Call to Order
Chair L. Hill-Eubanks called the remote meeting to order at 6:32 pm. Quorum was present to conduct business.

Adjustments to the Agenda
None.

Public Comments
None.

Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation Update
Hill-Eubanks introduced Jamie Stewart of the Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation, who provided an update on the status of work they have been doing in the region since the onset of the pandemic in March. They have been working remotely since March, assisting businesses to pivot their operations and survive during this pandemic. Credit was given to the State for taking strong action at the outset of pandemic that has now allowed Vermont to reopen the economy at some level. Many
businesses CVEDC works with have been able to adapt in order to survive, but not necessarily thrive.
CVEDC’s primary goal at this time is survival of businesses. They have been assisting businesses with the
various grant programs which have been made available and that have had many guidance changes. He
noted that there currently is capacity in programs for additional assistance, and they are happy to assist
businesses, and their website is being updated consistently with new information.

Questions were posed regarding status with restaurants; to which Stewart advised there has been good
distribution of monies within the state that went to small businesses including restaurants. He noted
the latest grant program initiated by the State last week is focused on the hospitality industry (including
restaurants) and that he believes this group is most at risk for not being able survive without significant
financial assistance. There was also question as to whether or not small Mom & Pop businesses were
eligible for the latest program. Stewart advised that if they did not take regular wage income (W2s) they
do not qualify, however there is a program currently under development for sole proprietors that does
not require W2 employees. Stewart went on to note that with regard to question about some
businesses doing better than others that those that have pivoted quickly to make modifications are
doing better. He specifically noted Agrimark (Cabot Cheese) been open entire time and there is a huge
demand for their products. Also Onion River Outdoors is doing good with their business – servicing
more bikes than normal. The third business he noted was Ceres Greens in Barre City, which is an indoor
vertical growing operation.

Resolution on Complying with Vermont Open Meeting Law
Hill-Eubanks read the resolution to meeting participants which was provided in the packet.

S. Lotspeich moved to adopt the Resolution on Complying with Vermont Open Meeting Law per 1 V.S.A.,
Section 312; R. Wernecke seconded. P. Emery raised a question regarding only two towns posting the
agenda; Waninger advised that the requirement to post in three towns was set up
for municipalities, therefore our goal was to post in three locations in the region and the towns listed
were towns that had agreed to post in addition to our posting at the CVRPC office. Emery asked if the
Plainfield Clerk notified us that they were willing to post, would we also send to Plainfield, and it was
confirmed we would be happy to. N. Chartrand requested that before the vote was called, that we
request the callers who had joined following roll-call to identify themselves. Amy Hornblas and Robin
Schunk advised they were the callers. The vote was called and the motion carried.

Clean Water Advisory Committee Letter of Concern
Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet and introduced Amy Hornblas, Chair of
the Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) to provide additional information. Hill-Eubanks also
advised that George Clain had provided written comments which were shared with the Board prior to
the meeting. Hornblas advised the Board that CWAC members represented a broad range of specialties
and spent a lot of time researching and creating the letter in the packet and it was her hope that the
Board will trust them to move forward and submit the proposed letter to the Department of
Environmental Conservation (DEC). Dona Bate further advised the CWAC listened to the feedback that
the Board had previously provided and made several revisions to the letter based on that feedback, and
she hopes it meets the Board’s standards and that they will support it. M. Dent had a procedural
question related to abstaining from voting because she works for the DEC in a different division.
Waninger advised the Conflict of Interest Policy would not apply due to their being no fiduciary
responsibility, however, the Code of Ethics would apply if she were engaged in the Watershed Planning Process at DEC. Dent confirmed she was not engaged in the Watershed Planning process. S. Lotspeich noted the Committee did a good job addressing the concerns that were raised previously and thanked them for all their work on it. He requested that the all acronyms in the letter be spelled out before use.

Hill-Eubanks read the written comments provided by Clain to the meeting participants. Each comment was addressed individually. With regard to comments on Phosphorus load allocations, J. Brabant advised he felt that the comments were basically clarifying language and did not conflict with what they were trying to address. With regard to Agriculture, Brabant advised he felt a lot of folks understand what Roundup is but they don’t understand that it is Glyphosate. After discussion it was concurred to replace “aka Roundup” with “i.e. Roundup”. Significant discussion ensued with regard to the comments on Policies and Regulation and the differing impacts small vs. large farms have on the environment and water quality and the incentives available for both. Hornblas advised the Committee discussed this item thoroughly and agreed it was important to address in the letter. Ultimately J. Potter suggested the following language for the recommendation: “VAAFM (Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets) should create policy incentives to enable small scale farms to be economically viable.”

It was confirmed that those present are in agreement with spelling out acronyms in the letter, and from Clain’s comments (in order) adding the suggested language regarding “contributing” fertilizers... “to affect the” ...loading; adding “and its river basins”; changing aka Roundup to “i.e. Roundup”; and adding “contributing” before chemical fertilizers. With regard to Policy and Regulation #2, it was agreed to leave the statement but change the recommendation to be worded as outlined by Potter above.

R. Krauth moved to authorize the Chair to sign the letter of concern to the Agency of Natural Resources with the revisions agreed upon. L. Catteneo seconded. Motion carried.

Hill-Eubanks noted she will sign the letter after the changes are made. Clain inquired if the Committee was planning to meet with other Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) to form a bigger group for the next time the Basin Plan is reviewed so there is a stronger voice than one RPC. Hornblas advised that was a great suggestion. Lotspeich advised he believed the Commission would need to discuss further because the Committee is an advisory group to the Commission, not to the Statewide Association of Commissions. He advised that Karen Bates of DEC seemed very receptive to sharing the information with other basin planners. Waninger pointed out that if these comments are the types of issues that cross basins, they should be submitted any time the Commission comments on a Basin Plan and the comments on Basin 14 recently submitted did not include these types of comments. If the Commission wants to see change overall we should include on all basin plans. It was suggested other RPC’s be copied on the letter to which there was no objection raised. Clain asked if the suggestion to include these types of comments in the future needed a vote, and it was determined that it did not.

FY21

Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet. Waninger provided a presentation via screen share on the FY21 Budget and Workplan. She noted the organization currently is focused on projects vs. an overall work plan due to the need to be nimble during COVID. She went on to outline the five-year organizational goals established in 2016 and how they have been implemented.

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
July 14, 2020  
Page 3 of 6
1. Enhance Financial Security – positioned ourselves to operate in fiscally challenging times – such as COVID 19.
2. Create Operational Excellence – staff was working in silos five years ago and has worked hard to cross train across disciplines; still experts in their area, but knowledgeable in other areas as well.
3. Enhance Services – worked to increase communities’ desire to work cooperatively regarding regional issues; for example making communities more competitive for grants.
4. Position CVRPC as Leader and Partner – we are helping other organizations achieve their goals so we can achieve our own, such as working with Downstreet Housing to achieve housing goals.

Our goal for FY21 is Adaptability in a COVID world and to continue with the above goals as follows:

- Security – maintaining a balanced budget to the extent possible.
- Excellence – take advantage of the remote work environment to accelerate employee growth and development.
- Service – maintain nimbleness so services can simultaneously prepare for pandemic effects and adapt to recovery needs.
- Leadership – grow partnerships using CVRPC’s core skills; conversation facilitation, data collection and analysis, and strategic planning.

Waninger also outlined projects for FY21: Carryover projects include the Regional Plan; workforce development systems change facilitation; stormwater project design and construction; road erosion inventory, capital plans and best management practices treatment assistance; municipal plan forest integrity assistance; and hazard mitigation plan assistance. New projects include pandemic recovery efforts, regional trails convening, economic development strategy, more stormwater design and construction, and bolstering transit ridership.

