



TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE

William B. Emmons, III, Chairman
Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director

REGIONAL COMMISSION

TRORC Board Meeting

Thompson Senior Center, Woodstock, VT
April 23, 2014

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Jerry Frederickson – Barnard, Mark Bannon – Braintree, Lynne Bertram – Bridgewater, Carl Pepperman – Chelsea, Frank Roderick – Corinth, Peter Berger - Fairlee, Lori Hirshfield – Hartford, Bruce Riddle – Hartford (Alt.), Charles Jeffries - Hartland, Jeff Goodrich - Norwich, Jerry Drugonis – Pittsfield, Bill Emmons – Pomfret, Del Thompson - Randolph, David Brandau – Royalton, Paul Haskell – Sharon, Bill Edgerton – Stockbridge, Tara Bamford – Thetford, Bill Baylis – Vershire, Nancy Malmquist – West Fairlee, Ken Alton – At-Large member, Andrew Winter – At-Large member.

Staff: Peter Gregory, Kevin Geiger, Dee Gish, Rita Seto.

Guests: Ken Robie, VTrans Highway Safety and Design Program Manager

1. **Call To Order/Public Comments:**

Chairman Bill Emmons convened the meeting at 6:38 p.m. Chairman Emmons mentioned adding an action item on a resolution applying for a CDBG Disaster grant opportunity and discussion on VT Bill S-220 to Item 8 Commissioner/Executive Director Items.

2. **Approval of March Board Meeting Minutes:**

A motion was made by Jerry Drugonis and seconded by Lynne Bertram to approve the March minutes. So moved.

3. **Acceptance of March Financial Report:**

A motion was made by Jerry Drugonis and seconded by Lynne Bertram to accept the financial report. Dee Gish distributed corrected Financial Reports, noting that the HUD Buyout Income item and the HUD Buyout Pass-Thru Consultants Expenses item had been reported incorrectly. The discovery was made as Dee was drafting next year's budget. The QuickBooks accounting reports are accurate. Motion to approve the revised financial reports passed.

128 King Farm Road, Woodstock, VT 05091
802.457.3188, fax: 802.457.4728, www.trorc.org

4. VTrans Paving Program:

Ken Robie, Program Manager from VTrans Highway Safety and Design, presented on the details of the state paving program. In FY14, the paving budget was \$109 million and in FY 15, the budget is \$116 million, the largest paving budget in state history. Ken discussed the decision and priority making process at VTrans and how treatment options are chosen for various paving projects. Ken distributed a Paving Management handout from the VTrans Fact Book, which further detailed the state paving program. Ken then answered questions from Commissioners.

5. TRORC Strategic Plan Implementation Update:

Peter Gregory reported that Ellie Ray and the Upper Valley Haven are working together to hold a non-profit gathering this summer. Peter also reported that staff is considering a new logo for TRORC, and will bring options to the Board for consideration. The logo is part of the branding and marketing of TRORC, an action step in the Strategic Plan.

6. TRORC Bylaw Amendments:

A motion was made by Bill Edgerton and seconded by David Brandau to recommend the Bylaw changes for adoption in June. Peter Gregory noted that the Bylaws haven't been updated since 2007 and that the proposed changes were introduced to clarify when and how the Executive Committee functions. Discussion of the Bylaw changes included a comment from Tara Bamford concerning Section 7.7. Tara would like the full Board to "ratify" any substantive action taken by the Executive Committee. Tara noted that Section 8.6 allows for email voting. Paul Haskell noted that the Executive Committee acts as operational management while the full Board works at the policy level. Lori Hirshfield noted that re-votes can happen at a Board meeting, and Bill Edgerton noted that if Commissioners have questions or concerns about the Executive Committee minutes, we can ask questions or ask for clarifications at the Board meetings. Tara Bamford asked why, in Section 8.7, abstentions are not permitted except in the case of a conflict of interest. Peter Gregory noted that wording has been in the Bylaws since inception. Commissioners noted that voting is an important duty, as representatives of your communities, and that abstentions should only be permitted for conflicts of interest. Motion passed.

7. East Central Vermont HUD Plan chapter updates:

Kevin Geiger discussed the Climate Resilience and Looking to the Future (metrics) chapters of the HUD Regional Plan. Kevin noted that TRORC has hired a professional editor to give the HUD Plan chapters a consistent voice. Economic Development meetings will be happening May 21 and 22 in Quechee, and Royalton and Windsor, respectively. The next ESV Consortium meeting will be in July. Also in July, the Water Supply and Economic Development chapters will be drafted. Commissioners asked how these chapters are adopted. Kevin answered that the Consortium members confer and vote on each chapter, and that the chapters are not brought before the RPCs for approval. The broad policy statements and action steps are intended to guide the action and work of all consortium members.

8. Commissioner/Executive Director Items:

Peter Gregory noted the need for a Board resolution to apply for CDBG funding for culvert inventories and capital planning for 11 towns in our region affected by Tropical Storm Irene. A motion was made by Bill Edgerton and seconded by Jerry Frederickson to apply for the funding. So moved. Peter will have the appropriate Executive Committee members sign the grant resolution.

Peter Gregory noted the Regional Plan hearings happening on the April 28th in Fairlee and April 30th in Bethel. Peter gave an update on TRORCs activities with Act 250 applications as well as the Killington and Quechee Highlands projects.

Peter reported about legislative issues including the Growth Center bill, which is expected to pass. The state budget allocation for Municipal Planning Grants will likely see a 6% increase next year, as will funding from ACCD to the RPCs. The Shorelands bill is still in committee. An agricultural soils mitigation bill is proposed that would clarify when off-site mitigation is allowed. Bill S.220 would allow a greater voice for municipalities to participate in cell tower proceedings.

10. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Jerry Frederickson. Meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

The next Board meeting will be held Wednesday, May 28 at 6:30 pm at the King Farm, Woodstock, VT

Minutes Prepared By Dee Gish – April 24, 2014