

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

Commissioners:

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

Guests: Danielle Ozcwarski, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Jamie Stewart, Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation

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

Lamoille Tactical Basin Plan

Chair Lotspeich introduced Danielle Ozcwarski of the Department of Environmental Conservation who shared the Lamoille Tactical Basin Plan Story Map Overview with the Board. She noted this is also available at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/31866e2766c94400b86b4c88b954d91a> and there is a video of the previously held public meeting at <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/watershed-planning/tactical-basin-planning/basin7>. She advised she is happy to mail hard copies to those who may like that.

1
2 Ozcwarski provided details on what a basin is and how a watershed is impacted. Tactical Basin plans are
3 strategic guidebooks produced by Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to protect, maintain, enhance
4 and restore Vermont's surface waters. Plans identify where Water Quality standards are not met,
5 where they are exceeded, and where they need to be maintained. She noted the importance of
6 collaboration and partnerships in the basin planning process. This collaboration includes Agency of
7 Agriculture, AA Farm Markets, Agency of Transportation, Forest Parks & Recreation, Fish & Wildlife,
8 Regional Planning Commissions, Natural Resources Conservation Districts, local watershed groups, non-
9 profit organizations, municipalities, town boards and commissions. Regional Planning Commissions play
10 an important role on reaching out to towns to assist in implementation of basin plans.

11
12 Plans are issued every five years for Vermont's 15 basins to identify and address issues of water quality,
13 as well as identifying funding for water quality projects. She advised a Report Card would be provided in
14 January for the Lamoille Basin with a list of all that has been done in the basin over the last five years.

15
16 The floor was opened to questions and reclassification was discussed. Ozcwarski, advised it could help
17 in town planning to ensure best practices are being used. She advised a full question and answer
18 session could be set up in the future to address reclassification. M. Gray advised that in Woodbury
19 there is a large lumber company that has begun proceedings to close on a significant piece of land on
20 Woodbury Mountain Ridge (which flows into Winooski Basin and Lamoille Basin) and it is planned that
21 this land will become the Woodbury Mountain Wilderness Preserve. He also advised land by Nichols
22 Pond and East Long Pond will also likely be preserved in the future.

23
24 Chair Lotspeich directed the Board to the draft letter in the packet. He noted that in the draft letter
25 there is question if guidance could be added to the plan regarding reclassification. Ozcwarski advised
26 she would likely address this question in the Responsiveness Summary to the Plan if that comment is
27 included. He also indicated that Waninger advised that he section in the letter regarding conformance
28 with the draft Woodbury Town Plan should be removed, as it is not the Regional Planning Commission's
29 role to reference this conformance if the Town has not made this recommendation first.

30
31 There was clarification on whether or not staff drafted the letter. It was confirmed it was drafted with
32 involvement by both Pam DeAndrea and Clare Rock. There was a question regarding the use of
33 "overarching" on page 11 of the packet. Rock advised the draft was completed by DeAndrea and
34 confirmed that the term was overarching, not overreaching, and that it is being used as a term to
35 indicate there are goals and objectives that address multiple topics.

36
37 *G. D'Amico moved to adopt the draft letter, striking out the section on Conformance with the Woodbury*
38 *Town Plan. Seconded by Ron Krauth. Motion carried*

39 40 **Regional Economic Development Project Priority Committee Appointment**

41 Chair Lotspeich directed the Board to the information in the packet and advised Jamie Stewart of CVEDC
42 had joined us to discuss. Stewart noted this is a process run by the Development Corporations as part of
43 their contract with the Agency of Commerce and needs to be done in collaboration with the Regional
44 Planning Commissions. The goal is to create a 'living list' of projects, obtaining information from a

1 variety of sources with the focus being projects that will drive economic development in the region
2 which are then scored via matrix and Committee review. Then State and Federal entities use this list
3 when determining where to fund projects with grants. It is important to be sure we are reaching out to
4 as many people as possible to ensure their projects are brought forward and ranked as part of this
5 process.

6
7 With regard to the Regional Economic Project Prioritization Committee (REPPC), Chair Lotspeich advised
8 that in March we appointed Paula Emery and Peter Carbee to participate in this process, and we are
9 now inquiring if any other Board members are interested in participating as one additional appointment
10 is needed. Stewart advised there would be two meetings of the REPPC; one would be a training
11 providing the criteria, goals and objectives, and process. He noted then projects would be solicited with
12 outreach in conjunction with the Regional Planning Commission and other partners. Once applications
13 are received, Committee members will review the applications and individually score them, and then a
14 second meeting of the Committee will be held to review the scores and come to a final list of 10
15 projects. It was confirmed that with regard to Committee makeup, there will be three members of the
16 CVEDC board, three members of the CVRPC board as well as J. Stewart and B. Waninger.

17
18 Stewart also noted they were also working West Central Vermont CEDS that will have a similar process
19 and priority list. After this year, it likely that the majority of the work will be done in the CEDS process
20 vs. this REDPPC process.

21
22 Chair Lotspeich asked if any members were interested in joining this Committee in addition to Paula
23 Emery and Peter Carbee. Rich Turner advised he was very interested.

24
25 *R. Wernecke nominated Rich Turner to the Committee, seconded by L. Hill-Eubanks. Motion carried.*

26
27 Stewart advised he would get additional information to the Committee members next week. He
28 implored the rest of the Commission members to speak to people in their communities about potential
29 projects to be included on the list.

30 31 **Winooski Basin Water Quality Council**

32 Chair Lotspeich directed the Board to the information in the packet and provided an overview and
33 advised the Executive Committee had a fair amount of discussion and came up with a recommendation
34 for a process. B. Waninger outlined with a presentation the process which includes the following:

- 35 • CVRPC staff to distribute invitation to letters to all municipalities in the Basin (50)
- 36 • CVRPC staff to host informational sessions
- 37 • Candidates will submit letters of interest
- 38 • CVRPC staff will seek additional information about candidates
- 39 • CVRPC Nominating Committee will meet to recommend appointees
- 40 • CVRPC Board will be asked to appoint Basin Water Quality Council municipal representatives

41
42 A schedule is proposed to have the final appointment voted on at the January Board meeting, which
43 misses the State deadline, but staff will advise the State of the reason for changing the schedule to allow
44 enough time for municipalities to respond to the initial invitation.

1
2 The floor was opened to questions. None raised.

3
4 *L. Catteneo moved to approve the process for appointment for municipal representatives to the Basin*
5 *Water Quality Council; seconded by R. Wernecke. Motion carried.*
6

7 **Municipal Dues**

8 Chair Lotspeich directed the Board to the information in the packet and provided an overview, advising
9 we are basing our dues on 2020 Census data, and highlighted the recommended increase as well as
10 other options which were open to discussion.

11
12 Question was raised if the proposed \$3,200 increase would be critical, and how would it be multiplied by
13 grants, etc. B. Waninger advised it was critical as State agencies look to see if municipalities are
14 contributing as a form of support to the Regional Planning Commission when awarding grants. It is a
15 way they measure if we are working together with our municipalities. She further advised that the
16 Executive Committee has charged that the Commission take a portion of annual dues to build a reserve
17 fund over 20 years to ensure activities at the Commission can be maintained in times of emergency.

18
19 Further discussion ensued as to whether a 5% increase or 3.9% increase should be approved. It was
20 concurred that the increase 3.9% rather than 5%.

21
22 *R. Krauth moved to adopt an FY23 municipal dues assessment at 3.9%, R. Wernecke seconded. A.*
23 *Quackenbush suggested making it 4% vs. 3.9%; which facilitated discussion of percentage vs. the dollar*
24 *amount (\$1.33 this year vs. \$1.28 last year) it was suggested it be left at the \$1.33 per resident. R.*
25 *Krauth agreed to keep his motion it at 3.9% and include \$1.33 per person to the motion. Motion called*
26 *and carried, with one opposition.*
27

30 **Meeting Minutes**

31 A. Quackenbush questioned why we review and approve our minutes as last item agenda, vs. first item
32 agenda. B. Waninger advised several years ago she was asked to move minutes and reports to end of
33 agenda to be respectful of guests who are at the beginning of agenda.

34
35 *L. Hill-Eubanks moved to approve the minutes for September 14th, seconded by D. La Haye. Motion*
36 *carried.*
37

38 B. Waninger advised there were two sets of minutes for review.

39
40 *R. Wernecke moved to approve the October 12th minutes; seconded by B. Arrand. Motion carried.*
41

42 **Reports**

43 Chair Lotspeich directed the Board to the information in the packet and asked B. Waninger if she had
44 anything to highlight or if Committee members had details to add. Waninger noted we have hired

1 Blaine Hoskins to replace Zach Maia. Blaine is currently finishing up her graduate degree and is working
2 part-time from Alabama and will join us in Vermont in January. She asked Board members if they were
3 aware of any housing in the Barre-Montpelier area to please contact her. She also noted we will begin
4 recruiting this week for a Climate and Energy Planner; and also a Senior Natural Resource Planner;
5 highlighting how competitive the market is at this point in time. She noted staff is working on a variety
6 of projects and Pam's work has been distributed among staff at this time.

7
8 L. Hill-Eubanks raised concern regarding the VAPDA update in the Committee reports regarding the Net
9 Metering Rule update and suggested they reconsider removing the joint letter option when addressing
10 excessive forest clearing.

11
12 **Adjournment**

13 *D. La Haye moved to adjourn at 8:18 pm; J. Brabant seconded. Motion carried.*

14
15 Respectfully submitted,
16 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager