

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Draft MINUTES**  
**May 11, 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	Cabot	Amy Hornblas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roxbury	Gerry 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 type="checkbox"/>	Duxbury	Alan Quackenbush	<input type="checkbox"/>	Warren	VACANT
<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 type="checkbox"/>	Marshfield	Robin Schunk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Williamstown	Richard Turner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Middlesex	Ron Krauth	<input type="checkbox"/>		Jacqueline Higgins, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Montpelier	Marcella Dent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Woodbury	Michael Gray
<input type="checkbox"/>		Mike Miller, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Worcester	Bill Arrand

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

Guests: Shana Louiselle, Hantz Presume, Marc Allen, Lou Cecere, VELCO;

**Call to Order**

Chair Hill-Eubanks called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm and conducted a roll call. Quorum was present.

**Adjustments to the Agenda**

None.

**Public Comments**

None.

**2021 VELCO Long Range Transmission Plan**

Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet and introduced participants from VELCO. Hantz Presume provided detail on the presentation shared in the packet regarding VELCO's Long Term Transmission Plan for Vermont. Highlighted were summer and winter peak loads, load forecast scenarios, information on solar PV growth, the impact of electric vehicles and heat pumps up

1 future load, load control, upgrade projections, and the need to optimize distribution geographically. It  
2 was emphasized that storage or load management is necessary to avoid future transmission problems  
3 and that better communication between all stakeholders is essential.  
4

5 When the floor was opened to questions it was confirmed that while Vermont's peak used to be in the  
6 summer, the peak in the future is projected to be in the winter due to heat pumps and electric vehicles.  
7 Presume advised he was not able to speak to the effect the New England clean energy corridor would  
8 have on rates in the future.  
9

10 When asked what the RPC should be doing to help manage what VELCO is trying to do; the following  
11 was recommended: have developers install storage as part of their projects and ask developers to allow  
12 control of their inverters on their projects to allow better communication; consider different types of  
13 technology other than solar PV which has a low capacity factor, noting a mixing of technologies will  
14 reduce the generation needed on a system.  
15

16 When asked about the need for integrated planning between distribution and transmission sides,  
17 Presume confirmed there needed to be better collaboration between VELCO, distribution utilities, Dept.  
18 of Public Service, RPCs, and other organizations doing the planning for facilities. He also confirmed that  
19 there is still work that needs to be done on storage. While utilities are working on this more work is  
20 necessary and consideration should be given to planning for the provision of incentives for developers  
21 to install storage as part of their projects. He also confirmed that electric vehicles will aggravate storage  
22 problems and that utilities offering incentives not to charge during peak usage times (with technology to  
23 support) would be helpful.  
24

25 There was question as to whether VELCO could provide information on storage and other problems  
26 related to load to legislators and others. Presume advised they have testified several times at the  
27 Legislature regarding transmission systems, storage and solar PV, as have the utilities. He noted that  
28 many organizations are trying to provide the necessary information to lawmakers to help them make  
29 the right decisions for Vermont.  
30

31 Clarification was also requested regarding findings on the capacity into the future and how it relates to  
32 energy targets outlined in regional plans. Presume confirmed that some regions have listed targets that  
33 are lower than what the current system can accommodate. He noted he was not saying regions cannot  
34 achieve their targets, but that systems as they currently are cannot accommodate the large numbers.  
35 He indicated that storage to absorb excess energy, manage load, curtail generation that is controllable  
36 by operators, or reinforcing the system to allow meeting these targets is necessary and that  
37 communication is needed on how to bridge the gap.  
38

39 There was also discussion on the fees charged by utilities to solar customers and the need to maintain  
40 the proper infrastructure that would be necessary should there be an event that interrupts solar  
41 generation for a period of time. He noted he anticipates there will continue to be monthly fees to all  
42 solar consumers in order to maintain the grid to ensure it is always there.  
43

44 Hill-Eubanks thanked VELCO for the presentation and information. Questions for VELCO can be sent to

Shana Louiselle – [slouiselle@velcom.com](mailto:slouiselle@velcom.com) (802-353-9346)

### **FY22 Nominations**

Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet, advising a final slate has been completed by the Nominating Committee and introduced Potter, who chaired the Committee to provide a summary.

Potter reviewed the process the Nominating Committee undertook in order to put together a slate and submitted the following nominations:

#### Executive Committee:

Chair – Steve Lotspeich

Vice Chair – Jerry D’Amico

Secretary/Treasurer – Janet Shatney

At Large Members – Laura Hill-Eubanks, Lee Cattaneo, Michael Gray, and Marcella Dent.

Project Review Committee: Bob Wernecke and as alternate, Bill Arrand.

Regional Plan Committee: Laura Hill-Eubanks, Russ Bowen, Dara Torre, Karla NuiSSL, and Byron Atwood.

Municipal Plan Review Committee: Bill Arrand, Jan Ohlsson, Ron Krauth, Joyce Manchester, and Peter Carbee.

Brownfields Advisory Committee: Ron Krauth, Heather Greenfield [sic], Paula Emery, George Clain, and as alternate, Peter Carbee.

Clean Water Advisory Committee: CVRPC Members: Amy Hornblas, and as alternate, Rich Turner  
Municipal Members: Larry Becker and Joyce Manchester

Commission Appointments to Other Organizations (CVRPC Representative):

Vermont Association of Planning and Development: Steve Lotspeich

Vermont Economic Progress Council: Bonnie Waninger

Green Mountain Transit: Bonnie Waninger, and Christian Meyer as alternate

Hill-Eubanks thanked the Nominating Committee for their work and opened the floor to nominations for each role outlined above. No additional nominations from the floor were offered and nominations were subsequently closed. She advised that staff will mail a ballot to all Commissioners by Friday and that ballots will need to be received at CVRPC by June 4<sup>th</sup>.

There was confirmation that members elected to committees will begin their duties starting July 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Municipal Updates**

Brabant shared information on a chronic local issue in their town and also seen in neighboring towns which is that of domesticated livestock getting loose. He noted towns have limited ability under statute

1 to address the problem. He advised that there was legislation introduced by Janet Ancel which passed  
2 the House, but is currently sitting in the Senate. He inquired if anyone wants to join the bandwagon to  
3 implore legislature to address this issue when owners aren't addressing the problem.

4  
5 Emery shared that Plainfield is having issues with fireworks and many fire department chiefs are joining  
6 together to lobby legislature about the issue. She also noted the Town needs to replace a bridge in the  
7 village and are working on planning and funding for that, and they are also dealing with hurdles related  
8 to a pedestrian walkway over the Winooski River.

9  
10 Waninger shared a celebration regarding Middlesex receiving two awards from VPA: Plan of the Year  
11 for Walkable Middlesex Village Study and their Planning Commission won Citizen Planners of the Year.

12  
13 Carbee advised that Washington is beginning discussions on use of forthcoming COVID funds and  
14 inquired what other municipalities are planning. Waterbury is doing a water main extension project,  
15 Woodbury is considering high speed internet connectivity project with CV Fiber and potentially restoring  
16 the Town Hall to create meeting space to comply with COVID restrictions. Berlin is discussing culvert  
17 repair on Fisher Road, and a bridge project on another road in town, Waninger advised she has heard  
18 larger municipalities are doing water/wastewater infrastructure, broadband, lost revenues. She  
19 reminded members that transportation is not an eligible use (but can shift funds other places in order to  
20 make room for transportation projects). She noted that the US Treasury released Guidance and Fact  
21 Sheet on Monday, which will be forwarded to members and municipalities. She also reminded  
22 members that municipalities will need a DUNS number if they don't already have one. Funds are  
23 anticipated as soon as July and will come directly from the State. She also noted VLCT advises  
24 municipalities to put funds in a separate account from their General Fund for more consistent tracking  
25 and easier auditing. She suggested all towns should think of 10 projects and then confirm whether or  
26 not they are eligible. VLCT and RPCs will work cooperatively with towns to assist (VLCT – Risk  
27 Management, Legal, Education) (RPCs – meet with towns, project ideas, etc.).

### 28 29 **Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2021**

30 Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet.

31 *L. Cattaneo moved to approve the minutes; D. La Haye seconded. Motion carried.*

### 32 33 **Reports**

34 Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet noting that included was an interesting  
35 summary from the Vermont Commission on Women with details about impacts from the COVID-19  
36 Crisis on Vermont Women.

37  
38 Potter questioned where staff and committee reports were and inquired if they would be posted. It was  
39 confirmed they will be posted.

40  
41 Hill-Eubanks advised the Board that Potter will be retiring from the RPC this month and thanked her for  
42 all her work alongside Waninger to improve the RPC. She noted it had been Potter's mission to put in  
43 place new policies and procedures to help us all be more efficient and effective at the RPC. She was an  
44 excellent chair and helped make the job a lot easier with all her knowledge. She stated she hoped her

1 next projects bring her immense joy and satisfaction. Potter advised it was a pleasure working with  
2 everyone and help the RPC live up to all of its potential. Others shared their gratitude for Potter's  
3 work.

4  
5 **Adjournment**

6 *D. La Haye moved to adjourn at 7:59 pm; the motion was seconded and carried.*

7  
8 Respectfully submitted,  
9 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager