

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Regional Plan Committee

Discussion Notes

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 |
| | Mike Miller, Montpelier Alternate Rep |
| | John Brabant, Calais Rep |

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1 Staff: Christian Meyer, Will Pitkin, Eli Toohey, Niki Sabado (in person)

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3 **Adjustment to the Agenda**

4 No adjustments.

5
6 **Public Comment**

7 None.

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9 Quorum not present, so cannot accept April 2024 meeting minutes.

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11 **Discussion – Regional Plan Strategy**

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13 W. Pitkin stated that, in light of previous conversation with A. Peal and internal staff discussion, the
14 current strategy is to have Flooding as either the topic of a standalone chapter or combined with
15 Emergency Management. This is instead of having Flooding as a section of the Climate chapter, as
16 proposed in the meeting packet previously distributed to the committee.

17
18 N. Sabado discussed proposed work plan for developing the new regional plan, including timeline and
19 roles for staff/Regional Plan Committee/Board of Commissioners.

20
21 A. Peal requested clarification on who stakeholders are in regional plan development. E. Toohey stated
22 that stakeholders who CVRPC is contacting include members of local organizations who are content
23 experts in the topics of the regional plan. C. Meyer added that staff are targeting stakeholder groups
24 who can provide more insight and speak to the interests of many people in the region.

25
26 A. Peal stated that she wanted stakeholders, especially for specific issues such as flooding and housing,
27 to include state and municipal government officials who have had to interact directly with important
28 new laws, such as the HOME Act through bylaw updates.

29
30 D. Greason expressed concern over the speed of the proposed timeline, especially staff’s ability to
31 complete chapter drafts within five months and the Regional Plan Committee’s ability to edit multiple
32 chapters per meeting over the upcoming months. C. Meyer stated that the ultimate deadline that
33 determines the schedule is to start public comment period 60 days before the end of June 2025.

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2 Committee and staff discussed expectations of how much editing would be needed for each chapter
3 draft. A. Peal and D. Greason expected that incorporating policy changes and statutory requirement
4 changes into the regional plan would require more committee input and may require more additional
5 passes from editors than minor tweaks.
6
7 A. Peal stated that she anticipated difficult chapters that would require extra committee review would
8 include Housing, Climate Change, Natural Resources, and Flooding because there are significant state-
9 level policy changes currently in the works.
10
11 D. Greason and A. Peal suggested that chapters that are in an early but good state could be sent to D.
12 Greason and A. Peal for initial committee edits, then staff could incorporate that input before
13 distributing the drafts to the entire Regional Plan Committee. D. Greason additionally suggested that
14 staff include a time period that they want chapter drafts back, discussed feasible timelines.
15
16 D. Greason emphasized that updates to statutory requirements have very specific language and asked
17 whether we want to have chapters and their content more directly mirror those requirements?
18 Specifically, the statutes require “elements” – and asked whether the new plan will continue to have the
19 word “element” in every chapter title and expressed concern that including “element” in the title of
20 some chapters would imply that other elements were not being addressed. C. Meyer also stated that
21 updates to state legislation may bring readers from outside of the region and it may help to
22 demonstrate the plan’s compliance to requirements if the elements are clearly identified. A. Peal and D.
23 Greason expressed a preference to not include the word “element” in titles.
24
25 Discussion about chapter grouping and organization of different topics. E. Toohey explained evolution of
26 proposed chapter list as staff continue to draft chapters and have internal meetings and that preliminary
27 chapter list in meeting packet was still under revision and an area where staff sought committee input.
28
29 D. Greason asked how staff planned to incorporate equity considerations into chapters. E. Toohey spoke
30 on staff’s approach for integrating equity, including an equity tool currently in development, along with
31 input from stakeholders.
32
33 E. Toohey stated that staff would share the existing database of stakeholders with the committee and
34 will seek any input if committee members know of experts who staff should contact.
35
36 Committee members and staff agreed that staff will send the list of stakeholders and the outlines for
37 each chapter to committee members for feedback prior to next meeting.
38
39 Staff and committee addressed concerns over specific issues including definitions and transparency in
40 methods of data analysis and determining trends.
41
42 D. Greason moved to adjourn, A. Peal seconded, all in favor, motion carried.
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