

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
July 18, 2023

Commissioners:

<input type="checkbox"/> Barre City	Janet Shatney, Sec/Treas	<input type="checkbox"/> Moretown	David Stapleton
<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Hellien, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joyce Manchester, Alt
<input type="checkbox"/> Barre Town	George Clain	<input type="checkbox"/> Northfield	Royal DeLegge
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alice Farrell, Alt	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Schulz, Alt
<input type="checkbox"/> Berlin	Robert Wernecke	<input type="checkbox"/> Orange	Lee Cattaneo
<input type="checkbox"/>	Karla Nuissl, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/> Plainfield	Paula Emery
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cabot	Brittany Butler	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bob Atchinson, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/> Calais	John Brabant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roxbury	Jerry D'Amico, Chair
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan Ohlsson, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/> Waitsfield	Don La Haye
<input type="checkbox"/> Duxbury	Alan Quackenbush	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alice Peal, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David Wendt, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/> Warren	Alexis Leacock
<input type="checkbox"/> E. Montpelier	Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jenny Faillace, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clarice Cutler, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington	Peter Carbee, Vice Chair
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fayston	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waterbury	Doug Greason
<input type="checkbox"/> Marshfield	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Williamstown	Richard Turner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Middlesex	Ron Krauth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacqueline Higgins, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mitch Osiecki, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/> Woodbury	Michael Gray
<input type="checkbox"/> Montpelier	Ariane Kissam	<input type="checkbox"/> Worcester	Bill Arrand
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mike Miller, Alt.		

Staff: Christian Meyer, Nancy Chartrand, Keith Cubbon, Clare Rock, Sam Lash

Guests: Peter Sterling, Renewable Energy Vermont

Call to Order: Chair D'Amico called the meeting to order at 6:34; introductions were made. A quorum was not present.

Adjustments to the Agenda: Christian requested a flood response update be added following the presentations on the agenda.

Public Comments: None

Renewable Energy Standard: Peter Sterling of Renewable Energy Vermont was available to discuss Vermont's Renewable Energy Standard, in addition to the background provided in the packet by CVRPC Climate and Energy Planner Sam Lash.

Peter shared a presentation on the Renewable Energy Standard and the Climate Crisis (available on website). He reviewed the targets created in 2015 and the impact of those targets on the New England Region, specifically

1 related to the sale of renewable energy credits from Hydro Quebec. He reviewed how the State's electricity
2 load is sourced and noted no natural gas or fossil fuel plants are located in Vermont and we source these from
3 other New England areas, creating an impact on the residents in those areas. He provided a snapshot of a day's
4 energy mix. It was also noted that Vermont's requirement for additional renewables is lower than any New
5 England state. He reviewed what has worked in Vermont current Renewable Energy Standard so far, but noted
6 it needs to be updated to address climate change. He reviewed the impacts of increasing state renewables and
7 provided statistics on the impact on prime agricultural land and forests. As a result of S-112, there is now a
8 Legislative Working Group on Renewable Energy Standard Reform that is charged to draft legislation to be
9 considered by the General Assembly during the 2024 legislative session. In conclusion, he noted, every kWh of
10 electricity generated by new solar in Vermont and across New England at some point replaces natural gas being
11 burned for electricity. One of the best things we can do is incentivize new solar power and other renewables to
12 in order to displace the need to burn fossil fuels for our electricity.

13
14 When opened to questions, additional discussion ensued about the lack of wind power in Vermont and the
15 challenges of solar power efficacy in the winter when there is snow and less sun. Peter noted REV is supportive
16 of bringing more wind to Vermont however the current wind sound rule is too restrictive at this time. With
17 regard to solar in the winter, it was noted it is important to build up the New England grid with more renewable
18 resources so when there is necessity to pull power from the grid in the winter it is coming from renewable
19 sources rather than fossil fuels. Sam Lash added that the Central Vermont region doesn't have a lot of good
20 wind potential, however other areas in Vermont do. She also noted that consideration of geothermal networks
21 is also important with regard to where we are citing our buildings.

22
23 Christian Meyer noted the Department of Public Safety has undertaken a comprehensive review and study with
24 a stakeholders committee and that Sam has been elected to serve on this committee for Central Vermont. It is
25 charged with making recommendations to the legislature and citizens should have opportunity to comment and
26 provide testimony once more information comes before the Legislature. The Commission will plan to follow it
27 closely and RPCs will be supporting the Department in their public outreach and Sam will be reaching out to
28 municipalities to talk about specific components of the standards and looking for feedback from the Board.

29
30 **Regional Plan Updates:** Clare Rock provided a brief update on the status of the Regional Plan update. Their
31 most recent meeting had to be cancelled as it was scheduled during last week's flood event. Information on a
32 data profile for the region has been shared (demographics) with the committee, and outreach is also being
33 coordinated in order to communicate with stakeholders. In addition, "municipal road shows" with Planning
34 Commissions in the fall are being planned to gather information from each community to hear their priorities for
35 the region and we would like Commissioners to be part of that for their local community. It was also noted, that
36 outreach will include a survey of Commissioners and local constituents.

37
38 Our target is to have a final draft of the Regional Plan update ready by late spring/early summer 2024.

39
40 Peter Carbee joined the meeting at approximately 7:06

41
42 **CEDS Status and Next Steps to Consider:** Christian Meyer shared a presentation (available on website) related
43 to next steps in the West Central Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The
44 Economic Development Administration accepted the proposed CEDS that was approved by CVRPC several

1 months ago. Once a CEDS is in place, next steps include consideration of joining an Economic Development
2 District (EDD) and Christian provided an overview of the benefits of being part of an EDD.

3
4 This summer an EDD governing body will be created along with bylaws and a memorandum of understanding
5 (MOU) template for organizations. In the fall the Commission could move forward with a MOU to become part
6 of the EDD if the Board approves. Once the EDD structure is approved, then application would be made to the
7 EDA to obtain EDD designation.

8
9 Christian will be continuing to meet with the CEDS group to continue to work on governing documents and will
10 bring additional information back to the full Board soon. There was brief discussion related to the staff time
11 that might be required to participate in an EDD, and Christian advised a Community Development Planner has
12 recently been hired (scheduled to start August 7th) and they would be able to support the type of work required
13 (approximately 5-20 hours/month).

14
15 **Work Program and Budget:** Chair D'Amico noted the work program and budget have already been approved by
16 the Executive Committee. Christian Meyer reviewed the information provided in the packet. He noted a major
17 change since the budget was adopted in June is an additional \$100,000 will be coming from ACCD as a result of
18 the recent veto session – it is not new programing per se, but will allow us to provide the most needed
19 resources to our municipalities and we will be hiring additional staff to provide those services. There is also
20 Housing Navigator funds as part of our ACCD contract in addition to the current budget (approximately \$30,000)
21 – specifically for housing. None of the increased funding will change the work program significantly but will
22 change our budget.

23
24 There was clarification on the addition of funds related to the Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) program and
25 Christian clarified that funding is requested once projects are approved and in process – the commission does
26 not have \$1M up front for this program.

27
28 **Minutes** – no action taken due to no quorum.

29
30 **Flood Response:** CVRPC sent staff home mid-afternoon on Monday 7/10 and they worked remote for the
31 remainder of the week. He noted he was impressed with the staff's handling of the flood response. Sam, Keith
32 and Christian are acting as local liaisons. Keith and Brian have served in the State Emergency Operations Center
33 (SEOC).

34
35 Emergency Planner Keith Cubbon noted this is the largest FEMA disaster the current staff has had to deal with.
36 We are getting information out to the towns as quick and clear as possible in order to apply for public and
37 individual assistance. It is going to be a long road of recovery based on the extensive damage caused across the
38 region. Resilience building as we move forward will be important. We are internally looking at how we support
39 municipalities in recovery and requested members be in touch with their governing bodies to see if there are
40 specific tasks they want us to be involved in.

41
42 **Reports:** No action taken due to no quorum. Peter Carbee requested an update on the Medical Reserve Corps
43 (MRC). Christian noted he was at the Multi-Agency Response Center in Barre in Barre this week, as was Evelyn
44 from the MRC. They are very busy with flood response right now, but a Memorandum of Agreement is still being
45 worked on outlining responsibilities.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

Adjournment

Peter Carbee moved to adjourn at 7:38 pm; seconded by Doug Greason. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager