

# TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE REGIONAL COMMISSION DONATIONS POLICY

## Legal Authority

Regional Planning Commissions are authorized, pursuant to 24 V.S.A., Section 4346, to receive and expend monies from any source for purposes listed under Section 4345(a), Duties of .Regional Planning Commissions.

## Purpose

The acceptance and expenditure of donations from any public or private entities, by the Regional Commission is enabled by Vermont law. The Regional Commission, in soliciting and managing donations, must conduct its affairs in a manner as to instill public trust and confidence. Accordingly, Commissioners and Staff have an affirmative obligation to avoid situations which might result in or create the appearance of giving preferential treatment to any public or private entity on the basis of unfair considerations, unrelated to the merits of a matter or proceeding, or to the purposes of the Regional Commission.

## Policy

No donation over \$2500, per person/per year shall be solicited or accepted by the Commission without prior approval of the Commissioners. The Executive Committee shall make at least quarterly reportings on all donations received.

Each donation accepted by the Commission shall be deposited in a separate donation account. All withdrawals from the account, as well as the specific purpose for the withdrawal, must be approved in advance by the full Commission.

In determining the appropriateness of a prospective donation or the expenditure of funds from the account, the Commissioners shall give due consideration to the following criteria:

- a. whether or not the solicitation or receipt of the donation will assist the Commission in more adequately fulfilling its statutory or other legitimate obligations to the public;
- b. whether or not solicitation or receipt of the donation is contingent on the understanding that it will unfairly influence any subsequent official actions, litigation or recommendations of the Commission;
- c. whether or not the solicitation or receipt of the donation materially advances the interest of a private entity, public entity or special interest group, the effect of which is unrelated to or non-beneficial to the function of the Commission; and
- d. whether or not such a solicitation or receipt of the donation would breach any Code of Conduct for Commissioners or Staff as may exist or be adopted by the Commissioners.

Approved by action of the Commission at its Regular Meeting September 27, 1989. Amended September 25, 1991.