

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Draft MINUTES
February 9, 2021

Commissioners:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Barre City	Janet Shatney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moretown	Dara Torre, Secretary/Treasurer
<input type="checkbox"/>		Heather Grandfield, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>		Joyce Manchester, Alt
<input type="checkbox"/>	Barre Town	Byron Atwood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Northfield	Laura Hill-Eubanks, Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		George Clain, Alt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Orange	Lee Cattaneo
<input type="checkbox"/>	Berlin	Robert Wernecke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Plainfield	Paula Emery
<input type="checkbox"/>		Karla Nuissl, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>		Bob Atchinson, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cabot	Amy Hornblas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roxbury	Gerry D'Amico
<input 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	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	E. Montpelier	Julie Potter	<input type="checkbox"/>		J. Michael Bridgewater, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/>		Clarice Cutler, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Washington	Peter Carbee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fayston	Russ Bowen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich, Vice-Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marshfield	Robin Schunk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Williamstown	Richard Turner
<input type="checkbox"/>	Middlesex	Ron Krauth	<input type="checkbox"/>		Jacqueline Higgins, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Montpelier	Marcella Dent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Woodbury	Michael Gray
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Mike Miller, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Worcester	Bill Arrand

Staff: Bonnie Waninger, Nancy Chartrand, Grace Vinson, Zach Maia, Clare Rock

Guests: Penny Chamberlain, Director/Principal, Central Vermont Career Center; Clifton Long, Plumbing Instructor, Central Vermont Career Center

Call to Order

Chair L. Hill-Eubanks called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and conducted a roll call. Quorum was present.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Public Comments

None

21st Century Learning and Workforce Development

Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet and introduced Penny Chamberlain, Director of Central Vermont Career Center.

Chamberlain also introduce Clifton Long, Plumbing& Heating Instructor for the Learning Center. They

1 went on to present information about the Center's programs as well as its workforce development
2 focus. They currently offer 14 programs and serve students grades 9-12. Annually 180 to 190 students
3 attend the Center, drawing from six high schools in the Central Vermont area. They are working to meet
4 industry needs and are currently short on space due to growing enrollment numbers. Vermont has lots
5 of high skilled jobs coming in the future which is what the Center tries to train for – jobs that will pay the
6 employees a living wage and have benefits. Three years ago they started a phased process of how to
7 best serve industry in the Central Vermont area. Phase I – what they offer and what needs to be
8 offered, surveying students, business partners and community; envisioned with architect what an ideal
9 center would be to teach state of the art methods. Phase II – designed labs to better serve needs of
10 students; and now are ready for Phase III - which is to meet with industry leaders, legislature, and the
11 community to explain what has been done so far to get input and endorsement for them to move
12 forward to try and secure funding.

13
14 Chamberlin further advised that have advisory boards for each program and if the Board knows of folks
15 interested in participating in advisory capacity, that they would welcome that participation. She noted
16 that the Career Center is the core of the workforce development cycle and they are open to any
17 ideas/thoughts to improve service and serve Vermonters.

18
19 The floor was open to questions which included how does the Center's program offerings line up with
20 what employers are looking for. It was confirmed that their programs align with what Vermont
21 industries need for new hires, however some areas may need expansion.

22
23 There was also question as to whether there are issues with students being able to access the Center
24 from their sending school. It was noted that this is a competitive process and the Legislature is looking
25 at changing this structure, so there is not competitiveness between the sending schools and the Center.
26 Currently 87% of base education rate will follow a student to a technical center, 13% stays with the
27 sending school, and there may be additional tuition charged to a high school. There is also
28 reimbursement to a sending high school for transportation, if provided. There are sometimes limited
29 seats to go to centers when students should have options of where to go rather than have money
30 driving that.

31
32 There was also inquiry into how the Center follows the students post-graduation? It was noted that 90%
33 of graduates go on to something post-secondary - apprenticeship programs, credentialing, licensing, 2-4
34 year college programs, certificate programs. They have relationships with over 150 businesses in the
35 region and sometimes employers show up the last weeks /months of school and hire on the spot.

36
37 It was noted with regard to adults in the program, that there have been in the past, but regulations
38 dictate eligible high school student slots have been filled first before opening up daytime slots to adults.
39 Once COVID is past, they hope to get back into offering evening adult technical education retraining
40 programs. Hill-Eubanks thanked Chamberlin and Long for their presentation.

41 42 **USDA Grant Application**

43 Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet. Waninger provided an overview.
44 Plainfield Cooperative is interested in applying for a USDA grant to help conduct a financial feasibility
45 study due to planned transportation project (Route 2/Main St. intersection) which would cut off direct

1 transportation to the Coop. USDA advised as the Coop is the recipient of the study, they cannot be the
2 applicant for the grant to conduct a study. The Coop has requested CVRPC be the applicant on their
3 behalf and to help manage the project for them. The Town of Plainfield supported this request. USDA
4 requires that the Board pass a resolution that acknowledges and allows CVRPC to make the application,
5 as well as appoint someone to sign documents related to the grant. A resolution is outlined in the
6 packet.

7
8 Opened to questions. Would this mean that CVRPC becomes the fiscal agent? CVRPC does not become
9 the financial agent; we will be the grant applicant. There was an inquiry as to whether the Coop has
10 been able to generate the match necessary for the project. It has not been generated yet, but they
11 expect to generate it (25% match is necessary). If the match is not generated it will affect the scoring of
12 their application. It was not known if Coops in Vermont have had success in the grant process
13 previously.

14
15 *P. Emery moved to adopt the resolution for Plainfield Coop, seconded by B. Arrand. Motion carried*
16

17 **Draft Clean Water Service Provider Rules**

18 Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet and introduced Grace Vinson of CVRPC.
19 Vinson shared a presentation and provided context on Act 76, which was passed in 2019 to establish a
20 long term and stable funding source for the Clean Water Fund and direct those funds to non-regulatory
21 projects that are important to achieve clean water goals, but not required by EPA. Act 76 sets up the
22 funding source and sets up a Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) network to prioritize, select and
23 implement projects. There is one CWSP for each basin. CVRPC is the proposed CWSP for the Winooski
24 River Basin.

25
26 Vinson also provided information on the Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC) which is the policy arm
27 and decision making for the CWSP network. Most members on BWQC will have water quality
28 knowledge and expertise to establish good policy and make decisions on which projects should be
29 funded. CWSP and BWQC will work together, but BWQC is decision maker.

30
31 The Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) is going to establish phosphorus reduction targets to meet clean
32 water goals and establish a funding formula to be administered by the CWSPs. Projects will be identified
33 and prioritized. CWSPs will oversee projects and maintenance.

34
35 Vinson advised where we are currently in the rule making process; and we are coming before the Board
36 to request approval to submit to ANR the comments provided in the packet. She offered the following
37 highlights of those comments:

- 38 1) Align basin planning process and project identification process
- 39 2) Include project development and maintenance in standard cost
- 40 3) Recognize BWQC conflict of interest rule
- 41 4) Allow CWSPS/BWQCS to define co-benefits
- 42 5) Provide clarity on use of funds
- 43 6) Consult Basin Planner on project selection process if unable to reach quorum
- 44 7) Allow third-party site control
- 45 8) Strike language on proportionality

1 9) Provide organized watershed groups that are not non-profits the right to serve on BWQC.

2
3 The floor was opened to questions. Question related to #9 – who would non non-profits be? There are
4 various “Friends of” groups that are not non-profits, but were not able to specifically identify one.
5 Question regarding #8 - about membership and structure of the BWQC and why the reference to state
6 statute is being recommended to be stricken. Right now rule says for every new member on BWQC the
7 proportion of members should be kept, interpretation means if one new member is added; 8 new
8 members would need to be added to keep the ratio – they want to make it clear that if one new
9 member is added; 8 new members do not need to be added.