Waninger advised the budget is approximately $1,000,000 and includes the legislative allocation that is 27% of budget, annual contracts that are 32%, project specific contracts that are 33% and Town dues that are 8%. Further outlined were the expense category expenses – staff, professional services, project costs, contractor costs and overhead.

She directed the Board to the information in the packet, which is the budget that was adopted by the Executive Committee; as well as projected scenarios should revenues drop due to State budget constraints later in FY21. Currently the budget looks fairly positive. We expect additional contracts in the near future - two related to pandemic response, Clean Water Service Provider for Winooski Basin, and the Friends of the Winooski has also asked us to work with them on the Water Wise Woodlands project in the Upper Winooski.

It was confirmed that the dollar amount in the presentation for project specific contracts needed to be amended, but the percentage of the budget was correct.

Hill-Eubanks thanked the staff for all the work they do.

**Meeting Minutes**

Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet.
L. Catteneo moved to approve the minutes; P. Carbee seconded. Motion carried.

Reports

Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet. Potter requested explanation of the 2nd bullet on page 27 under COVID-19 Response and Recovery. Waninger advised that CVRPC was part of a Regional Response team related to moving homeless individuals out of shelters and into hotels so they could maintain social distancing. We played a role in providing transportation systems by finding vehicles to do that. We are filing a claim in an attempt to recoup costs related to that work, which may be recoverable through FEMA. She also noted that the Agency of Human Services may include our costs of that response effort into their claim for federal assistance, so we will be reimbursed. L. Catteneo requested he be sent a copy of the comments on Basin 14 as outlined on Page 28 – Tactical Basin Planning Assistance.

G. Clain suggested that with regard to the Regional Plan and economics that every chapter of the Regional Plan should be addressing economics, especially after all the information we’ve heard about impending budget deficits.

In follow-up to the letters of support completed for the 2020 Solid Waste Implementation Plan, Hill-Eubanks questioned if as of July 1st, 2020 solid waste haulers are supposed to be picking up food waste as part of the composting laws, and the status of this in our district. Discussion ensued regarding the economic feasibility of haulers being able to do this and who is responsible for ensuring what goes into the landfill. There has been reluctance to assign responsibility in this law to ensure that the goal of removing food scraps from the solid waste stream is readily achievable. Additional discussion ensued regarding where people may put their food waste and businesses being initiated to address the waste.

As additional updates to the report in the packet, Waninger advised that CVRPC will be having a VISTA member start in August. This VISTA member is coming from Colorado and will need a place to quarantine upon arrival. Waninger asked if Board members had ideas regarding places that CVRPC could rent for the two-week quarantine period.

Additionally, Waninger advised we are putting in a proposal to assess Wi-Fi hotspots in communities. The Department of Public Service has asked communities to identify locations where students could go to access service and RPCs have been asked to assess how good that service is in their regions. Waninger asked if any Board members would be willing do some assessments in their community as grant match. Waninger advised she would email the list of sites out to the Board tomorrow in case any members were willing to do the assessments as grant match vs. cash match.

Carbee asked if CVRPC has any direct COVID expenses that might be recoverable under the CARES. Waninger advised we have minimal supply expenses and are keeping track of costs. Waninger advised she did not believe we were eligible due to how we are set up, but municipalities are eligible for costs that cannot be recovered through FEMA that are related to COVID response reimbursed at a State level. RPCs can help municipalities to document those costs. She reiterated that the costs must not be eligible through FEMA, or any other reimbursement source; and once a contract is signed by CVRPC regarding provision of this assistance we will get additional information out to municipalities.
Lotspeich wanted to confirm there was not a Commission meeting in August. Waninger advised it was dependent on whether or not a Town Plan came in for approval in the next two weeks. Lotspeich further advised that the Transportation Advisory Committee is not meeting in August.

Adjournment

D. La Haye moved to adjourn at 8:20 pm; R. Turner seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager