

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
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 Pr sum , 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 introduced participants from VELCO. Hantz Pr sum  provided detail on the presentation shared in the packet regarding VELCO’s Long Term Transmission Plan for Vermont. He highlighted summer and winter peak loads, load forecast scenarios, information on solar PV growth, the impact of electric vehicles and heat pumps up future load, load control, upgrade projections, and the need to

1 optimize distribution geographically. Prsum emphasized that storage or load management is  
2 necessary to avoid future transmission problems and that better communication between all  
3 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 Prsum said he could not speak to the effect the New England clean energy corridor would have on  
8 future rates.

9  
10 When asked what the RPC should be doing to help, VELCO representatives recommended 1) having  
11 developers install storage as part of their projects and ask developers to allow control of their inverters  
12 on their projects to allow better communication; and 2) having a mix of technology types (other than  
13 solar PV which has a low capacity factor) to reduce generation needed on a system.

14  
15 When asked about the need for integrated planning between distribution and transmission sides,  
16 Prsum confirmed better collaboration is needed between VELCO, distribution utilities, Dept. of Public  
17 Service, RPCs, and other organizations doing facility planning. He confirmed that there is still work that  
18 needs to be done on storage. While utilities are working on this, more work is necessary. He  
19 recommended consideration be given to planning for the provision of incentives for developers to install  
20 storage as part of their projects. He confirmed that electric vehicles will aggravate storage problems,  
21 and that utilities offering incentives not to charge during peak usage times (with technology to support)  
22 would be helpful.

23  
24 There was question as to whether VELCO could provide information on storage and other problems  
25 related to load to legislators and others. Prsum advised they have testified several times at the  
26 Legislature regarding transmission systems, storage and solar PV, as have the utilities. He noted that  
27 many organizations are trying to provide the necessary information to lawmakers to help them make  
28 the right decisions for Vermont.

29  
30 Clarification was also requested regarding findings on future capacity and how it relates to energy  
31 targets outlined in regional plans. Prsum confirmed that some regions have listed targets that are  
32 lower than what the current system can accommodate. He noted he was not saying regions cannot  
33 achieve their targets, but that systems as they currently are cannot accommodate the large numbers.  
34 He indicated that storage to absorb excess energy, manage load, curtail generation that is controllable  
35 by operators, or reinforcing the system to allow meeting these targets is necessary. Communication is  
36 needed to bridge the gap.

37  
38 There was also discussion on the fees charged by utilities to solar customers and the need to maintain  
39 the proper infrastructure that would be necessary should there be an event that interrupts solar  
40 generation for a period of time. Prsum noted he anticipates there will continue to be monthly fees to  
41 all solar consumers for grid maintenance to ensure it is always there.

42  
43 Hill-Eubanks thanked VELCO representatives for the presentation and information. Questions for VELCO  
44 can be sent to Shana Louise, [slouiselle@velcom.com](mailto:slouiselle@velcom.com) or (802-353-9346).

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**FY22 Nominations**

Hill-Eubanks advised a final slate has been completed by the Nominating Committee and introduced J. Potter, who chaired the Committee, to provide a summary.

Potter reviewed the process the Nominating Committee undertook 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 Nuisl, 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, Paula Emery, George Clain, and as alternate, Peter Carbee.

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

Commission Appointments to Other Organizations Vermont Association of Planning and Development: Steve Lotspeich; Vermont Economic Progress Council: Bonnie Waninger; and Green Mountain Transit: Bonnie Waninger, and as alternate, Christian Meyer.

Hill-Eubanks thanked the Nominating Committee for its work and opened the floor to nominations for each role. No additional nominations from the floor were received, and Hill-Eubanks closed nominations. She advised that staff will mail a ballot to all Commissioners by Friday. 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 - domesticated livestock getting loose. He noted towns have limited ability under statute to address the problem. He advised that there was legislation introduced by Janet Ancel which passed the House, but is currently sitting in the Senate. He inquired if anyone wants to join the bandwagon to implore legislature to address this issue when owners aren’t addressing the problem.

Emery shared that Plainfield is having issues with fireworks. Many fire department chiefs are joining together to lobby legislature about the issue. She also noted the Town needs to replace a bridge in the

1 village and is working on planning and funding for that. They also are dealing with hurdles related to a  
2 pedestrian walkway over the Winooski River.

3  
4 Waninger shared a celebration regarding Middlesex, which received two awards from the Vermont  
5 Planners Association: Plan of the Year for the Walkable Middlesex Village Study and Citizen Planners of  
6 the Year for its Planning Commission.

7  
8 Carbee advised that Washington is beginning discussions on use of forthcoming COVID funds and  
9 inquired what other municipalities are planning. Waterbury is doing a water main extension project.  
10 Woodbury is considering high speed internet connectivity project with CV Fiber and potentially restoring  
11 the Town Hall to create meeting space to comply with COVID restrictions. Berlin is discussing culvert  
12 repair on Fisher Road and a bridge project on another road. Waninger advised she has heard larger  
13 municipalities are doing water/wastewater infrastructure, broadband, and replacement of lost  
14 revenues. She reminded members that transportation is not an eligible use. She noted that the US  
15 Treasury released Guidance and a Fact Sheet on Monday, which will be forwarded to Commissioners  
16 and municipalities. She also reminded members that municipalities will need a DUNS number to claim  
17 funds. Funds are anticipated as soon as July and will come directly from the State. She also noted VLCT  
18 advises municipalities to track funds in a separate fund account from their General Fund for more  
19 consistent tracking and easier auditing. She suggested all towns consider creating a list of 10 projects.  
20 VLCT and RPCs will work cooperatively with towns to assist (VLCT – Risk Management, Legal, Education;  
21 RPC – meet with towns, project ideas and development, etc.).  
22

### 23 **Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2021**

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

### 26 **Reports**

27 Hill-Eubanks noted the summary from the Vermont Commission on Women with details about impacts  
28 from the COVID-19 Crisis on Vermont Women was interesting.

29  
30 Potter questioned where staff and committee reports were and inquired if they would be posted. It was  
31 confirmed they will be posted.

32  
33 Hill-Eubanks highlighted that Potter will be retiring from the RPC this month and thanked her for all her  
34 work alongside Waninger to improve the RPC. She noted it had been Potter’s mission to put in place  
35 new policies and procedures to help us all be more efficient and effective at the RPC. She was an  
36 excellent chair and helped make the job a lot easier with all her knowledge. She stated she hoped her  
37 next projects bring her immense joy and satisfaction. Potter advised it was a pleasure working with  
38 everyone and help the RPC live up to all of its potential. Others shared their gratitude for Potter’s work.

### 40 **Adjournment**

41 *D. La Haye moved to adjourn at 7:59 pm; L. Cattaneo seconded. Motion carried.*

42  
43 Respectfully submitted,  
44 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager