

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Draft MINUTES
October 12, 2021

Commissioners:

<input type="checkbox"/> Barre City	Janet Shatney, Sec'y/Treas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moretown	Dara Torre
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Joyce Manchester, Alt
<input type="checkbox"/> Barre Town	Byron Atwood	<input type="checkbox"/> Northfield	Laura Hill-Eubanks
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Roxbury	Gerry D'Amico, Vice-Chair
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan Ohlsson, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Harrison Snapp, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duxbury	Alan Quackenbush	<input type="checkbox"/> Warren	VACANT
<input type="checkbox"/> E. Montpelier	Clarice Cutler (Interim)	<input type="checkbox"/>	J. Michael Bridgewater, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington	Peter Carbee
<input type="checkbox"/> Fayston	Russ Bowen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich, Chair
<input checked="" 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

Guests: Jamie Stewart, Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation; Trey Martin, Let's Grow Kids

Call to Order

Chair Lotspeich called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm. Quorum was present to conduct business.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Public Comments

None

Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation Update

Chair Lotspeich introduced Jamie Stewart of the CVEDC, who reminded towns to identify potential projects for the Capital Grant Program the Agency of Commerce has been promoting. Applications are live at this time. Grant funds are available for projects that are transformative. Projects should be shovel ready and tie to a need identified as a result of the pandemic, but are generally systemic in nature and have not been able to be addressed due to lack of funding. Information available on ACCD website under Capital Grants Program - <https://accd.vermont.gov/economic-development/funding->

1 [incentives/capitalinvestmentgrant.](#)

2
3 Another program expected soon is Small Business Development Center Hub & Spoke Technical
4 Assistance Program. He noted there will be a lot of emphasis on underserved populations, but it will be
5 available to all businesses. It will be similar to the technical assistance grants offered last fall through
6 Regional Development Corporations, however, it will be available over two years.

7
8 He reiterated the challenges of a smaller workforce as a result of the pandemic and a tight labor pool is
9 only going to get tighter. There will be a lot of effort and time spent on skills training to meet the needs
10 of growing sectors. He also advised the West Central Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
11 (CEDS) is moving along well with lots of input. They will be identifying priority projects in the region in
12 the coming month.

13
14 Floor discussion included comments related to less students applying to college. It was noted
15 Vermont has one of the highest percentages nationally of students going into college, but we need to
16 get students who are not college bound into additional skills/technical training. It was also noted that
17 Regional Development Corporations are very engaged with Let's Grow Kids and supporting the priority
18 of child care in the state.

19 20 **Lifting All Boats, Child Care in Vermont**

21 Chair Lotspeich introduced Trey Martin of Let's Grow Kids (LGK) who advised the Board about his role in
22 the LGK's organization. A presentation was shared with the Board which noted LGK's overall mission is
23 to help Vermont policymakers, state officials and Vermont communities to ensure there is quality,
24 affordable childcare by 2025. Martin provided an overview of the child care crisis which COVID19
25 exacerbated. It is not affordable for most families, there are not enough high quality spots available,
26 and most early care educators do not earn a livable wage or access to basic benefits. Access to childcare
27 is a barrier to sustainable employment, working mothers are three times more likely to leave their
28 careers when unable to find or afford child care, the State has started tracking access to high quality
29 care as a key measure of economic health.

30
31 LGK has advocated a solution for Vermont to over the long term invest in Vermont's Child Care Financial
32 Assistance Program (CCFAP) to cap family contributions at 10% of annual gross adjusted income, and to
33 reimburse programs at a rate that allows early care educators to be compensated appropriately with
34 access to benefits. These funds come from a mix of sources (both State and Federal). They are also
35 advocating in the interim to invest one-time federal dollars for professional development and temporary
36 wage supports, to stabilize the system and increase the quality of the workforce and to increase
37 program capacity in numerous communities where planning is already underway to grow high quality
38 spots.

39
40 They are advocating at the both the federal and State level to be able to address the 'true cost of care'.

41
42 He reviewed why it is important to invest in child care, as it is an investment in the future and there is a
43 long term return on that investment. Quality child care is an opportunity is to take lives that would end
44 up as public cost and change them to public benefit.

1
2 There was discussion surrounding the definition of high quality care. Also discussed was if towns
3 support senior centers and recreational programs, why are they not doing the same for childcare
4 centers. T. Martin suggested this may be related to regulations and cost. There was also discussion on
5 the accountability of funds for reimbursement and utilization of school space for day care and after
6 school care.

7
8 He advised he would share his presentation with the Board so they could access the information linked
9 within it.

10
11 He reviewed what CVRPC and member municipalities can do to help, which includes planning,
12 understanding policy, collaboration with partner organizations, state agencies and between
13 municipalities, work with stakeholders and advocate for the state to prioritize resources for child care
14 projects and a sustainable child care system. He noted it is also important to understand the
15 opportunities to dedicate ARPA funding for child care businesses.

16
17 B. Waninger shared in the chat that CVRPC's 2021-22 VISTA member, Gavin Bodnar, will be creating an
18 idea guide for municipal action to address child care. For example, one municipality had a link to the
19 State's childcare provider database on its website. Another agreed to apply for a Community
20 Development Block Grant to build a facility. The municipality "loaned" the grant to the childcare
21 business and then forgave the loan

22
23 T. Martin advised he welcomes suggestions for specific providers in municipalities that need LGK's
24 assistance.

25 26 **Committee Nominations**

27 Chair Lotspeich directed the Board to the memorandum in the packet from the Nominating Committee.
28 P. Carbee advised the Nominating Committee met to address vacancies on the Clean Water Advisory
29 Committee (CWAC) and Brownfields Advisory Committee. He provided an overview of the process they
30 undertook to make the recommendations outlined in the packet. For CWAC they are recommending
31 municipal representative Emily Ruff, Orange Selectboard and Interested Stakeholder Joseph Whelan,
32 Montpelier Conservation Commission.

33
34 The floor was also opened to nominations for the openings on CWAC. No additional nominations were
35 made. Chair requested a motion to appoint the two representatives for the terms described in the
36 memorandum, Emily Ruff, Orange Selectboard and Joseph Whelan, Montpelier Conservation
37 Commission. Waninger advised the individuals need to be elected by written ballot
38 per the Bylaws, however, the Board can choose to vote from the floor. They would need a motion to set
39 aside the written ballot process in order to have a vote from the floor. *R. Wernecke made a motion to*
40 *set aside the rules for written ballots and appoint the two nominees, Emily Ruff and Joseph Whelan to*
41 *the CWAC (a two-part motion), seconded by L. Cattaneo. Motion carried.*

42
43 P. Carbee also advised of the nomination for the Brownfields Committee. Chair Lotspeich directed the
44 Board to the memorandum in the packet and Carbee provided an overview of the process they

1 undertook to make the recommendation outlined in the packet. *P. Carbee made a motion to suspend*
2 *the rules and elect Janet Shatney to the Brownfields Advisory Committee, pending any other nominees.*
3 The floor was opened to nominations. No additional nominations were offered. *B. Arrand seconded P.*
4 *Carbee's motion. Motion carried.*

6 **Reports**

7 Chair Lotspeich directed the Board to the information in the packet and opened the floor to questions.
8 Lotspeich requested B. Waninger discuss staffing. Waninger advised of two recent resignations – the
9 newly hired bookkeeper accepted another position after two weeks and Pam DeAndrea is leaving to
10 take a position with the VTrans Mapping Unit. She advised Ashley Andrews will be stepping fully into
11 the GIS and IT position for the organization. We are re-advertising the Bookkeeper position, and if
12 unsuccessful in filling it we will continue contracting accounting services. We are currently conducting
13 reference checks on the Land Use Planner position vacated in the spring. In addition, we will be looking
14 at filling three additional positions in the near future related to Climate and Energy, Clean Water Service
15 Provider and the vacancy created by Pam's departure.

17 Chair Lotspeich requested an update on office renovations. B. Waninger advised we have a new
18 conference room in the office which was funded by the landlord as part of renewing our lease for ten
19 years. Once we are in person again, it should fit most committees at the office. They also installed a
20 sink with running water in the small kitchen in the office. We anticipate a second phase of construction
21 which would be funded by CVRPC to help to accommodate the new positions outlined. This has not
22 gone out to bid yet and we are currently working on plans for this phase.

24 Discussion ensued as to whether or not we could use the CVRPC conference room for Board meetings
25 instead of the Chamber. It was suggested this be discussed in more detail once we are meeting in
26 person again.

28 B. Waninger advised we are heading into legislative session and redistricting is expected to take up a lot
29 of time in the session. Our role is to talk to legislators and be sure they are aware of rural issues.

31 Chair Lotspeich advised that the September 14th minutes were not included as an item on the agenda,
32 however they are in the packet. It was suggested they be put in the next board packet instead of going
33 back and revising the agenda to include the minutes for action.

35 P. Carbee asked R. Wernecke for an update on the construction project by the hospital. R. Wernecke
36 advised he's not close to what is happening but he is aware that they are awaiting arrival of the precast
37 concrete structure, and the site is well prepared for the arrival of that piece. He advised if he gets an
38 update he will share it.

40 **Adjournment**

41 *D. La Haye moved to adjourn at 8:04 pm; L. Cattaneo seconded. Motion carried.*

43 Respectfully submitted,
44 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager