

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES
January 14, 2020

Commissioners:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Barre City	Janet Shatney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moretown	Dara Torre, Secretary
<input type="checkbox"/>		Heather Grandfield, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>		Joyce Manchester, Alt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Barre Town	Byron Atwood	<input type="checkbox"/>	Northfield	Laura Hill-Eubanks, Chair
<input type="checkbox"/>		George Clain, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Orange	Lee Cattaneo
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Berlin	Robert Wernecke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Plainfield	Bram Towbin
<input type="checkbox"/>		Karla Nuissl, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>		Paula Emery, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cabot	Amy Hornblas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roxbury	Jerry D'Amico
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Calais	John Brabant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waitsfield	Don La Haye
<input type="checkbox"/>		Jan Ohlsson, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>		Harrison Snapp, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Duxbury	Alan Quackenbush	<input type="checkbox"/>	Warren	Alison Duckworth
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	E. Montpelier	Julie Potter	<input type="checkbox"/>		J. Michael Bridgewater, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Jack Pauly, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Washington	Peter Carbee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fayston	Carol Chamberlin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich, Vice-Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marshfield	Robin Schunk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Williamstown	Richard Turner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Middlesex	Ron Krauth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Williamstown	Jacqueline Higgins, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Montpelier	Marcella Dent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Woodbury	Michael Gray, Treasurer
<input type="checkbox"/>		Mike Miller, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Worcester	Bill Arrand

Staff: Bonnie Waninger, Nancy Chartrand, Dan Currier, Zachary Maia, Ashley Andrews, Pam DeAndrea
Guests: Sue Minter, Capstone Community Action; Jamie Stewart, Central Vermont Economic
Development Corp.; Dona Bate, Stewart Clark, John Hoogenboom, Clean Water Advisory Committee;
Karen Bates, Agency of Natural Resources

Call to Order

Vice-Chair Lotspeich called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. Quorum was present to conduct business.
The meeting began with introductions.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Public Comments

None

Daniel Currier Recognition of Service

S. Lotspeich asked D. Currier to provide details on his upcoming transition. Currier advised that he has
accepted a position as a Public Transit Coordinator for the Agency of Transportation. Lotspeich read a

1 resolution recognizing outstanding service by Currier. The resolution is available on CVRPC's website.

2
3 *R. Wernecke moved to adopt the resolution; A. Quackenbush seconded. Plainfield and Calais*
4 *representatives noted Currier would be missed, and all towns affirmed this. Motion carried.*
5

6 **Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation**

7 Jamie Stewart stated there were big announcements for Northfield and Waterbury; the Darn Tough
8 expansion will replace a majority of the Keurig jobs lost (approx. 100). The greatest concern is finding
9 100 employees. CVEDC and Vermont Department of Labor Vocational Rehabilitation are working on a
10 program with Community College of Vermont, Vermont Technical College, and area high schools to help
11 students learn skills needed for these jobs.

12
13 Stewart described CVRPC's partnership with work based learning coordinators at area high schools for
14 an advanced manufacturing day. Students spend half of the day meeting with businesses and half of the
15 day working with manufacturing equipment in a mobile lab. This event will be repeated in April at the
16 Barre Granite Museum with a focus on the Barre Granite industry in addition to other manufacturers.

17
18 Stewart noted wages for entry-level jobs are increasing along with benefits packages. Many area
19 businesses are funding of educational programs for employees.

20
21 Stewart commended Bonnie Waninger for leading the Working Communities grant team through its
22 application process. The team has been chosen to interview. Stewart said Waninger did an excellent
23 job organizing the stakeholders and helping them develop a strategy. He offered kudos to all involved
24 and the management of the process.

25
26 Stewart noted that the Act 250 process is in legislature this session. It will be important to monitor it.
27

28 **Capstone Community Action**

29 Sue Minter, Executive Director of Capstone Community Action also commended Waninger for her work
30 with the Working Communities team. Minter provided an overview of Capstone. It was founded in
31 1965, and serves Washington, Orange, Lamoille, and parts of Windsor Counties. She noted their
32 programs include: Crisis Services – meeting basic needs such as crisis fuel assistance, food shelf, housing
33 and homelessness prevention. Family Supports – Head Start, Family Literacy Center, weatherization
34 and efficiency services, supervised visitation, child care food program. Economic Self-Sufficiency –
35 financial empowerment programs to move people out of poverty such as Community Kitchen Academy,
36 Micro Business Development, Tax Preparation Program, and Savings and Credit Programs.

37
38 Minter provided information on the 2019 Community Needs Assessment highlighting:

- 39 • while Vermont's poverty rate only has increased ~ 2%, 20% of children 0-4 live below the
- 40 federal poverty level;
- 41 • 37% of people in Capstone's service area are not going beyond High School;
- 42 • low income females earn less than males (10-12K); and

- while there is a less than 1% vacancy rate for housing, people are paying 30 to 50% of their incomes for housing.

She relayed that the Community Needs Survey noted the following priorities: Housing & Utilities Transportation, Health/Mental Health, Food, Jobs.

Minter highlighted the upcoming Census 2020, as much relies on Census numbers. Capstone is spearheading a statewide campaign - Everybody Counts - and invites every town to participate.

There was an attempt to load a video for viewing which was unsuccessful, so the video will be posted on CVRPC's website. It was also requested that Minter provide additional Census information for distribution and posting.

There was an inquiry if there are other opportunities for Capstone to work with the Commission. Minter noted THRIVE is a key one; the Working Communities grant if awarded; and also the Downstreet Housing project in Berlin which includes a proposed childcare center. Karen Bates of ANR suggested looking at community wastewater system development assistance, which may in turn help with increasing housing. Minter also noted that weatherization is another partnership area; Capstone is presenting at CVRPC's upcoming weatherization roundtable.

Election of Secretary/Treasurer and Appointment of Executive Committee Member at Large

Lotspeich gave a brief overview of the need to make this adjustment. CVRPC's new bylaws combined the Secretary and Treasurer positions into one position. The Executive Committee proposed appointing one member to the Secretary/Treasurer position and one to serve as a member at large.

G. D'Amico moved to appoint Dara Torre as Secretary/Treasurer and Michael Gray as Member At Large on the Executive Committee for the remainder of the FY20 term; R. Wernecke seconded. Motion carried.

Clean Water Advisory Committee

Lotspeich introduced the water quality concerns letter from the Clean Water Advisory Committee and introduced Amy Hornblas, Chair of CVRPC's Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC). It was noted Hornblas participated in the January Executive Committee meeting to discuss the letter in detail.

Lotspeich also introduced Karen Bates of Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), who coordinated the Winooski River Basin Planning process.

The Basin Plan was approved; however, the CWAC has concerns around water quality issues and compiled a letter expressing them. Since the committee is an advisory committee, any action on the letter requires approval of the Board of Commissioners. Lotspeich invited Hornblas to go through the letter and welcomed comments and questions.

Hornblas thanked Bates for her work on the plan and acknowledged that federal directions were followed in the planning process. She noted the Committee worked together on the letter during

1 portions of their meetings since April; many subjects were thoroughly discussed, and the letter edited as
2 a collaborative effort. She thanked the Committee for its hard work. CWAC member Dona Bates
3 continued with a brief presentation on how the Committee approached its charge to review the Basin
4 Plan. They looked at the purpose of the basin plan as resulting in clean water and undertook that as
5 their charge. They felt their purpose was to give the Commission and the State their input on the plan;
6 and now they have follow-up concerns to share.

7
8 A robust discussion ensued raising several points related to the Basin Plan and the letter. There was a
9 question raised regarding what we need to do to accomplish solutions versus just disagreeing and
10 stating concerns. It was noted that the plan appropriately addressed phosphorus, but there are other
11 pollutants that need to be considered; that the planning directive was too narrow, and the letter was
12 the Committee's best effort to get the information on the table. It was suggested that if the purpose of
13 the plan is cleaner water and the plan is too narrow and needs to address broader issues, that should be
14 stated in the first paragraph of the letter.

15
16 Disappointment was voiced about increased permitting by ANR for spraying on fields next to the
17 Winooski River. Comment also was made that the Agency of Agriculture regulates spreading of manure
18 and can waive land application rule requirements in emergency cases. It was expressed that all requests
19 to spread on snow were granted as an emergency and enforcement actions are not being taken.

20
21 A question was raised that if the Commission approves and sends the letter, does CWAC anticipate any
22 action at the ANR level? Comment was made that it would be followed up on in an attempt to see
23 action; and also that it depends on what the Commission does with the letter, such as go into the record
24 in other venues. It was noted that the Basin Plan is likely not to be changed, but the letter could raise
25 awareness. Additionally, the CWAC hope the letter could accompany the Basin Plan as a reference.

26
27 Further comment was made that we have never faced what we are facing now with climate change and
28 that stormwater needs to be controlled. Does the Basin Plan have enough teeth to do that?

29
30 Discussion then ensued regarding process and who the letter would be addressed to and who it would
31 sign it. Hornblas confirmed the intent was to address the letter to ANR initially; she also suggested it
32 be sent to other CWAC's. She anticipated the CWAC would sign it. It was noted that CWAC is an
33 advisory committee, and the letter should be sent by the Board.

34
35 A question was raised about when the plan would next be updated. It was confirmed the plan would be
36 reviewed and revised in three years. Clarification was requested as to whether the Basin Plan starts
37 with waters already on the impaired list, but is not targeted at keeping waters off the impaired list.
38 Bates confirmed the plan is a five-year plan for specific waters that have been identified as impaired. If
39 surface water is not on impaired list, it could be added to a list for more monitoring. She advised a
40 large section of the plan is based on EPA's requirements on how phosphorus is being addressed. Other
41 issues in the plan (i.e. chlorides) are also outlined, as well as winter management strategies, which are
42 more of a voluntary effort. Bates further noted that pesticides are outlined in Vermont Surface Water
43 Management Strategies instead of the Basin Plan; and monitoring is being discussed with the Agency of

1 Agriculture. Since no surface water is currently impaired by pesticides, pesticides are not part of the
2 plan. She noted that perhaps these items need to be referenced so folks know where they are being
3 addressed if not in the plan itself.

4
5 Further comment was made that the context of basin plan is in a policy framework. ANR is attempting
6 to do strategic and tactical basin plans to make them more actionable and sets priorities. While we may
7 not agree with some of the choices made, a letter that outlines we don't like your priorities and you
8 didn't listen to our comments may not be route to go. The Basin Plan is the State's plan, not ours. Not
9 all comments will get addressed.

10
11 Lotspeich suggested the CWAC make adjustments to the letter to address Commissioner comments and
12 present it again at the next Commission meeting. A specific request was made to address the letter to
13 specific party (ANR Secretary) with recommendation to have the Executive Director sign it.

14
15 A suggestion was made to do a straw poll among Commissioners to see who would be in favor of
16 moving forward with the letter. Lotspeich elected to move forward without the straw poll, noting that
17 any motion deserves an opportunity for discussion and that discussion could be lengthy. He requested
18 CWAC come back with a final draft for the Board to discuss and vote on. He thanked the Committee for
19 attending the meeting and for its work.

20
21 Additional comment was made that there may be a misconception that the phosphorus issue is being
22 dealt with as ANR increases spraying of material next to Winooski and that spraying in winter should be
23 addressed.

24 25 **Meeting Minutes**

26 *P. Carbee moved to approve the minutes; A. Hornblas seconded. Motion carried.*

27 28 **Staff, Executive Director, and Committee Reports**

29 There were no comments or questions.

30 31 **Adjournment**

32 *D. La Haye moved to adjourn at 8:36 pm; B. Arrand seconded. Motion carried.*

33
34 Respectfully submitted,

35
36 Nancy Chartrand
37 Office Manager