June' with 'regular June meeting'.

Page 20, Section 603 – changes suggested by DINSE appropriate.

Page 20, Section 604 – discussion ensued regarding the regularity of Committee meetings. Remove the word 'regular' from Section title and content.

Page 20, Section 605 – discussion on new language for section. Potter will draft language and discuss with Waninger and bring back to the Work Group for further review and approval.

- Page 21, Section 606 changes suggested by DINSE appropriate.
- Page 21, Section 607 discussion ensued regarding moving open meeting law language to the beginning of Section. Ultimately becoming Section 601 and renumbering the other sections. The changes suggested by DINSE appropriate.
- Page 21, Section 608 changes suggested by DINSE appropriate.
- Page 21, Section 609 change title to "Minutes and Public Records". Other changes appropriate as recommended by DINSE.
- Page 22, Article 7 Discussion ensued about moving this article within the bylaws to be part of Article 4 that addresses the organization, becoming a new Section 406. Other changes suggested by DINSE appropriate.
- Page 22, Article 8 Discussion ensued about approval of the annual assessment. New language suggested that rate be 'recommended by the Executive Committee and adopted by the Board' rather than 'established by the Executive Committee'. Other changes suggested by DINSE appropriate.
- Page 23, Section 803 changes suggested by DINSE appropriate.
- Page 23, Section 804, Line 11 discussion ensued to amend the recommended language to 'if approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board' and keep the statute citation.
- Page 23, Section 805, Line 20 Add 'budget,' prior to 'work plan'. Other changes suggested by DINSE appropriate.
- Page 23, Article 9 changes suggested by DINSE appropriate.
- Page 24, Line 1 change to 'member municipalities' vs. 'municipalities represented by Commissioners' and amend to 'by December 31st.'
- Page 24, Section 905 changes suggested by DINSE appropriate.
- Page 24, Section 906 discussion ensued regarding the proposed language. Potter offered to draft language for review and consideration.
- Page 24, Section 908 reverse chronology of Section 907 and 908, making Severability the last section. Other changes suggested by DINSE appropriate.

Discussion continued regarding dates and details of amendments to bylaws previously; and whether there need to be details as to what specific amendments were each time within the document.

Next Steps - Next Meeting

Work Group needs to address indemnification language and shared services language for municipal services agreements. Chartrand will redistribute the indemnification language for the next meeting as

well as Two Rivers example on shared services language. Chartrand will provide dates for our next meeting via follow-up email.

Adjourn

Lotspeich moved to adjourn at 3:50 pm, seconded by Turner. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Chartrand Office Manager



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SAMPLE INDEMNIFICATION INSERT TO CVRPC BYLAWS

Note to CVRPC Bylaws Workgroup: We have not tailored this language specifically to CVRPC, since you had requested a sample and are currently looking into similar provisions elsewhere (as well as your current insurance coverage).

Section 909: Indemnification

Note: New section.

- A. CVRPC shall indemnify any individual made a party to a proceeding because the individual is or was a director of CVRPC against liability incurred in the proceeding if the individual:
 - (1) conducted himself or herself in good faith; and
 - (2) reasonably believed:
 - (A) in the case of conduct in his or her official capacity with CVRPC, that the director's conduct was in its best interests; and
 - (B) in all other cases, that his or her conduct was not in opposition to CVRPC's best interests; and
 - (3) in the case of any proceeding brought by a governmental entity, the director had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful, and the director is not finally found to have engaged in a reckless or intentional criminal act.

Furthermore:

- (i) A director's conduct with respect to an employee benefit plan for a purpose the director reasonably believed to be in the interests of the participants in and beneficiaries of the plan is conduct that satisfies the requirements of subsection (A)(2)(B) above.
- (ii) The termination of a proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent is not, of itself, determinative that the director did not meet the standard of conduct described in this section.
- (iii) Indemnification permitted under this subsection (A) in connection with a proceeding by or in the right of CVRPC is limited to reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the proceeding.

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- B. CVRPC shall pay for or reimburse the reasonable expenses incurred by a director who is a party to a proceeding in advance of final disposition of the proceeding if:
 (1) the director furnishes CVRPC a written affirmation of his or her good faith belief that he or she has met the standard of conduct described in subsections (A)(1)-(3) above;
 - (2) the director furnishes CVRPC a written undertaking, executed personally or on the director's behalf, to repay the advance if it is ultimately determined that the director did not meet the standard of conduct; and
 - (3) a determination is made that the facts then known to those making the determination would not preclude indemnification under this section.

Furthermore:

- (i) The undertaking required by subsection (B)(2) above must be an unlimited general obligation of the director but need not be secured and may be accepted without reference to financial ability to make repayment.
- (ii) Except as provided in this subsection (B), CVRPC may not indemnify a director under subsection (A) above prior to the final resolution of a proceeding, whether by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, plea, or otherwise, and unless authorized in the specific case after a determination has been made that indemnification of the director is permissible in the circumstances because the director has met the standard of conduct as set forth above at subsection (A).
- (iii) Determinations and authorizations of payments under this section shall be made as follows:
 - (1) by the Board of directors by majority vote of a quorum consisting of directors not at the time parties to the proceeding;
 - (2) if a quorum cannot be obtained under subsection (B)(iii)(1) above, by majority vote of a committee duly designated by the Board of directors (in which designation directors who are parties may participate), consisting solely of two or more directors not at the time parties to the proceeding; or
 - (3) by special legal counsel:
 - (A) selected by the Board of directors or its committee in the manner prescribed in subsections (B)(iii)(1) or (B)(iii)(2) above; or