10
11 There was clarification of RPC participation on the BWQC. The BWQC needs to have RPC
12 representatives and while nothing prohibits CVRPC from sitting on the BWQC, there are three other
13 RPCs represented in the Winooski River Basin and it is likely they will be the two representatives on the
14 BWQC and CVRPC will be the CWSP, which is the administrative manager of the BWQC. There was also
15 question as to who oversees the CWSP. It was confirmed that the CWSP responds to ANR (contractual
16 partner) and is also partnered with the BWQC (staffing assistance). Every five years ANR evaluates the
17 CWSP formally and BWQC is able to provide comments on that process; ANR has the ability to end a
18 CWSP’s contract and seek another CWSP for the basin.

19
20 Significant discussion ensued regarding the following: *“If the project is one of many on a list or package*
21 *considered by the BWQC as they determine the ranking and priorities for funding and the sponsorship of the*
22 *project is the only potential conflict of interest; all members of the BWQC may vote on the list or package. If*
23 *there are other potential conflicts of interest, each member shall disclose the potential conflict and the BWQC*
24 *shall determine if the member may vote upon the list or package.”* There was suggestion that if projects are
25 voted as a slate, it minimizes to extent possible what conflict is, because a sponsored project is voted in
26 a package of projects rather than separate projects being voted on. The sponsor would be allowed to
27 vote if a slate of projects is being moved, not a single project being moved, noting this minimizes the
28 potential conflict. It was confirmed there is no way to fully remove the conflict of interest because
29 legislature set BWQCs up to include those who know most about water quality, so those representatives
30 are likely to be eventual sponsors. The language outlined is to minimize the conflict.

31
32 Discussion continued as to how many Development Review and other Municipal Boards handle
33 acknowledging conflicts of interest and how that might impact quorum. There was also suggestion that
34 there may be more issues trying to get an approval if it’s a slate, because there may be more members
35 with conflicts if it’s a slate. If single, they could recuse themselves on single project and not significantly
36 impact quorum. Another option to consider would be that they may recuse themselves, but a majority
37 of the voting members present could be the quorum, so if some recused, it could be the voting
38 members left. There was also discussion as to the potential to add alternate members so that if a BWQC
39 member has a project and has an alternate (not from sponsoring organization), the alternate can vote
40 that day instead of member.

41
42 *P. Carbee moved to submit CVRPC comments on the proposed Clean Water Service Provider Rule and*
43 *submit to ANR, seconded by M. Miller. Motion carried.*

44
45 *B. Arrand moved to authorize the Chair to review and approve the addition of new or revised comments*

1 *that may emerge from continued review of the proposed, seconded by P. Carbee. Motion carried.*

3 **Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2021**

4 Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet and opened to questions/comments.

6 *D. Torre moved to approve the minutes; D. La Haye seconded. Motion carried.*

8 **Reports**

9 Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet and asked staff if they had information
10 to add. Z. Maia stated several Municipal Plans are still going through local adoptions, and we expect
11 regional approvals this year. Solar facilities being proposed in Barre Town and the February Project
12 Review Committee meeting will be focused on those projects. He recognized that Washington has a
13 fully adopted Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) which is integral for their FEMA Grant application.
14 We are still working on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region, and
15 CVRPC has a role in providing regional data for this process and will be working with partners (CVEDC
16 specifically) to conduct a SOAR (strengths, opportunities, aspirations, results) analysis soon. Hill-
17 Eubanks thanked Maia for the Energy Summaries provided to Northfield and advised it was published on
18 Front Porch Forum. C. Rock noted that the Regional Plan Committee will be meeting Thursday to
19 continue their review of the Berlin New Town Center application (submitted formally to ACCD on
20 February 1st). She noted the Downtown Board will likely review this application at their 3/22 meeting.

22 Waninger shared that we have hired a Transportation Planner who will start March 1st - Christian Meyer,
23 a native of Calais, who has been working for past 5-6 years as a Transportation Planner in Connecticut
24 with a Council of Government (similar to an RPC). He has been working remotely in Vermont since
25 COVID and we are very excited to have him start with CVRPC.

27 **Adjournment**

28 *D. LaHaye moved to adjourn at 7:54 pm; B. Arrand seconded. Motion carried.*

30 Respectfully submitted,

32 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager