

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Regional Plan Committee - Special Meeting
Draft Minutes

January 21, 2025 4:00 – 5:30 pm

29 Main Street, Suite 4, Montpelier, VT 05602
Remote Access Via Zoom

Committee Members:

X	Alice Peal, Waitsfield Alternate Rep
X	Alice Farrell, Barre Town Rep
X	Doug Greason, Waterbury Rep
X	Mike Miller, Montpelier Alternate Rep
X	John Brabant, Calais Rep

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Staff: Sam Lash, Christian Meyer, Will Pitkin, Niki Sabado (in person), Brian Voigt (remote)
Public: Lee Cattaneo, Orange Rep; Jay Pilliod, Moretown Energy Committee

A Peal Called the meeting to order at 4:01PM

Adjustment to the Agenda

A. Peal adjusted agenda to add discussion of the updated staff team supporting work on the plan and a discussion of a proposed staff developed survey and committee involvement. A. Peal recommended adding the items to follow the approval of minutes.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Approval of Minutes

Committee agreed to postpone approving October 2024 and December 2024 meeting minutes until February 2025 meeting.

Staff Support

A. Peal, D. Greason, and C. Meyer discussed the proposed new format for seeking committee review and input surrounding key decision points in the Regional Plan. B. Voigt will be joining the team and support managing and editing Regional Plan. The committee agreed to continue meeting twice per month for the next few months.

Regional Survey

N Sabado discussed outreach for the Regional Plan, namely in the form of a survey. Such a survey will help gather public input on priorities and support work to meet new requirements for public participation in Regional Plan development as introduced in 2024's Act 181. Staff will distribute a draft survey to the committee ASAP.

1 **Energy Chapter Decision Points Discussion**

2 S. Lash began discussion of residential thermal fuel switching targets and efficiency measures.

3
4 Committee discussed the merits of cord wood as a green/renewable/sustainable fuel source. Committee
5 approved S. Lash’s suggestion to add a thermal energy generation target related to high-efficiency cord
6 wood burning stoves. This will be an alternative approach more tailored to the realities of rural CVRPC
7 member towns. This alternative approach would replace low-efficiency wood-burning stoves with high-
8 efficiency cord wood-burning stoves, in addition to continuing to work add electric heat pumps.
9 Members highlighted that cord wood, like all other technologies, has drawbacks that we should not
10 overlook and that weatherization remains a priority.

11
12 S. Lash discussed issues involving renewable energy generation targets and the potential for CVRPC to
13 customize renewable energy generation targets from one technology source to the next. The committee
14 approved S. Lash’s suggested modifications to the state-standard renewable energy generation mix,
15 including upping the share of hydroelectric generation beyond that featured in the state-standard mix.
16 The committee discussed the feasibility of rooftop solar generation compared to ground-mounted solar
17 generation and supported a high share of renewable energy generation from rooftop solar to the extent
18 that it is practical.

19
20 J. Brabant suggested inviting utility representative(s) to discuss pros and cons of various renewable
21 energy generation technologies.

22
23 S. Lash will create several different options for renewable energy generation mixes (target share by
24 technology) for the committee to review and to help inform the committee’s recommendation.

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26 M. Miller moved to adjourn, A. Farrell seconded, all in favor.

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28 A. Peal adjourned meeting at 6:13 PM

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32 *Respectfully submitted by W. Pitkin*