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- (B) if a quorum of the Board cannot be obtained under subsection (B)(iii)(1) above and a committee cannot be designated under subsection (B)(iii)(2) above, selected by majority vote of the full Board in which selections directors who are parties may participate.
- (iv) the authorization of indemnification and evaluation as to reasonableness of expenses shall be made in the same manner as the determination that indemnification is permissible, except that if the determination is made by special legal counsel, authorization of indemnification and evaluation as to reasonableness of expenses shall be made by those entitled under subsection (B)(iii)(3) above to select counsel.
- C. The right of indemnification and reimbursement provided by this Section 909 shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a director and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such person.
- D. The right of indemnification provided by this Section 909 shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those seeking indemnification may be entitled under any law, agreement, vote of disinterested directors, or otherwise, as to action in his or her official capacity, and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be such director and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such person.
- E. The right of indemnification provided by this Section 909 shall be deemed to be a contract between this CVRPC and each director of CVRPC who serves in such capacity, as to action in his or her official capacity, at any time while this Section 909 and the relevant provisions of applicable law, if any, are in effect, and any repeal or modification thereof shall not affect any rights or obligations then existing with respect to any state of facts then or theretofore existing or any action, suit or proceeding theretofore or thereafter brought or threatened based in whole or in part upon any such state of facts.
- F. The foregoing Sections 909(A)-(F) notwithstanding, CVRPC may not indemnify a director under this Section 909:
 - (i) in connection with a proceeding by or in the right of CVRPC in which the director was adjudged liable to CVRPC; or
 - (ii) in connection with any other proceeding charging improper personal benefit to the director, whether or not involving action in his or her official capacity, in which the director was adjudged liable on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received by the director.



CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION BYLAWS

Annotated Version – notes will be removed upon adoption

Adopted by the Commissioners on Month ##, 2019

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Commented [J1]: Update when annotation is removed after adoption.

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Commented [J2]: WG determined that Indemnification is an item for Procedures, not Bylaws

1 2	ARTICLES OF CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
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4	ARTICLE 1: NAME AND ADDRESS
5	Note: Compare to Article I in the current bylaws. No substantial changes.
6 7 8	The name of this organization shall be the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, hereinafter referred to as CVRPC. The principal address of CVRPC shall be the address of its offices.
9	ARTICLE 2: POWERS AND PURPOSES
L0 L1	Note: Compare to Article II in the current bylaws. Expanded discussion of powers includes Municipal Service Agreements, which must be explicitly identified in the bylaws for CVRPC to do.
12	Section 201: Legal Basis
13 14 15 16	The legal basis of CVRPC is established in the Vermont Municipal and Regional Planning and Development Act, codified at 24 V.S.A. Sections 4301 et seq. (Chapter 117) (hereinafter referred to as the "Act"), and other such laws as may be enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont.
۱7	Section 202: General Purpose
18 19 20 21	The purpose of CVRPC is to assist Central Vermont municipalities in providing effective local government and to work cooperatively with them to address regional issues. CVRPC shall coordinate and assist in efforts to promote the present and future health, safety and general welfare of the people of Central Vermont through planning and development activities.
22	Section 203: Regional Planning
23 24	CVRPC shall prepare and adopt a Regional Plan in accordance with the provisions of 24 V.S.A. Sections 4348 and 4348(a) and consistent with the goals of 24 V.S.A. Section 4302.
25 26	CVRPC shall undertake other activities or duties as required or permitted by state or federal law including, but not limited to, those outlined in 24 V.S.A Sections 4345, 4345(a), 4348, and 4350.
27	Section 204: Municipal Planning
28 29 30	CVRPC shall assist municipalities and their respective local boards, commissions and committees in developing and implementing municipal plans to promote the health, safety and welfare of residents and the local and regional areas with which CVRPC is concerned.
31	CVRPC may advise municipal governing bodies in all aspects of municipal governance.
32	Section 205: Studies, Plans, and Implementation
33 34	In accordance with the provisions of 24 V.S.A. Section 4345, CVRPC may undertake comprehensive planning and studies, and make recommendations on land development; urban

- 1 renewal; transportation; economic, industrial, commercial and social development; urban
- 2 beautification and design improvements; historic and scenic preservation; capital investment
- 3 plans, and natural resource protection. CVRPC may also implement, with the cooperation of
- 4 municipalities within the region, programs for the appropriate development, improvement,
- 5 protection and preservation of the region's physical and human resources.

6 Section 206: Municipal Service Agreements

- 7 CVRPC may enter into municipal service agreements, upon complying with the requirements
- 8 set forth at 24 V.S.A. Section 4345b, to promote cooperative arrangements and coordinate,
- 9 implement, and administer service agreements among municipalities, including arrangements
- and actions with respect to planning, community development, joint purchasing, inter-
- 11 municipal services, infrastructure, and related activities. Upon adoption of a municipal service
- 12 agreement in accordance with Article 8 of these Bylaws, CVRPC may exercise any power,
- 13 privilege, or authority, as defined within the municipal service agreement, capable of exercise
- 14 by a municipality (subject to applicable state or federal law) as necessary or desirable for
- dealing with problems of local or regional concern.

16 Section 207: Other Duties and Responsibilities

- 17 CVRPC may perform other acts or functions as it may deem necessary or appropriate to fulfill
- 18 the intent and purposes of the Act; to meet the obligations imposed by federal, state and local
- 19 law or regulations; and other duties and responsibilities that the Board deems appropriate.

20 ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION

- 21 Section 301: Member Municipalities
- 22 Note: Compare to Section 3.1 in current bylaws. No substantial changes.
- 23 CVRPC serves the Central Vermont Region, consisting of the following municipalities in
- 24 Washington and Orange Counties: Barre Town, City of Barre, Berlin, Cabot, Calais, Duxbury,
- 25 East Montpelier, Fayston, Marshfield, Middlesex, City of Montpelier, Moretown, Northfield,
- 26 Orange, Plainfield, Roxbury, Waitsfield, Warren, Washington, Waterbury, Williamstown,
- 27 Woodbury and Worcester. All municipalities within the Central Vermont Region are members
- 28 of CVRPC.
- 29 Section 302: Appointment and Terms of Commissioners and Alternates
- 30 Note: Compare to Section 3.2 in current bylaws. Defines terms to coincide with fiscal year.
- A. Representation on the CVRPC shall be by commissioners. The legislative body of each member municipality may appoint one commissioner (a "Commissioner") and one alternate (an "Alternate") to the CVRPC Board of Commissioners (the "Board").
- B. Municipal legislative bodies shall certify the appointment of their Commissioner and
 Alternate in writing to CVRPC. Commissioners and Alternates begin serving immediately
 upon certification of appointment unless otherwise specified in the appointment.
 Commissioners and Alternates may not vote or otherwise formally serve until such
 appointment has been certified.

Deleted: No

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Deleted: in writing by the appointing legislative body

1	<u>C</u> .	Terms for Commissioners and Alternates are one year, from July 1 to June 30
2		Commissioners and Alternates may be appointed to serve successive terms.

- D. Commissioners and Alternates who are appointed mid-term shall serve out the term ending June 30 and may continue serving for the subsequent term starting July 1 without recertification. Once a Commissioner or Alternate serves for a consecutive 12-month period the appointment must be re-certified for the next term beginning on July 1.
- 8 E. Commissioners and Alternates serve at the pleasure of the appointing legislative body, 9 which may revoke a Commissioner or Alternate's appointment at any time pursuant to 10 24 V.S.A. Section 4343(a).
- 11 F. In the absence of the Commissioner at any meeting of the Board, the Alternate shall sit 12 as the Commissioner and exercise all of the authority of the Commissioner at that 13 meeting.
- G. Alternates shall not participate in place of Commissioners on committees or in any
 office.
- H. In the event of the death, resignation, disqualification or removal of a Commissioner or
 Alternate, a successor shall be appointed promptly, as provided in subsection 302A.
- 18 Section 303: Voting

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- 19 Note: Compare to Section 3.4 in current bylaws. Provision for vote by mail removed.
- 20 A. Each Commissioner shall have one vote in all actions taken by the Board.
- B. Prior to any vote on any matter before the Board, a Commissioner may request time
 and opportunity to consult with the Commissioner's municipal legislative body before
 casting a vote on such matter. When so requested, the vote shall be postponed, unless
 such postponement results in violation of the Act or other Vermont law.
- 25 Section 304: Resignation
- 26 Note: New section.
- 27 Any resignation of a Commissioner or Alternate shall be submitted to CVRPC in writing.
- 28 Section 305: Attendance
- 29 Note: New section.
- 30 If a Commissioner is absent without good reason for three sequential Board meetings, the Chair
- 31 shall contact that Commissioner to determine whether the Commissioner has a continued
- 32 interest in serving and availability to serve on the Board.
- 33 ARTICLE 4: ORGANIZATION
- 34 Section 401: Board of Commissioners
- 35 Note: New section.

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Commented [J3]: Note that requiring recertification means that we are dropping the "serve until a successor is appointed" language. This also affects TAC in Section 403G

Commented [BW4]: Discussion point for Workgroup, Exec, & Board: If certification is not received, will CVRPC exclude an existing Commissioner from voting? If so, I recommend we give towns a heads-up in writing.

- 1 The Board shall consist of the Commissioners and Alternates serving in the absence of a
- 2 Commissioner. It shall be the duty of each Commissioner to regularly report on the activities of
- 3 CVRPC to the legislative body and the local planning commission of the municipality of the
- 4 Commissioner's appointment.
- 5 Section 402: Officers

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- 6 Note: Compare to Section 6.1 in current bylaws. Language combines Secretary and Treasurer into one position. Parliamentary advice is moved from Secretary to Vice Chair. See also the Duties of Officers policy, adopted 2/13/96.
- 9 A. CVRPC's officers shall consist of a chair (the "Chair"), vice chair (the "Vice Chair"), and secretary/treasurer (the "Secretary/Treasurer"), all each of whom shall be duly appointed Commissioners of member municipalities.
- 12 B. Duties of officers shall be as follows:
 - The Chair shall call meetings of the Board and the Executive Committee and shall preside at these meetings. The Chair shall prepare and cause to be distributed to members, an agenda for all Board and Executive Committee meetings. The Chair shall perform such other duties as are normal or customary to the office, or which may be assigned by the Board. The Chair shall cast a vote on all issues voted on at a Board or Executive Committee meeting, unless the Chair wishes to abstain.
 - 2. The Vice Chair shall act as Chair in the absence or incapacity of the Chair and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board. The Vice Chair may also advise the Chair on parliamentary issues. The Vice Chair shall act as Secretary/Treasurer in the absence or incapacity of the Secretary/Treasurer.
 - 3. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be CVRPC's recording officer and the custodian of its records, except as those duties are delegated to CVRPC staff. The Secretary/Treasurer shall perform all duties customary to that office, including overseeing all CVRPC financial records and overseeing minutes of Board meetings and such Committee meetings as the Chair may designate.
- 29 C. Additional officer duties may be assigned by a policy adopted by the Board.

30 Section 403: Standing Committees

- 31 Note: New section.
- 32 A. General
 - Standing committees (the "Standing Committees") have a long-term role in CVRPC's operations and core programs.
 - Each Standing Committee shall have rules of procedure approved by the Board (the "Rules of Procedure"). The Rules of Procedure shall specify the committee's purpose, general activities, role, membership, voting procedures, officers,

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1	elections, attendance and quorums, communication and coordination, conflict or
2	interest policy, and adoption of organizational procedures.

- 3. Standing Committees may establish \underline{s} ubcommittees and \underline{w} orkgroups as needed to accomplish committee business.
- 4 Unless otherwise specified in the Rules of Procedure, all Standing Committee members are eligible to vote on committee business.
- All Standing Committees shall maintain meeting minutes. Standing Committees shall report to the Board as it directs.

B. Executive Committee

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Note: Compare to section 6.7 of current bylaws. Expanded to better reflect actual responsibilities of the Executive Committee. See also Duties of Executive Committee Policy, adopted 2/13/96 and Executive Committee Rules of Procedure, adopted 7/2/18.

- The executive committee (the "Executive Committee") shall consist of seven Commissioners (in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Section 4343(b)), including the three (3) officers and four (4) at-large members who shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Duly-appointed Commissioners are eligible for Executive Committee membership. The officers of the Board shall be the officers of the Executive Committee.
- 2. The purpose and duties of the Executive Committee shall be to:
 - Oversee and approve an annual work plan and budget for CVRPC, including budget adjustments.
 - b. Set municipal dues.
 - b. Oversee and approve an organizational plan for CVRPC.
 - Authorize and accept grants, agreements and contracts with outside organizations and agencies.
 - d. Review and accept the annual audit.
 - e. Approve the addition and elimination of staff positions as recommended by the executive director. Adopt job descriptions and wage ranges for staff positions.
 - f. Adopt and oversee personnel, financial, procurement, operational and administrative policies and procedures.
 - e. Monitor emerging issues affecting CVRPC.
 - f. Approve agendas for Board meetings.
 - g. Recommend to the Board or, if timing requires, take appropriate action on policy issues, including legislative issues, state or federal plans and policy, regional planning commission allocation formulas or other issues affecting the Central Vermont Region and its municipalities.

1	h.	Act on behalf of the Board in the absence of a quorum of the Board when
2		time precludes the delay of decision or action until the next regular
3		meeting of the Board.

i. Carry out other actions in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Section 4343(b) or as directed by a policy adopted by the Board.

C. <u>Nominating Committee</u>

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Note: Compare to Section 6.3 in current bylaws. This language increases the role of Nominating Committee. See also Nominating Committee Guidelines adopted 3/9/99. Rules of Procedure still need to be developed.

- The nominating committee (the "Nominating Committee") shall consist of three

 (3) Commissioners or Alternate Commissioners. The Executive Committee shall nominate candidates for the Nominating Committee, taking demonstrated commitment to CVRPC into account. Nominees shall be submitted at the January Board meeting, and additional nominations may be made from the floor. The Board shall elect the Nominating Committee annually at its January meeting.
- 2. The purpose and duties of the Nominating Committee shall be to:
 - Identify and recommend to the Board a slate of candidates for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer and at-large members of the Executive Committee.
 - Identify and recommend to the Board candidates for Standing and Special Committees and CVRPC representatives appointed by the Board to other organizations.

D. <u>Regional Plan Committee</u>

Note: Rules of Procedure still need to be completed.

- The regional plan committee shall consist of five (5) Commissioners or Alternate Commissioners (the "Regional Plan Committee") who shall be elected at the Board's Annual Meeting.
- 2. The purpose and duties of the Regional Plan Committee shall be to:
 - Oversee development and maintenance of the Regional Plan, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Section 4347 and the requirements and allowances in 24 V.S.A. Section 4348(b), and make recommendations for approval by the Board.
 - b. Oversee other tasks related to the Regional Plan as assigned by the Board or required or permitted by the Act.

E. Project Review Committee

Note: Compare to Project Review Committee Rules of Procedure adopted 9/12/17.

1. The project review committee (the "Project Review Committee") shall consist of five (5) members plus one (1) committee alternate, each of whom shall be a Commissioner or an Alternate. Committee members and the committee

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1	alternate shall be elected at the Board's Annual Meeting. Committee members
2	and the committee alternate shall have staggered three-year terms.

- 2. The Project Review Committee shall offer advice, input, and opinions on proposed Act 250 and Section 248 projects, compatible with the plans, policies, positions or resolutions adopted by the Board of Commissioners. Project Review Committee advice, input, and opinions may be reviewed, confirmed or reversed by the CVRPC Board at the Board's discretion.
- 3. The purpose and duties of the Project Review Committee shall be to:
 - a. Evaluate Act 250 and Section 248 development projects relative to conformance with the Regional Plan.
 - b. Provide input and recommendations to the State, on behalf of the Board, regarding Act 250 and Section 248 projects.
 - c. Provide guidance to the staff and the Regional Plan Committee on amendments or changes to the Substantial Regional Impact criteria.
 - Provide the Board copies of all written decisions and recommendations regarding Act 250 and Section 248 projects.

F. Municipal Plan Review Committee

Note: Committee name changed. Rules of Procedure still need to be completed. Includes review of municipal plans and municipal enhanced energy plans.

- The municipal plan review committee (the "Municipal Plan Review Committee") shall consist of five (5) members who shall be elected at the Board's Annual Meeting. At least two (2) members shall be Commissioners and no more than (3) members shall be Alternate Commissioners.
- 2. The purpose and duties of the Municipal Plan Review Committee shall be to:
 - a. Review municipal plans for conformance to statutory requirements, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Section 4350(b), and make recommendations for approval to the Board.
 - b. Review municipal enhanced energy plans for determination of energy compliance, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Section 4352(b).
 - c. Review municipal planning processes, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Section 4350(a), and make recommendations for confirmation to the Board
 - d. Review the compatibility of all municipal plans at least every eight years and in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Section 4345a(9) and report its findings to the Board.
 - e. Provide guidance to municipalities about future plan updates and ways to strengthen planning efforts.

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G. <u>Transportation Advisory Committee</u>

Note: Compare to Transportation Advisory Committee Rules of Procedure adopted 10/11/17. <u>Terms changed to be aligned with fiscal year.</u>

- 1. The transportation advisory committee (the "Transportation Advisory Committee") shall consist of municipal representatives and representatives from transportation-related groups. Each of the member municipalities in the Central Vermont Region is eligible to appoint one voting member and one alternate to the Transportation Advisory Committee. Municipal participation is discretionary and determined by appointment by the municipality's legislative body. Upon the approval of 51% of the Transportation Advisory Committee, other transportation-related groups will be invited to appoint one voting member and one alternate to the Transportation Advisory Committee.
- Municipal legislative bodies shall certify the appointment of the committee
 member and alternate in writing to CVRPC. Committee members and alternates
 begin serving immediately upon certification of appointment unless otherwise
 specified in the appointment.
- Terms for committee members and alternates are one year, from July 1 to June
 Committee members and alternates may be appointed to serve successive terms.
- 4. Committee members and alternates shall serve out the term ending June, 30 and may continue serving for the subsequent term starting July 1 without recertification. Once a committee member or alternate serves for a consecutive 12-month period the appointment must be re-certified for the next term beginning on July 1.
- The Transportation Advisory Committee shall be advisory to the Board. The Transportation Advisory Committee will offer advice, input, and opinions to the Vermont Agency of Transportation and other organizations and individuals as appropriate, provided that they are compatible with plans, policies, positions or resolutions adopted by the Board. Transportation Advisory Committee advice, input, and opinions may be reviewed, confirmed or reversed by the Board at the Board's discretion. New or amended plans, policies, positions or resolutions by the Transportation Advisory Committee shall be approved by the Board.
- 6. The purpose and duties of the Transportation Advisory Committee shall be to:
 - Oversee the CVRPC transportation planning program in accordance with CVRPC plans, policies and procedures. This includes assisting with the development of CVRPC's annual transportation work program and budget.
 - b. Develop and update a regional transportation element as part of the Regional Plan.

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- c. Provide recommendations on funding and prioritization for the Agency of
 Transportation's Capital Budget and State Transportation Improvement
 Program.
 - Act as a liaison between local communities and the Vermont Agency of Transportation.
 - e. Provide local and regional input regarding transportation issues important to the region.

Section 404: Special Committees

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Note: Compare to section 6.8 in current bylaws. Language expanded to address formation, membership, role, rules of procedure, minutes, etc.

- A. The Board may create special committees ("Special Committees") as needed to address specific tasks or to oversee or advise CVRPC projects or programs.
- B. Special Committees may include Commissioners, Alternates, topic experts, interest
 group representatives, or other public representatives as appropriate to accomplish the
 purpose of the Special Committee. The Board shall appoint Commissioners or
 Alternates to serve as members of Special Committees. Special Committee members
 who are not Commissioners or Alternates shall be appointed as specified in the Special
 Committee's Rules of Procedure.
- C. Special Committees shall be advisory to the Board. Special Committees may offer advice, input, and opinions to agencies, other organizations and individuals as appropriate, provided that they are compatible with plans, policies, positions or resolutions adopted by the Board.
- D. Each Special Committee shall have Rules of Procedure approved by the Board. The
 Rules of Procedure shall specify the committee's purpose, general activities, role,
 membership, voting procedures, officers, elections, attendance and quorums,
 communication and coordination, conflict of interest policy, and adoption of
 organizational procedures.
- D. Special Committees may establish Subcommittees and Workgroups as needed to
 accomplish committee business.
- 30 E. Unless otherwise specified in the Rules of Procedure, all committee members are eligible to vote on committee business.
- 32 F. Special Committees shall maintain meeting minutes and report to the Board as it directs.
- 34 Section 405: Appointed Representatives
- 35 Note: Compare to Section 6.2 in current bylaws. Language modified to more generally apply to
- 36 appointments. Examples might be Council of Regional Commissions, VAPDA, GMTA, VEPC, Mad River
- 37 **Planning District.**

- $1 \quad \text{ The Board may appoint Commissioners, Alternates, or CVRPC staff to represent CVRPC on state} \\$
- 2 councils or the governing bodies of other organizations. Appointments shall be made at the
- 3 Annual Meeting, or when representation is requested.
- 4 Section 406: Staff
- 5 Note: See Section 6.6 in the current bylaws. Minor changes to address work plan.
- 6 A. CVRPC staff shall consist of an executive director (the "Executive Director") and any other administrative or technical staff as approved by the Executive Committee.
- 8 B. The Executive Director and staff shall implement the work plan approved by the Executive Committee and undertake other duties as the Board or Executive Committee assign.
- 11 C. All personnel matters shall be managed in accordance with the adopted Personnel 12 Policies. Job descriptions for all staff shall be kept on file.
- D. No person seeking employment or having business with CVRPC shall be discriminated against for reasons of race, color, national origin, ancestry, place of birth, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy, age, marital status, military/veteran status, genetic information, physical or mental disability, HIV status or any other characteristic protected by state or federal law.

ARTICLE 5: NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND TERMS

19 Section 501: Nominations

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- 20 Note: See Section 6.3 in current bylaws. Expanded language on process.
- The Nominating Committee will be appointed in accordance with Section 403C.
- 22 B. The Nominating Committee shall seek to balance the interests of CVRPC in order to have 23 the Executive Committee and Standing Committees be as reflective of the Board as 24 possible.
- C. The Nominating Committee shall follow its adopted Rules of Procedure and the adopted
 Nominating Committee Guidelines.
- D. The Nominating Committee shall present an initial slate of Officers and at-large
 Executive Committee members at the Board's April regular meeting, with a final slate of
 candidates at the May regular meeting. Additional candidates may be nominated from
 the floor at the May meeting, at which time nominations will be closed, and those
 nominations added to the slate.
- E. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of other Standing and Special
 Committee members and other appointed representatives at the Board's May regular
 meeting. Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor at the May regular
 meeting, at which time nominations will be closed.
- 36 Section 502: Elections
- 37 Note: See Section 6.3 in current bylaws. Slightly expanded language.

Commented [J6]: Section moved here from former Article 7.

- 1 A ballot, containing the final slate of Officers, Executive Committee, and other committee
- 2 candidates, shall be sent not more than five (5) days after the May meeting to all
- 3 Commissioners. The Secretary/Treasurer shall oversee vote counting and shall announce the
- 4 results at the Annual Meeting. The candidates receiving the most votes shall be elected. In the
- 5 event of a tie, the Board shall vote to break the tie at the Annual Meeting.
- 6 Section 503: Terms of Office
- 7 Note: See Section 6.4 of current bylaws. Changes terms to coincide with fiscal year.
- A. The terms of office for Officers and the Executive Committee are one year, from July 1
 to June 30.
- 10 B. The terms of office for other committees and appointments shall be from July 1 (or the date of appointment) to June 30, unless otherwise specified in the Committee Rules of Procedure.
- C. For the terms of office for Commissioners and Alternates, see Section 302B of these
 Bylaws.
- 15 Section 504: Vacancies
- 16 Note: See Section 6.4 in current bylaws. No substantial changes.
- 17 A. In the event that any Officer or Executive Committee position is vacated, such vacancy shall be filled at the next regular Board meeting. Members so elected shall hold office only for the balance of the current year or until their successors are elected and installed.
- 21 B. Committee Rules of Procedure shall address vacancies on other committees.
- 22 Section 505: Removal from Office
- Note: See Section 6.4 in current bylaws. Clarifies that "cause" is violation of Code of Conduct and
- 24 Conflict of Interest Policy.
- Any Officer or member of any committee may be removed from a committee for violations of CVRPC's adopted Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy. Removal requires a 60% vote of all members of the Board. Any action for removal must be warned one month in advance of the Board meeting at which such a vote will be taken.
- 29 B. Commissioners and Alternates may only be removed from the Board through action by their municipal governing body, in accordance with Section 302C.
- 31 ARTICLE 6: MEETINGS
- 32 Section 601: Open Meeting Law
- 33 Note: New section.
- 34 All meetings of the Board and committees established by the Board are subject to the Vermont
- 35 Open Meeting Law (codified at 1 V.S.A. Sections 310-314).
- 36 Section 602: Regular Board of Commissioners Meetings

- 1 Note: See Section 4.1 in current bylaws. No substantial changes.
- 2 Regular meetings of the Board shall be held on the second Tuesday of the month, or as
- 3 otherwise determined by either the Executive Committee or the Board. The time and place of
- 4 the regular meetings shall serve the convenience of the greatest number of Commissioners, as
- 5 determined by the Board.
- 6 Section 603: Annual Meeting
- 7 Note: See Section 4.1 in current bylaws. Annual meeting moved from May to June to have new
- 8 positions start with fiscal year and enable newly-appointed Commissioners and Alternates a chance to
- 9 participate on committees their first year.
- 10 The annual meeting shall be the regular meeting that occurs in June (the "Annual Meeting").
- 11 Section 604: Special Board of Commissioners Meetings
- 12 Note: See Section 4.2 in current bylaws. No substantial changes.
- 13 Special meetings may be called by the Chair, the Executive Committee, or by a majority vote of
- 14 the Board.
- 15 Section 605: Committee Meetings
- 16 Note: New section.
- 17 Committees shall meet at a day, place, and time determined by each committee.
- 18 Section 606: Notice of Meetings
- 19 Note: See Section 4.3 in current bylaws. Text edited to focus on compliance with OML. Specific
- 20 distribution list removed.
- A. Notice of Board meetings shall be provided in accordance with the Open Meeting Law.

 To the extent possible, CVRPC will provide five (5) days notice of meetings.
- B. Notice of committee meetings shall be provided in accordance with the Open Meeting
 Law. To the extent possible, CVRPC will provide five (5) days notice of meetings. Notice
 of committee meetings shall be provided to Commissioners and Alternates.
- 26 Section 607: Quorum
- Note: See Section 3.4 in current bylaws. Language changed from majority of Commissioners to majority of seats in order to comply with statute.
- A. A majority of Commission seats shall comprise a quorum for Board meetings and transacting business. In the event of a tie vote on any matter before the Board, including the vote of the Chair, such motion, resolution or action shall be considered defeated.
- B. A majority of voting committee seats shall comprise a quorum for committee meetings.
 In the event of a tie vote on any matter before the committee, including the vote of the
 chair, such motion, resolution, or action shall be considered defeated.
- 36 Article 608: Parliamentary Authority

Commented [BW7]: Comment: OML requires notice to the public, not only to parties participating or requesting notice.

Deleted: to Commissioners and Alternates

Deleted: Notice of Board meetings shall also be provided to other parties requesting notice.

Deleted: to committee members and alternates

Commented [BW8]: Under OML, "Notice" is the day and time of regular or special meetings. Should this be clarified to be "agendas"?

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- 1 Note: See Section 4.5 in current bylaws. No substantial changes.
- 2 Roberts Rules of Order (the most current edition then in effect) shall generally govern the
- 3 proceedings of the Board and all CVRPC committees, unless otherwise specifically covered
- 4 within these Bylaws or by any other special rules the Board may adopt.
- 5 Section 609: Minutes and Public Records
- 6 Note: See Section 4.4 in current bylaws. Language slightly expanded.
- 7 Minutes of all meetings of the Board and all committees established by the Board shall be kept
- 8 and copies shall be available to all Commissioners, member towns, and the general public in
- 9 accordance with the Vermont Public Records Act (codified at 1. V.S.A. Sections 315-320).

10 ARTICLE 7: FUNDING

- 11 Section 701: Fiscal and Operational Year
- 12 Note: See Article V in current bylaws. No substantial changes.
- 13 CVRPC's fiscal and operational year shall be from July 1 to June 30 (the "Fiscal Year").
- 14 Section 702: Membership Assessment
- 15 Note: See Article VIII in current bylaws.
- 16 The Executive Committee shall annually recommend a schedule and rate for membership dues
- 17 to the Board. The Board shall annually consider the Executive Committee's recommendation
- 18 and adopt membership dues. CVRPC shall notify in writing all municipalities within the region
- on or before November 15th of the sums it deems necessary to be received from said
- municipalities for the <u>next</u> Fiscal Year.
- 21 Section 703: Grants, Contracts and Contributions
- 22 Note: See Article VIIIc in current bylaws. Slightly expanded language.
- 23 CVRPC may receive and expend monies from any source, public or private, without limitation,
- 24 including funds made available from individuals, municipalities, the State of Vermont, the
- 25 federal government, private foundations, corporate partners, or trusts.
- 26 Section 704: Borrowing Authority
- 27 Note: See Article VIIId in current bylaws. <u>Slightly edited for clarity and to reference statute.</u>
- 28 CVRPC may borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purposes of purchasing or leasing
- 29 property for office space, establish and administer a revolving loan fund, or establish a line of
- 30 credit, if approved by a two-thirds vote of the <u>Board</u>. Any obligation by CVRPC incurred under
- 31 this Section 804 shall comply with the requirements set forth at 24 V.S.A. Section
- 32 4345(16)(B)(i)-(ii).
- 33 Section 705: Signatory
- 34 Note: See Article VII in current bylaws. Language is expanded to more clearly define signatory roles.

Commented [BW9]: Is this language necessary?

Deleted: in accordance with a schedule and rate

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Deleted: No substantial changes. This language is not grammatically correct, but is taken verbatim from statute.

Deleted: Commissioners or Alternates present and voting at a Board meeting to approve such action

- 1 A. The Executive Committee is responsible for approving contracts and agreements, and 2 shall authorize an Officer or the Executive Director to sign approved contracts, instruments, and agreements on behalf of CVRPC.
- 4 B. The Chair, Secretary/Treasurer and Executive Director are authorized to sign checks,
 5 notes, drafts and orders related to an approved budget, work plan, contract, or
 6 agreement. All other payments must be approved and authorized by the Executive
 7 Committee.

8 ARTICLE 8: MUNICIPAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS

- 9 Note: New article. Specifies process for municipal service agreements, as required by statute.
- 10 Adapted from NRPC.

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- 11 Section 801: Participation
- 12 Participation by a municipality in a municipal service agreement with CVRPC shall be voluntary
- 13 and only valid upon action by the Board and each of the legislative bodies of the municipalities
- 14 who are proposed parties to the service agreement. The agreement may include other parties
- as may be relevant to a particular service.

16 Section 802: Content of Agreement

- A. A municipal service agreement shall describe the services to be provided and the amount of funds payable by, and/or a formula for allocating costs to, each municipality that is a party to the service agreement. Service of personnel, use of equipment and office space, and other necessary services may be accepted from municipalities as part of their financial support and shall be clearly documented in the annual budget for the service approved by the parties to the agreement. A municipal service agreement shall include details regarding liability and enforcement.
- B. To become effective, a municipal service agreement shall be executed by a duly
 authorized agent of CVRPC and of each of the legislative bodies of the municipalities
 who are proposed parties to the service agreement. The agreement may include other
 parties as may be relevant to a particular service.
- C. When deemed appropriate by the participating municipalities and CVRPC, municipal service agreements may include a governance committee made up of representatives of the participating municipalities and CVRPC. If a governance committee is formed, the municipal service agreement shall include appropriate details regarding the responsibilities, voting rights and financial obligations of each member.
- D. Any modification to a service agreement shall become effective only when approved by all parties to the service agreement, including CVRPC's Executive Committee and the legislative bodies of all involved municipalities. Such modifications shall be in writing, with a copy provided to all parties to the agreement.
 - Section 803: Termination of Agreement

Commented [J10]: Should this be: clearly documented in the service agreement?

Commented [BW11]: It is necessary to document it in the annual budget for the service agreement so that a municipality receives credit for its full contribution (part of a municipality's cost share in the agreement can be inkind match). Also documenting in-kind contributions makes the total cost of service visible, which helps insure that our State allocation funds are not used to support the agreement (the law prohibits using those funds for these types of services without written permission).

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May 7, 2019 DRAFT – 7/18/19 DINSE REVIEW – 10/1/19 WG edits

- All municipal service agreements shall contain a termination date unless some other method of termination is expressly provided in the agreement. Service agreements shall also contain a provision describing how parties may withdraw from the agreement prior to the termination date. The method of withdrawing from and/or terminating a service agreement shall generally be the same as the process for entering such agreement i.e., by majority vote of the members of the municipal legislative body and CVRPC's Executive Committee, subject to other applicable provisions of law. If, however, the service agreement involves multi-year financial obligations, or other contractual obligations have been incurred in reliance on the service agreement, the withdrawing party shall withdraw only upon satisfaction of those obligations or mutual written agreement regarding the process to satisfy the same.
- 12 B. The withdrawal provision of a municipal agreement with one municipality shall provide for at least 30 days notice unless otherwise provided in the agreement.
- The withdrawal provision of a municipal agreement with multiple municipalities shall
 provide for at least six months notice prior to the beginning of a fiscal year, unless
 otherwise provided in the agreement.

Section 804: Other Contracted Services

- 18 Nothing within this article shall limit CVRPC's ability to enter into contracts or agreements to
- 19 provide services with other entities or governmental organizations, including those serving
- 20 multiple municipalities.

21 ARTICLE 9: SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

- 22 Section 901: Conflict of Interest
- 23 Note: See Section 3.5 in current bylaws. No substantial changes.
- 24 Commissioners have an obligation to conduct the affairs of their office in such a manner as to
- 25 instill public trust and confidence. CVRPC shall maintain a written policy on code of conduct
- 26 and conflict of interest. A copy of this policy shall be provided to all Commissioners and
- 27 Alternates at the time of their appointment.
- 28 Section 902: Work Plan and Budget
- 29 Note: New section. Adapted from SWCRPC VI.9
- 30 The Executive Director shall prepare an annual written work plan and budget that shall be
- 31 presented to the Executive Committee for approval. The approved work plan and budget shall
- 32 be presented to the Board at the July meeting or as soon as possible thereafter.
- 33 Section 903: Annual Report
- 34 Note: New section. Adapted from TRORC 7.9
- 35 The Executive Director shall prepare a written annual report to the member municipalities by
- 36 December 31st.
- 37 Section 904: Audit

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- 1 Note: New section. Adapted from SWCRPC VI.9
- 2 An annual audit, conducted by an independent CPA, shall be performed and a report shall be
- 3 presented to the Executive Committee at a duly warned meeting.
- 4 Section 905: Electronic Records and Signatures
- 5 Note: New section.

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- 6 To the maximum extent permissible by law, these Bylaws shall be construed so that electronic
- 7 documents or records shall be the legal equivalent of written instruments and authenticated
- 8 documents or records shall be the legal equivalent of signed or executed written instruments.
- 9 Section 906: Dissolution
- 10 Note: See Article IX in current bylaws. No substantial changes.
- 11 CVRPC shall be dissolved or terminated:
- A. Upon the affirmative and unanimous vote of the Board at an annual meeting, provided notice of the proposal of dissolution shall have been given in writing to each
 Commissioner and Alternate at least thirty days prior to such meeting; or
- B. When the number of participating municipalities represented by Commissioners shall be
 less than five.
- 17 Section 907: Amendments to Bylaws
 - Note: See Article X in the current bylaws. <u>Slightly edited for clarity</u>.
- A. A proposed amendment shall be placed on the agenda for any regularly scheduled meeting of the Board by vote of the Board or by vote of the Executive Committee.
 - B. The proposed amendment shall be discussed at the next pregular meeting of the Board and may be amended at that meeting. An affirmative vote of the Board is required to advance the agreed upon proposed amendment. That vote must direct that the final proposed amendment be placed on the agenda of a subsequent regular meeting for a final vote.
 - C. After the affirmative vote described in 907B, a proposed amendment shall be placed on the agenda for a final vote at a subsequent regular meeting of the Board. No amendment to the proposed amendment shall be allowed at the Board meeting during which the final vote is taken.
 - D. The proposed amendment shall become effective upon the affirmative vote of 60% of the Commissioners. If a 60% affirmative vote is not attained, the proposed amendment fails.
- 33 Section 908: Severability
- 34 Note: New section. Adapted from ACRPC 1403
- 35 If any provision of these Bylaws is held invalid, the other provisions of CVRPC's Bylaws shall not
- 36 be affected thereby.

Commented [J12]: Section moved here.

Deleted: No substantial changes

Commented [BW13]: Recommend removing the "firsts" and "seconds". They may cause people to think the item must appear on consecutive agendas.

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Commented [BW14]: This section was confusing for me because so many concepts were included in one sentence. You are welcome to restructure my restructuring.

Deleted: The proposed amendment shall proceed only upon an affirmative vote of the Board to propose such amendment to the Board in accordance with subsection 906C below.¶

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Deleted: , as it may have been amended,

Deleted: for the next considered

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1 Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Bylaws History

- 2 Note: Compare to Certificate at end of current bylaws. Language edited to retain only adoption and
- 3 amendment dates.
- 4 Bylaws first adopted April 27, 1967.

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- 6 Amended May 27, 1980.
- 7 Amended January 10, 1989.
- 8 Amended May 10, 1994.
- 9 Amended November 11, 1997.
- 10 Amended May 8, 2001.
- 11 Amended April 13, 2010.
- 12 Amended April 11, 2017.
- 13 Amended MONTH ##, 2019.

