

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Regional Plan Committee

Draft Minutes

April 2, 2024 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Via Zoom

Committee Members:

X	Alice Peal, Waitsfield Alternate Rep
	Rich Turner, Williamstown Rep
X	Doug Greason, Waterbury Rep
X	Mike Miller, Montpelier Alternate Rep
	John Brabant, Calais Rep

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- 1 Staff: Christian Meyer, Sam Lash, Will Pitkin, Eli Toohey, Niki Sabado (in person)
- 2
- 3 **Adjustment to the Agenda**
- 4 No adjustments.
- 5
- 6 **Public Comment**
- 7 D. Greason moved to accept March 2024 meeting minutes, M. Miller seconded. Accepted unanimously.
- 8
- 9 **Discussion – Regional Plan Re-adoption Assessment Report**
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- 11 Commissioners provided broad feedback on draft assessment report, overall positive.
- 12
- 13 M. Miller asked for clarification on how much of the material in the meeting packet was previously
- 14 written vs. new material.
- 15
- 16 S. Lash stated that much of the energy chapter was new and provided further details on how the
- 17 chapter was developed and what requirements it sought to meet.
- 18
- 19 Discussed what would remain the same or nearly the same in the readopted interim regional plan vs. in
- 20 the new regional plan to be written: goals and policies will remain the same (other than those required
- 21 to be modified to remain in compliance with state law) for the readoption and then be modified in the
- 22 next version of the plan.
- 23
- 24 C. Meyer led discussion to the housing needs assessment and provided background on how CVRPC
- 25 constructed the estimate, including factors and analysis, then presented the estimates of housing units
- 26 needed by census tract within the CVRPC region.
- 27
- 28 D. Greason suggested that the interim readopted plan should emphasize that the housing needs
- 29 estimate is interim and that the State will provide official estimates shortly, A. Peal agreed.
- 30
- 31 The group provided further direction on how the assessment could be improved for the development of
- 32 a new plan.
- 33

1 S. Lash began discussion on draft energy chapter and noted state requirements that energy section
2 provide targets on electric, thermal, and transportation sectors and referenced limitations of data for
3 those sectors. S. Lash stated that, although the energy chapter was more up-to-date than many of the
4 other chapters, it is intended to be a placeholder and the upcoming new plan will feature more data and
5 even more in-depth analysis.

6
7 S. Lash provided a big-picture summary of trends in the region’s energy sector, including the region’s
8 progress toward meeting state energy goals, followed by a breakdown of individual municipalities’
9 progress toward the state goals and how those estimates were produced.

10
11 S. Lash asked committee to consider if state goals that reduce wood consumption for residential thermal
12 energy were appropriate for the region. The Committee discussed the role of wood heat in a residential
13 heating mix.

14
15 M. Miller requested that Montpelier’s district heating facility be included in the energy chapter, at least
16 as a discussion point, and noted that the district heating had gotten more use since the July 2023 flood
17 because many residents whose basement furnaces were flooded were interested.

18
19 S. Lash detailed the current composition of the region’s renewable energy generation portfolio and
20 compared that to targets for future generation. Committee discussed implementation barriers to
21 different sources and how to overcome those barriers and find ways to make those sources more
22 environmentally friendly and appealing to the region’s residents.

23
24 S. Lash spoke about the resilience benefits of distributed smaller renewable energy projects that may be
25 able to provide electricity to places that are likely to experience extended and/or frequent outages and
26 noted the amount of supporting infrastructure necessary to realize those possible resilience benefits.

27
28 M. Miller noted the distinction between “green” and “renewable” energy.

29
30 M. Miller moved to recommend CVRPC staff commence the public hearing process for the Proposed
31 Regional Plan Assessment Report, D. Greason seconded the motion, the motion carried.

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33 *D. Greason moved to adjourn, M. Miller seconded, all in favor, motion carried.*

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