

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
January 11, 2022**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	George Clain, Alt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Orange	Lee Cattaneo
<input 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 checked="" 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	Vacant	<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 type="checkbox"/> Woodbury	Michael Gray
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mike Miller, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worcester	Bill Arrand

Staff: Bonnie Waninger, Nancy Chartrand

Guests: Jamie Stewart, CVEDC

Call to Order

Chair Lotspeich called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm, and a roll call was completed. Quorum was present to conduct business.

Adjustments to the Agenda

Lotspeich noted Bonnie requested time for a brief presentation about the Winooski Basin Water Quality Council agenda item.

Public Comments

None.

Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation Update

J. Stewart of Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation (CVEDC) advised CVEDC is working on many ongoing projects. The Restart VT grant will be rolling out soon providing technical assistances for businesses; with BIPOC, women owned, and rural businesses being the focus. There will be approximately \$300,000 available in grant funds. In addition, Community Development Block grants will

1 have approximately \$400,000 in grant funds available for businesses where owners or predominant
2 employee counts are low to moderate income. He expects funds in both programs to go quickly.

3
4 CVEDC is working on creating a workforce development coordinators network across the state to match
5 businesses and potential employees and looking at proposals regarding housing (specifically workforce
6 housing as opposed to subsidized housing). He noted the Regional Priorities Project Committee meets
7 tomorrow. A lot of good projects were received. They will be ranked for the top 10 priorities.

8
9 There also was discussion regarding Regional Development Corporations currently seeking party status
10 on Act 250 permits. Stewart said RDCs want to know what projects are being planned so they can have
11 input as may be appropriate. Waninger advised Board members that the Act 250 website allows
12 individuals to sign up for project notices for specific projects or by specific geography.

13 14 **Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**

15 The Board viewed a video of a presentation to the Bennington County Regional Commission by Xusana
16 Davis, State of Vermont's Executive Director of Racial Equity. A discussion followed reiterating that this
17 is a starting point for CVRPC. Chair Lotspeich asked what municipalities are doing trainings/discussions.

18
19 It was requested that Waninger highlight areas where there is opportunity at the RPC level to address
20 equity and inclusion. She noted that transportation project prioritization should consider population
21 served in addition to other state and regional criteria. She also noted that CVRPC's staff restrooms were
22 binary until staff requested that they be non-binary with coded entry. She briefly discussed a legislative
23 bill that would require municipalities to permit multi-unit dwellings anywhere that single family
24 dwellings are permitted. This would affect the RPC's work and the Regional Plan, as well as what
25 happens in municipalities with regard to options for zoning.

26
27 There was further discussion on items in the Staff Report and their relationship to this topic and how
28 staff is learning how equity, inclusion, justice and diversity affects regional planning and how staff, the
29 Board, and the organization can start addressing it.

30
31 M. Dent shared that Montpelier is reviewing its new City Plan chapter by chapter through an equity lens
32 and thinking about what equity looks like when they begin engaging city residents in adopting the plan.

33
34 Also discussed was TAC prioritization of projects and if there was an equity component in evaluation of
35 projects from an economic perspective. It was noted that VTrans is working on equity criteria in their
36 part of the process.

37
38 Lotspeich said the Waterbury Selectboard is going through equity training with a facilitator. It recently
39 developed a statement on equity and diversity which they proposed be printed on a banner for Main
40 Street, and that this became very controversial.

41
42 Waninger further advised that municipalities should start preparing for the likelihood of the Justice 40
43 accountability framework in the coming years. Justice 40 requires Federal agencies to spend at least
44 40% of their direct investment funds in climate and clean energy in disadvantaged communities.

1 Lotspeich requested that if Commissioners know of resources that would be beneficial to CVRPC, to
2 please share them as this will be an ongoing discussion and we will be working on next steps. It was
3 further requested that the RPC create a spreadsheet on issues that are raised such as broadband
4 accessibility and phasing out of gas vehicles. Chair Lotspeich requested members share their thoughts in
5 writing and staff will work on creating this.

7 **Winooski Basin Water Quality Council – Appointment of Municipal Representatives**

8 G. D'Amico advised the Board about the need to appoint members to the Basin Water Quality Council
9 (BWQC). CVRPC is the Clean Water Service Provider for the Winooski Basin. There are nine seats on the
10 BWQC. CVRPC is responsible for appointing two municipal representatives from the represented
11 municipalities. Five applications for these seats were received and reviewed by the Nominating
12 Committee. The Nominating Committee recommended that Annie Costandi from Essex and Nigel Hicks-
13 Tibbles from Northfield be appointed to the BWQC. Discussion ensued as to whether Board members
14 could weigh in on other applicants being nominated. G. Clain advised he would like to see Alice Peal
15 serve on the Committee and nominated Peal.

17 *A. Quackenbush moved to approve the Nominating Committee's recommended members as municipal*
18 *representatives to the Basin Water Quality Council; J. Brabant seconded.* There was discussion on the
19 review of applicants by the Nominating Committee. All applicants were strong. The decision was based
20 on geographic representation to have Chittenden and Washington Counties represented. It also was felt
21 the legal background of one of the applicants was a plus. *G. Clain moved to amend the motion to*
22 *include Alice Peal to the slate of candidates.* The Chair advised that the amendment would need to be
23 voted on first and then the original motion. He advised there could only be two candidates so the
24 amended motion would need to be for only two candidates, not three. He asked Clain if he wanted to
25 change his amendment. Clain inquired if it is possible to take candidates one at a time with the
26 additional candidate on the slate, and if amendment passed the Committee could sort out who would
27 be excluded. There was further discussion on the potential to amend the list. Clain concluded he would
28 retract his amendment suggesting this is the problem of forcing a slate of a certain number and
29 apologized that he didn't bring this to the Nominating Committee at their meeting.

31 *The motion to appoint Annie Costandi and Nigel Hicks-Tibbles as the municipal representatives was*
32 *called. Motion passed with one abstention.*

34 Waninger provided a brief overview of the Clean Water Service Provider program prior to opening the
35 floor to appoint a CVRPC representative to the Winooski BWQC. Of the five RPCs in the Winooski Basin
36 only CVRPC and CCRPC expressed interest in having representatives on the council. It was noted the
37 RPC representative can be a staff member, a board member or alternate. It was confirmed that BWQC
38 is not a committee of the board, it is a committee for which CVRPC provides staffs based on a contract.
39 Waninger advised that staff sent out a request to Commissioners and Alternates in advance of today's
40 meeting to determine interest and also will take nominations from the floor.

42 Chair Lotspeich inquired if there were additional nominations to the three who expressed interest and
43 were outlined in the packet (Alan Quackenbush, Paula Emery, and Robert Wernecke). It was requested
44 that the Board hear about the background of each nominee. Emery and Quackenbush provided

1 information on their backgrounds and information on Wernecke's background was read from the
2 packet. There were no additional nominees.

3
4 *L. Hill-Eubanks moved to appoint Alan Quackenbush to the Basin Water Quality Council; P. Emery*
5 *seconded. Motion carried.*

7 **FY23 Nominating Committee Appointment**

8 Chair Lotspeich noted the Executive Committee recommended a slate of Marcella Dent, Robin Schunk
9 and Alan Quackenbush be appointed to the FY23 Nominating Committee. The floor was opened to
10 nominations.

11
12 *J. Brabant moved to appoint the slate as outlined; P. Carbee seconded. Motion carried.*

13
14 Chair Lotspeich thanked the outgoing Nominating Committee of Gerry D'Amico, Peter Carbee, and Julie
15 Potter.

17 **Reports**

18 Waninger provided a brief overview on current bills in the legislature. Lotspeich advised of the
19 upcoming Executive Committee Special meeting to review the Bylaw draft update. Information was
20 shared regarding the Supreme Court having a rehearing on its 1-acre town Snowstone decision. The
21 following link was shared in the chat to view the hearing remotely:

22 https://www.vermontjudiciary.org/sites/default/files/documents/January%202022.Rocket_2.pdf.

23
24 Waninger advised CVRPC is moving into second interviews for Natural Resources and Climate & Energy
25 Planners. There was a question regarding whether applications were still open for an
26 accountant/bookkeeper employee. It is not. The Executive Committee agreed to extend the Ijaz
27 accounting contract with performance indicators. CVRPC may open the search again next year.

29 **Resolution on Complying the Vermont Open Meeting Law**

30 Waninger advised the time and place of regular meetings needs to be updated due to voting to have
31 Board meetings hosted at the CVRPC office rather than the Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce.
32 Additional amendments to the document were outlined in the packet.

33
34 *P. Carbee moved to pass the public meeting resolution as written; A. Quackenbush seconded. Motion*
35 *carried.*

36
37 It was noted that December minutes were inadvertently omitted from the agenda and packet and will
38 be put on next month's agenda.

40 **Adjournment**

41 *D. LaHaye moved to adjourn at 8:45 pm; A. Quacklenbush seconded. Motion carried.*

42
43 Respectfully submitted,
44 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager