

TRORC Board Meeting
April 26, 2023 – Board Meeting Minutes
Attendance:

Name	Town	9/28/22	12/14/22	3/22/23	4/26/23					
Jerry Fredrickson	Barnard	X	X	X	X					
Steve Cota	Barnard (Alt)									
Paul Vallee	Bethel (Alt.)	X								
Gene Kraus	Bethel			X	X					
Nancy Jones	Bradford	X	X	X	X					
Marcey Carver	Bradford (Alt)	X	X	X	X					
Lynne Bertram	Bridgewater			X						
Gwynn Zakov	Brookfield		X		X					
Jon Binhammer	Brookfield (Alt.)									
Carl Pepperman	Chelsea	X		X	X					
Tim O'Dell	Corinth									
Peter Berger	Fairlee	X		X	X					
Mark Belisle	Granville		X	X	X					
Monica Collins	Hancock	X			X					
Lori Hirshfield	Hartford	X		X	X					
Bruce Riddle	Hartford (Alt)	X		X	X					
Charles Jeffries	Hartland	X	X		X					
Frank Tegethoff	Newbury			X	X					
Larry Scott	Newbury (Alt.)									
Jeff Lubell	Norwich				X					
Jaci Allen	Norwich (Alt.)		X							
Sarah Gallagher	Pittsfield	X	X		X					
Anne Brown	Plymouth	X	X							
Jim Allen	Plymouth (Alt.)									
Bill Emmons	Pomfret		X	X	X					
Regina Lawrence	Pomfret (Alt)				X					
Chris Sargent	Randolph		X							
Anni Mackay	Rochester		X							
Doon Hinderyckx	Rochester (Alt)		X	X						
David Brandau	Royalton	X		X	X					
Bushrod Powers	Royalton (Alt)		X		X					
Ira Clark	Sharon		X	X	X					
Sue Sellew	Sharon (Alt.)									
Kevin Travis	Stockbridge			X						

John Echeverria	Strafford	X								
Angela McCanna	Thetford		X	X						
Jim Masland	Thetford (Alt)									
Jim Clark	Topsham			X						
Michael Sacca	Tunbridge				X					
Kevin Rose	Tunbridge (Alt)									
Andrea Herrington	Vershire			X						
Nancy Malmquist	W. Fairlee		X	X	X					
Don Bourdon	Woodstock	X								
Brad Prescott	Woodstock (Alt)	X	X	X	X					
Meghan Butts	At-Large	X		X						
Jennifer Colby	At-Large	X	X		X					
Ken Alton	At-Large		X	X	X					
Dan Rudell	At-Large									
Andrew Winter	At-Large				X					
Meg Emmons	At-Large		X	X	X					

Staff: Peter Gregory, Kevin Geiger, Pete Fellows, Lori Kay

Guests: None

1. Call to Order, Approval of the Agenda, Roll Call, and Public Comment:

The meeting opened at 6:30 p.m. A quorum after roll call was declared. No changes to the agenda were made. There were no comments from the public.

2. Approval of TRORC Board Minutes from March 22, 2023

On a motion made by Commissioner Bill Emmons and seconded by Commissioner Powers, the December meeting minutes were approved.

3. Acceptance of the Unaudited TRORC Financial Reports for March 2023

A motion was made by Commissioner Belisle, and seconded by Commissioner Prescott, to approve the unaudited Financial Reports of March 2023.

Gregory noted that TRORC is at the 75% mark for the fiscal year. The VHCB Buyout program has been successfully closed out. Expenses are as expected. TRORC's Accounts Receivable has a few unpaid invoices on it. The oldest invoice – Northern Border Regional Commission – for \$24,004 has been paid to TRORC. Lori Kay has recently completed the quarterly billing so the Accounts Receivable report will list more invoices next month.

As noted at the March meeting, TRORC is not at risk of any possible bank failures. Gregory commented on the solidity of the bank that TRORC uses. He noted that all of TRORC's funds are in bank accounts that are fully insured by FDIC or other means.

4. Draft Basin 10 Plan

TRORC's GIS Manager Pete Fellows presented the draft Basin 10 Plan developed by the VT Department of Environmental Conservation of the VT Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). Basin 10 contains the Ottauquechee River, which flows from Killington to Hartland before emptying into the Connecticut River, and the Black River which flows from Plymouth to the Connecticut River in Springfield.

Fellows reported that Marie Caduto at ANR is nearly finished with the Basin 10 Plan – the only changes will be administrative and legal language to ensure it matches up with the State's statutes. TRORC staff have reviewed the draft plan against its Regional Plan and drafted a letter to ANR with its comments.

On a motion by Commissioner Powers, and a second by Commissioner Alton, the draft letter was approved for finalizing and submitting to ANR.

Fellows stated that he will be sure that all Commissioners receive the final version of the Basin 10 Plan once it becomes available. Commissioners and their Towns may want to submit their own comments on the Basin 10 Plan directly to ANR.

5. TRORC Water Quality Program

Fellows provided an overview of TRORC's Water Quality projects:

ANR provides annual funds so that TRORC can support municipal Water Quality initiatives – general permits for stormwaters and helping Towns understanding the new permitting requirements. TRORC also supports Town bylaws related to floodplain management.

We have a separate contract from ANR's River program to support flood bylaw updates preparing for the release of new floodplain maps across the State in a few years (2025-2027). The new maps will use aerial photography contour data to develop higher quality maps with better resolution.

FEMA is providing funds for a floodplain management education project. Fellows shared some video clips that were produced as part of the project. The videos showed drone footage of local land that had been affected by flooding as a result of Tropical Storm Irene.

6. Municipal Technical Assistance Plan

Gregory explained its latest statewide project helping 60 of the State's most underserved Towns identify and apply for State ARPA funds. TRORC will manage the \$1.5 million project on behalf of the State. TRORC will be responsible for the oversight of the project as well as the direct delivery of technical assistance to eight towns in the TRORC region. TRORC will subcontract with other Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) to serve the remaining 52 Towns that qualify for Technical Assistance.

7. Staff/Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Updates:

- Hartford shared information on the upcoming Home Creators Expo that will be held at the Hartford Area Career and Technology Center on May 6, 2023.
- Hancock spoke about the planned closing of the Mac's Market in Rochester. Folks from the local area are considering a community-owned enterprise to take over the space and continue selling groceries.

Legislative Activities:

- Housing bill - Gregory continues to monitor this bill's progress.
- RPC funding – The Senate's budget bill includes a \$1.5 million increase of planning funds for RPCs.
- MPG funding – \$900,000 is slated for MPG funding in FY24. Some of these funds may be earmarked for bylaw modernization activities.
- Brownfields funding – The Senate has approved \$1 million for Brownfields assessments for RPCs.
- The Governor may still veto the proposed FY24 budget. The veto session is planned for the last week of June 2023.

Other:

- Act 250 – No news on the two open cases in Royalton and Hartland.
- Planner position – TRORC has started to receive resumes for this recently posted position.
- Volunteer of the Year award: Nominations are now open. Nominations are due to TRORC by May 24, 2023.

The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, May 24, 2023. Agenda items will likely include Town Plan reviews and energy determinations for West Fairlee and Sharon.

The Annual Meeting will be held at King Farm in Woodstock on Wednesday, June 21, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by:
Lori Kay, April 27, 2023