

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

Commissioners:

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<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
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<input type="checkbox"/>		Karla Nuissl, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>		Bob Atchinson, Alt.
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Duxbury	Alan Quackenbush	<input type="checkbox"/>	Warren	
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<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 introduced Penny Chamberlain, Director of Central Vermont Career Center. Chamberlain introduced Clifton Long, Plumbing & Heating Instructor for the Learning Center. They presented information about the Center's programs as well as its workforce development focus. They currently

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

11
12 Chamberlin further advised they have advisory boards for each program. She invited the Board to refer
13 anyone interested in participating in advisory capacity. She noted that the Career Center is the core of
14 the workforce development cycle. They welcome ideas for improving service and serving Vermonters.

15
16 The floor was open to questions which included how does the Center's program offerings line up with
17 what employers are looking for. It was confirmed that their programs align with what Vermont
18 industries need for new hires; however, some areas may need expansion.

19
20 There also was question as to whether there are issues with students being able to access the Center
21 from their sending school. It was noted that this is a competitive process, and the Legislature is looking
22 at changing this structure so there is not competitiveness between the sending schools and the Center.
23 Currently 87% of base education rate will follow a student to a technical center, 13% stays with the
24 sending school, and there may be additional tuition charged to a high school. There is also
25 reimbursement to a sending high school for transportation, if provided. There are sometimes limited
26 seats to go to centers when students should have options of where to go rather than have money
27 driving that.

28
29 There was an inquiry into how the Center follows students post-graduation. Chamberlain said 90% of
30 graduates go on to something post-secondary - apprenticeship programs, credentialing, licensing, 2-4-
31 year college programs, certificate programs. They have relationships with over 150 businesses in the
32 region. Sometimes employers show up the last weeks /months of school and hire on the spot.

33
34 It was noted with regard to adults in the program, that there have been adults in the past, but
35 regulations dictate eligible high school student slots have been filled first before opening up daytime
36 slots to adults. Once COVID is past, they hope to get back into offering evening adult technical
37 education retraining programs. Hill-Eubanks thanked Chamberlin and Long for their presentation.

38 39 **USDA Grant Application**

40 B. Waninger explained the Plainfield Cooperative is interested in applying for a USDA grant to help
41 conduct a financial feasibility study due to planned transportation project (Route 2/Main St.
42 intersection) which would cut off direct transportation to the Coop. The Coop is the recipient of the
43 study, and it cannot be the applicant for the grant. The Coop has requested CVRPC be the applicant and
44 help manage the project for them. The Town of Plainfield supported this request. USDA requires that

1 the Board pass a resolution authorizing CVRPC to make the application and appoint someone to sign
2 documents related to the grant. A draft resolution was included in the packet.

3
4 In response to questions, Waninger said CVPRC will be the grant applicant, not the Coop's fiscal agent.
5 The Coop committed to provide match for the project to help raise its project evaluation score.
6 Waninger did not know whether other coops in Vermont have used the USDA grant.

7
8 *P. Emery moved to adopt the resolution for Plainfield Coop; B. Arrand seconded. Motion carried*
9

10 **Draft Clean Water Service Provider Rules**

11 G. Vinson shared a presentation and provided context on Act 76. It was passed in 2019 to establish a
12 long term and stable funding source for the Clean Water Fund and direct those funds to non-regulatory
13 projects that are important to achieve clean water goals, but not required by EPA. Act 76 sets up the
14 funding source and establishes a Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) network to prioritize, select and
15 implement projects. There will be one CWSP for each basin; CVRPC is the proposed CWSP for the
16 Winooski River Basin.

17
18 Vinson provided information on the Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC), which is the policy arm and
19 decision making for the CWSP network. Most members on BWQC will have water quality knowledge
20 and expertise to establish good policy and make decisions on which projects should be funded. CWSP
21 and BWQC will work together. BWQC is decision maker on project prioritization.

22
23 The Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) will establish phosphorus reduction targets to meet clean water
24 goals and establish a funding formula to be administered by the CWSPs. Projects will be identified and
25 prioritized. CWSPs will oversee projects and maintenance.

26
27 Vinson discussed the rule making process. Staff requested approval to submit comments provided in
28 the Board packet to ANR.

29
30 In response to questions, Vinson and Waninger said:

- 31 • Non non-profits are various "Friends of" groups that are not non-profits.
- 32 • The reference to state statute about membership and structure of the BWQC is recommended
33 to be stricken because the rule says the proportion of members must be kept. This means if one
34 new member is added, 8 new members would need to be added to keep the ratio.
- 35 • There was clarification of RPC participation on the BWQC. Nothing prohibits CVRPC from sitting
36 on the BWQC; however, there are three other RPCs represented in the Winooski River Basin and
37 it is likely they will be the two representatives on the BWQC as CVRPC will be the CWSP.
- 38 • The CWSP will be overseen by ANR via the contractual relationship. Every five years ANR
39 evaluates the CWSP formally. The BWQC can provide comments. ANR has the ability to end a
40 CWSP's contract and seek another CWSP for the basin.

41
42 Significant discussion ensued regarding conflict of interest language. Vinson noted there is no way to
43 fully remove the conflict of interest because the legislature set BWQCs up to include those who know
44 most about water quality, and those representatives are likely to be project sponsors. The language

1 outlined is intended to minimize conflicts.

2
3 Board members shared how Development Review and other municipal boards handle conflicts of
4 interest that impact quorum and shared recommendations for resolving conflicts.

5
6 *P. Carbee moved to submit CVRPC comments on the proposed Clean Water Service Provider Rule and*
7 *submit to ANR; M. Miller seconded. Motion carried.*

8
9 *B. Arrand moved to authorize the Chair to review and approve new or revised comments that may*
10 *emerge from continued review of the proposed; P. Carbee seconded. Motion carried.*

11 12 **Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2021**

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

14 15 **Reports**

16 Z. Maia stated several municipal plans are going through local adoptions. We expect approval requests
17 this year. The February Project Review Committee meeting will focus on solar facilities proposed in
18 Barre Town. Washington has a FEMA-approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP), which is integral
19 for its FEMA grant application. We are working on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
20 (CEDS) for the region. CVRPC has a role in providing regional data for this process and will be working
21 with partners (CVEDC specifically) to conduct a SOAR (strengths, opportunities, aspirations, results)
22 analysis soon. Hill-Eubanks thanked Maia for the Energy Summaries provided to Northfield and advised
23 it was published on Front Porch Forum.

24
25 C. Rock noted that the Regional Plan Committee will be meeting Thursday to continue its review of the
26 Berlin New Town Center application (submitted formally to ACCD on February 1st). She noted the
27 Downtown Board will likely review this application on 3/22.

28
29 Waninger shared that CVRPC hired a Transportation Planner who will start March 1st. Christian Meyer, a
30 native of Calais, has been worked for the past 6 years as a Transportation Planner in Connecticut with a
31 Council of Government (similar to an RPC). He has been working remotely in Vermont since COVID. We
32 are very excited to have him start with CVRPC.

33 34 **Adjournment**

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

36
37 Respectfully submitted,

38
39 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager