

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
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"/>	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"/>	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**

Danielle Ozcwarski of the Department of Environmental Conservation shared the Lamoille Tactical Basin Plan Story Map Overview with the Board. The Story Map is available at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/31866e2766c94400b86b4c88b954d91a>. A video of the previously-held public meeting is available at <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/watershed-planning/tactical-basin-planning/basin7>. Ozcwarski can mail hard copies upon request.

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

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

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

Chair Lotspeich directed the Board to the draft letter in the packet. He noted that in the draft letter there is question if guidance could be added to the plan regarding reclassification. Ozcwarski advised she would likely address this question in the Responsiveness Summary to the Plan if that comment is included. Waninger's memo recommended removing the text regarding conformance with the draft Woodbury Town Plan removed, as it is not the Town's role to determine local plan conformance.

There was a question regarding the use of "overarching" on page 11 of the packet. Rock advised the draft was completed by DeAndrea and confirmed that the term was overarching, not overreaching. She believes the term is being used to indicate there are goals and objectives that address multiple topics.

*G. D'Amico moved to adopt the draft letter, striking out the section on conformance with the draft Woodbury Town Plan; R. Krauth seconded. Motion carried*

### **Regional Economic Development Project Priority Committee Appointment**

Jamie Stewart of CVEDC noted this is a process run by the Development Corporations as part of their contract with the Agency of Commerce. It must be done in collaboration with the Regional Planning Commissions. The goal is to create a 'living list' of projects, obtaining information from a variety of sources with the focus being projects that will drive economic development in the region which are then scored via matrix and Committee review. State and Federal entities use this list when determining where to fund projects. It is important to be sure we are reaching out to as many people as possible to ensure their projects are brought forward and ranked as part of this process.

1 With regard to the Regional Economic Project Prioritization Committee, Chair Lotspeich advised that in  
2 March the Board appointed Paula Emery and Peter Carbee. He inquired whether another Board  
3 member might be interested. Stewart advised there would be two meetings of the Committee. One  
4 would be a training providing the criteria, goals and objectives, and process. He noted then projects  
5 would be solicited with outreach in conjunction with the Regional Planning Commission and other  
6 partners. Once applications are received, Committee members will review the applications and  
7 individually score them. A second meeting of the Committee will be held to review the scores and  
8 prioritize 10 projects for submission to the State. The Committee makeup will be three members each  
9 of the CVEDC Board and CVRPC Board as well as J. Stewart and B. Waninger.

10  
11 Stewart noted the West Central Vermont CEDS will have a similar process and priority list. After this  
12 year, it is likely that the majority of the work will be done in the CEDS process vs. this process.

13  
14 Rich Turner advised he was very interested in participating on the Committee.

15  
16 *R. Wernecke nominated Rich Turner to the Committee; L. Hill-Eubanks seconded. Motion carried.*

17  
18 Stewart advised he would get additional information to the Committee members next week. He  
19 implored the rest of the Commission members to speak to people in their communities about potential  
20 projects to be included on the list.

## 21 22 **Winooski Basin Water Quality Council**

23 Chair Lotspeich provided an overview. He advised the Executive Committee had a fair amount of  
24 discussion and recommended a process. B. Waninger presented the process which includes the  
25 following:

- 26 • CVRPC staff to distribute invitation to letters to all municipalities in the Basin (50)
- 27 • CVRPC staff to host informational sessions
- 28 • Candidates will submit letters of interest
- 29 • CVRPC staff will seek additional information about candidates
- 30 • CVRPC Nominating Committee will meet to recommend appointees
- 31 • CVRPC Board will be asked to appoint Basin Water Quality Council municipal representatives

32  
33 A schedule is proposed to have the final appointment voted on at the January Board meeting. This  
34 misses the State contract deadline, but allows sufficient time for municipalities to respond to the initial  
35 invitation. With the Board's approval, staff would advise the State of the reason for the delay.

36  
37 The floor was opened to questions. None raised.

38  
39 *L. Cattaneo moved to approve the process for appointment for municipal representatives to the Winooski*  
40 *Basin Water Quality Council; R. Wernecke seconded. Motion carried.*

## 41 42 **Municipal Dues**

43 Chair Lotspeich said CVRPC is basing FY23 dues on 2020 Census population data. He highlighted the  
44 recommended increase as well as other options which were open to discussion.

1  
2 Question was raised if the proposed \$3,200 increase would be critical, and how would it be multiplied by  
3 grants, etc. B. Waninger advised it was critical as State agencies consider municipal contributions as a  
4 form of support for the RPCs. Additionally, the Executive Committee directed staff to use a portion of  
5 annual dues to build a reserve fund over 20 years to ensure activities at the Commission can be  
6 maintained in times of emergency.

7  
8 Further discussion ensued as to whether a 5% increase or 3.9% increase should be approved.

9  
10 *R. Krauth moved to adopt an FY23 municipal dues assessment at 3.9% increase; R. Wernecke seconded.*  
11 A. Quackenbush suggested making it 4% vs. 3.9%; which facilitated discussion of percentage vs. the  
12 dollar amount (\$1.33 this year vs. \$1.28 last year). It was suggested it be left at the \$1.33 per resident.  
13 *R. Krauth agreed to keep his motion it at 3.9% and include \$1.33 per person to the motion. R. Wernecke*  
14 *accepted this change to his second. Motion carried with one opposition.*

## 15 16 **Meeting Minutes**

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

20  
21 *L. Hill-Eubanks moved to approve the minutes for September 14, 2021; D. La Haye seconded. Motion*  
22 *carried.*

23  
24 *R. Wernecke moved to approve the October 12, 2021 minutes; B. Arrand seconded. Motion carried.*

## 25 26 **Reports**

27 Waninger noted CVRPC has hired Blaine Hoskins as Assistant Planner. Blaine currently is finishing her  
28 graduate degree and is working part-time from Alabama. She will join the team in Vermont in January.  
29 She asked Board members if they were aware of any housing in the Barre-Montpelier area to please  
30 contact her. She also noted we will begin recruiting this week for a Climate and Energy Planner and a  
31 Senior Natural Resource Planner. She noted the workforce marketplace is very competitive now. Staff  
32 is working on a variety of projects. Pam's work has been distributed among staff until the Natural  
33 Resource position is filled.

34  
35 L. Hill-Eubanks raised concern regarding the VAPDA update in the Committee reports regarding the Net  
36 Metering Rule update and suggested they reconsider removing the joint letter option when addressing  
37 excessive forest clearing.

## 38 39 **Adjournment**

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

41  
42 Respectfully submitted,  
43 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager